

GM 784

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY L. HOOSER  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL  
235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 702  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 27, 2012  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
GM784

Testimony in Support of GM784 nomination of Mark Ambler to the Environmental Council

As Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control I offer my strong support of Mark Ambler to serve on the Environmental Council.

Mr. Ambler's experience involvement with the Contractors Association and the construction industry including his work in green remediation, solar, lighting retrofitting and green roof installations will ensure that a broad range of perspectives will be included during the various deliberations conducted by the EC.

I have met with and spoke at length with Mr. Ambler about the EC, the OEQC and related issues and I am confident that he will be an active and valuable member of the Environmental Council. Therefore I urge the Committee to vote in the affirmative in support of his confirmation.

Testimony for ENE 3/27/2012 2:50:00 PM GM784

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: John Romanowski

Organization: General Contractors Association of Hawaii

E-mail: [shannon@gcahawaii.org](mailto:shannon@gcahawaii.org)

Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:

Aloha,

Please accept GCA's testimony in support of GM 784, Mark Ambler for Environmental Council.

Thank you,  
Shannon Alivado  
GCA

**BIA-HAWAII**  
**BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

**Testimony to Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

2:50 p.m.

Capitol Room 225

**RE: Governor's Message 784, Consideration of Mark Ambler to the Environmental Council**

Good morning Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Quinto Marrone, Government Relations Director for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, BIA-Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

The BIA-Hawaii offers **strong support** to GM 784, regarding the consideration and confirmation as a member of the Environmental Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Mark Ambler, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Mr. Ambler is a professional engineer currently working as a Green Remediation Specialist for Weston Solutions, Inc. His 10+ years of experience equips Mr. Ambler with the knowledge and wisdom that makes him an appropriate candidate to sit on the Environmental Council.

The decisions of the Environmental Council have a broad impact on the environment and economic development because their decisions affect health and safety, the protection of our natural resources and economic development. Mr. Ambler is well-suited to understand the complex issues that the Environmental Council will face.

The Environmental Council plays an important role in the community and ensures fair and sound decisions to protect the balance between economic development and the protection of our state's natural resources. Mr. Ambler's knowledge would be extremely helpful to ensure such an important balance occurs.

BIA-Hawaii whole-heartedly **supports** the nomination and confirmation of Mark Ambler to the Environmental Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.



**S & M SAKAMOTO, INC.**  
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

March 26, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR

Public Hearing: March 27, 2012  
2:50 pm, Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony In Support of MARK AMBLER, GM 784, for the Environmental Council

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mark Ambler as a member of the Environmental Council. Mark Ambler is an ideal candidate for the Environmental Council because of his extensive experience in the environmental services industry. As a Hawaii registered environmental engineer he is well qualified to serve on the Council. He also has a strong desire to serve his community and the people of the Hawaii.

The decisions of the Environmental Council have a broad impact on the environment and economic development because their decisions affect health and safety, the protection of our natural resources and economic development.

Mark Ambler would be an appropriate candidate to sit on the Environmental Council because he is able to understand the complex issues that the Environmental Council will face.

The Environmental Council plays an important role in the community and ensures fair and sound decisions to protect the balance between economic development and the protection of our state's natural resources.

Sincerely,

S&M Sakamoto, Inc.

Dennis M. Ideta, Senior Vice President



*The Trusted Integrator for Sustainable Solutions*

**Weston Solutions, Inc.**  
841 Bishop Street, Suite 2301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
808-275-2900 / 808-585-7378 fax

March 22, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR

Public Hearing: March 27, 2012  
2:50 pm, Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony In Support of MARK AMBLER, GM 784, for the Environmental Council

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mark Ambler as a member of the Environmental Council. Mark Ambler is an ideal candidate for the Environmental Council.

Mr. Ambler is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Hawaii. Mr. Ambler is currently employed as an Environmental Engineer in the private sector and as such brings his business acumen concerning the benefits and consequences of economic development on our natural resources. Mr. Ambler has relevant experience in project planning, permitting as well as specific experience in environmental impacts to near shore waters and studies required to bring alternative energy sources onto state and federal lands. As a local Kama'aina born and raised in Hawaii he also has the long term well being of his community in mind.

