

From nominee Patrick Hart

1) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? *I am a professional field biologist specializing in the Conservation Biology of Hawaiian Plants and Animals. I completed a Ph.D. at UH Manoa in 2000 that dealt with the conservation of forest birds at Hakalau Forest NWR on the Big Island. I have worked for many years as a Biological Consultant, primarily providing comprehensive plant and animal lists for lands that are targeted for various sorts of development. I worked as a Post-Doc at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on a large study looking at the effects of introduced diseases on the Hawaiian avifauna. Most recently, I accepted a faculty position in the Department of Biology at UH Hilo. I currently teach courses in Ecology, Biostatistics, Natural History of Hawaii, and General Biology. I have been working closely with a variety of threatened and endangered plants and animals for the past 20 years and am very concerned about the continued decline of Hawaii's unique and fragile biota. I feel I have a number of qualities that enable me to be an effective ESRC member. First, I have a fairly good understanding of the biology of endangered species in Hawaii, and the many threats they are facing. Second, I feel that I am very easy going and have an ability to work well with all sorts of people, from developers to environmentalists. And third, I enjoy finding creative solutions to problems. I believe the Endangered Species Recovery Committee would benefit by any committee members that possess these attributes.*

(2) What have you accomplished in your previous term as field biologist on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee? *The accomplishments of the ESRC are very much a result of the effort of many people, all working toward the common goal of protecting endangered species. I believe I was able to work well with all sides on each issue and bring unique insight to the variety of problems we addressed. I had a very good attendance record, and was able to help move the deliberations and debates along towards timely votes.*

(3) What do you hope to accomplish in another term? *There is a bit of a learning curve with respect to becoming an effective member of the ESRC. I am long past that, and look forward to contributing to the best of my abilities from day 1 of a second term.*

(4) Have any possible conflicts of interests arisen during your service on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest? *I have not had to deal with any conflicts of interest during my first term on the ESRC. If any did come up during a second term, I would be more than happy to recuse myself from any votes or recommendations to the BLNR.*