Therefore, I support Mr. Ambler as a valued addition to the Environmental Council.

Sincerely,

David Griffin  
Vice President  
Pacific Rim Operations  
Weston Solutions, Inc.



**Hawaii Solar Energy Association**  
*Serving Hawaii Since 1977*

March 22nd, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR

Public Hearing: March 27, 2012

Re: Testimony In Support of MARK AMBLER, GM 784, for the Environmental Council

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gabriel Chong and I am the President of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA), the State of Hawaii's longest running and largest voice of the Solar Industry of Hawaii. I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Mark Ambler as a member of the Environmental Council. Mark Ambler is an ideal candidate for the Environmental Council because of his wealth of experience regarding renewable energy systems. Mark is also an employee, not a business owner, of Weston Solutions, that deals directly with environmental remediation. Hence, Mark has no vested interest in anything but protecting the environment of the State of Hawaii.

I have personally worked with Mark. His "Go-Getter" attitude is what drives him to pursue certifications to ensure that the work he does satisfies the needs of not only the company he works for, but also to prevent any safety hazards from occurring. Mark is also a licensed Professional Engineer (PE).

The decisions of the Environmental Council have a broad impact on the environment and economic development because their decisions affect health and safety, the protection of our natural resources and economic development. Mark would be an appropriate candidate to sit on the Environmental Council because he is able to understand the complex issues that the Environmental Council will face.

The Environmental Council plays an important role in the community and ensures fair and sound decisions to protect the balance between economic development and the protection of our state's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Chong  
President of the HSEA  
[gabriel.chong@hsea.org](mailto:gabriel.chong@hsea.org)  
C: 808-777-0744

# Grace Pacific

C O R P O R A T I O N  
P.O. Box 78 / Honolulu, Hawaii 96810

Administrative Office (808) 674-8383 fax (808) 674-1040  
Paving Office (808) 845-3991 fax (808) 842-3206  
Quarry Office (808) 672-3545 fax (808) 672-3598



March 26, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR

Public Hearing: March 27, 2012  
2:50 pm, Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony In Support of MARK AMBLER, GM 784, for the Environmental Council

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mark Ambler as a member of the Environmental Council. Mark Ambler has a rock solid commitment to the environment. His experience in the field of environmental remediation of contaminated sites would provide an important connection regarding the potential environmental impacts of development activities.

As a fellow member of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii, I have had the pleasure of working with Mark for the past year. His work as the chair of the Sustainable Construction and Renewable Energy Committee has been a great service to the construction community. I expect Mark to provide the same level of commitment and enthusiasm as a member of the Environmental Council.

The decisions of the Environmental Council have a broad impact on the environment and economic development because their decisions affect health and safety, the protection of our natural resources and economic development.

Mark Ambler would be an appropriate candidate to sit on the Environmental Council because he is able to understand the complex issues that the Environmental Council will face.

The Environmental Council plays an important role in the community and ensures fair and sound decisions to protect the balance between economic development and the protection of our state's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Joseph Shacat  
Environmental Compliance Manager



# KING & NEEL, INC.

1164 Bishop Street • Suite 1710 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 521-8311  
Fax: (808) 526-3893



March 26, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR

Public Hearing: March 27, 2012  
2:50 pm, Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony In Support of MARK AMBLER, GM 784, for the Environmental Council

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mark Ambler as a member of the Environmental Council. Mark Ambler is an ideal candidate.

The decisions of the Environmental Council have an important impact on the environment and economic development because their decisions affect health and safety, the protection of our natural resources and economic development. Fair and sound decisions by the Council protect the balance between these sometimes conflicting objectives for our community.

Mark would be an appropriate candidate to sit on the Environmental Council because he will be able to understand the complex issues the Council will face.

Sincerely,

John N. Bustard  
Executive Vice President

March 22, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR

Public Hearing: March 27, 2012  
2:50 pm, Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony In Support of MARK AMBLER, GM 784, for the Environmental Council

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mark Ambler as a member of the Environmental Council. Mark Ambler is an ideal candidate for the Environmental Council because Mark understands the need to protect Hawaii's natural resources. Mark, born and raised on Oahu, has first hand knowledge of the precious natural resources of this state. He has been active in efforts to improve the environment here in Hawaii. He has attended multiple conferences promoting the installation of green roofs. In fact, he was instrumental in the implementation of the green roof installed at the recently opened Disney resort on Oahu.

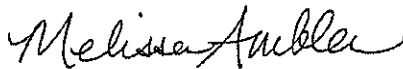
His dedication to the environment does not just flourish in his professional work, but carries over into his personal life. Mark has installed a solar water heater, photovoltaic panels, and a water catchment system on his home in Kailua. He recently purchased a Nissan Leaf, an electric vehicle, to do his small part in helping the environment. It is obvious that Mark's desire to help the environment is ingrained deep in his character.

As a civil environmental engineer, Mark's analytical skills are used daily. His abilities to understand all the facts and then make an informed decision are essential in his professional career. This skill will carry over into his review of the complex issues that the Environmental Council will face.

I strongly urge you to recommend Mark Ambler to the full Senate for confirmation as a member of the Environmental Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

Sincerely,



Melissa Ambler, PE

*Alan R. Levy*  
*Honolulu, HI*

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**SUPPORT LETTER**

March 23, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR

Public Hearing: March 27, 2012  
2:50 pm, Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony In Support of MARK AMBLER, GM 784, for the Environmental Council

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

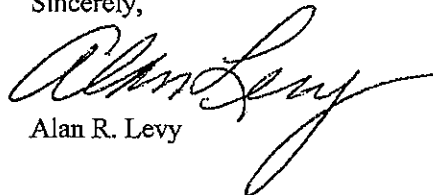
I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mark Ambler as a member of the Environmental Council. Mark Ambler is an ideal candidate for the Environmental Council because over the past several years that I've known Mr. Ambler he has always shown a high commitment and dedication to sustainability and our environment.

The decisions of the Environmental Council have a broad impact on the environment and economic development because their decisions affect health and safety, the protection of our natural resources and economic development.

Mark Ambler would be an appropriate candidate to sit on the Environmental Council because he is able to understand the complex issues that the Environmental Council will face.

The Environmental Council plays an important role in the community and ensures fair and sound decisions to protect the balance between economic development and the protection of our state's natural resources.

Sincerely,



Alan R. Levy

March 26, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR

Public Hearing: March 27, 2012  
2:50 pm, Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: Testimony In Support of MARK AMBLER, GM 784, for the Environmental Council

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Mark Ambler as a member of the Environmental Council. Mark Ambler is an ideal candidate for the Environmental Council because he has displayed to me a genuine concern for preserving our State's beauty and demonstrated resourcefulness and energy to contribute his efforts towards that goal.

Although I have only recently gotten to know Mark, his eagerness to do well in his endeavors has made a very positive impression upon me. As President of our DBEDT for Business Toastmasters Club, I've listened to his speeches and appreciate his perspective on Hawai'i's environment and economic development and can attest to his well-thought out presentations.

I feel that the Environmental Council will gain a very productive and dedicated member who has the technical knowledge and ability to articulate and convince others to act positively in doing the right things to sustain our islands. Please confirm his appointment to the Council.

Mahalo

Sincerely

Riley K. Hakoda ( R )

March 26, 2012

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Kalani English, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
415 South Beretania Street  
Conference Room 225  
Honolulu, HI 96813

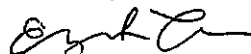
Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment:

Re: GM 784 – Environmental Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mark Ambler

It is my privilege to support the confirmation of Mark Ambler to the Environmental Council. I have known Mark personally for the past 7 years and know of his long-term commitment to the environment. He was one of the first movers in installing solar panels in his home and also installed a water catchment system for use in his garden. He also influenced several of our friends, including myself, of the benefits of renewal energy and to install solar water heaters and photo-voltaic systems in our homes. More recently, as Manager, Facilities & Maintenance for Matson Navigation Company, I had the pleasure of working with Mark through Weston Solutions as a consultant for the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Harbors division, in their efforts to ensure that all harbor users are properly trained on storm water drain policies.

I strongly support Mark Ambler's confirmation as a member of the Environmental Council and am confident he will serve with distinction.

Sincerely,



Enriqueta Tanaka

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**GM 784, Consideration and Confirmation to the Environmental Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARK AMBLER, for term expiring June 30, 2016.**

**Personal Testimony of Mark Ambler**

**March 26, 2012**

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair English, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to present myself, my qualifications, and my vision for service on the State of Hawaii Environmental Council.

I grew up with Oneawa Canal in my back yard which drains from the largest wetland in Hawaii. I received my engineering degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and have been working in the field of environmental engineering since. I carry a professional engineer's license and a project management professional certification. My career has allowed me to develop solutions to environmental challenges from various technical, economic, social, and community perspectives.

My respect for and understanding of environmental issues is coupled by an understanding of the importance of sustainability in our island State. I believe that one of the typical deficiencies in regulatory implementation is awareness. I have found enforcement of policies that are well defined and communicated are much more successful in their implementation.

In times of great change, the environmental council must operate as a positive enterprise even if their opinions are not in parallel. The environmental council must portray the qualities of trust and respect to preserve our State's most valuable resources.

**Subject:** Mark Ambler, GM784, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Environmental Council

**Question 1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Environmental Council?**

*With my background and professional experience, I believe I can offer expertise when it comes to implementation of the environmental review process and its effects. I consider myself a balanced, open and considerate individual. I can bring these qualities to the Council to help create meaningful change.*

**Question 2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Environmental Council?**

*The Environmental Council (EC) is responsible for representing the public on issues concerning "ecology and environmental quality." The range of knowledge regarding environmental issues among members of the Council is important and must reflect a balanced approach in its powers.*

**Question 3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Environmental Council, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Environmental Council.**

*My career has been devoted to pursuit of innovative and sustainable environmental engineering practices. I am a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Hawaii and a Project Management Professional. These certifications represent a history of technical and leadership training as well as professional experience. I have supported and championed implementation of sustainable concepts such as Green Roofs and Green Remediation in Hawaii and have had the opportunity to share those positive examples across the country.*

**Question 4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?**

*I hope to draw out the energy and shared vision that will utilize the strengths of the EC's members to increase engagement. I hope to be a part of remarkable achievements during this time of progress and change.*

**Question 5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Environmental Council?**

*Strength based assessments help self-awareness to allow members to provide maximum contribution to a team. My most predominant strength is as an achiever. I have a great deal of stamina and work hard and take satisfaction from being busy and productive. I am also analytical which drives me to search for reasons and causes and allows me to think about all the factors that effect a situation. Finally, I have a strong sense of responsibility and am committed to honesty and take ownership of what I set to accomplish.*

**Question 6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Environmental Council?**

*Awareness is one of the key components to controlling environmental impacts. I was consulting on installation of Hawaii's first large commercial Green Roof project on a hotel resort on Oahu. I had been campaigning for a project to implement the best management practice (BMP) in Hawaii for the prior four years and finally had a developer interested in the positive impact on the community and the environment the BMP would create. We had partnered with a nursery dedicated to the propagation of native Hawaiian plants.*

*Everything looked perfect except for one problem. Native plants didn't come in the specified colors. We worked with the nursery that had a wealth of knowledge and suggested alternatives to the non-native choices. We had previously run some experiments with native plants and research at the University of Hawaii had positive results with native plants, but color was a huge driver for this developer. We were concerned that the stakeholders were going to make an unfavorable decision even though we provided stunning native choices.*

*It turned out the developer was delighted and grateful for the native plant suggestions and quickly made the no cost change to the specifications. The only thing necessary was awareness of the concern which we were gladly able to provide. Maintaining an effective environmental review process is essential to assuring awareness of the environmental impacts.*

**Question 7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Environmental Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?**

*I do not anticipate conflicts of interest (COI) during my service on the EC. However, if such a situation occurs that may be considered a COI, I will recuse myself from the discussion. Even without a COI, a perception of COI can potentially lower the legitimacy of a decision. If such a situation were to occur, I would consult the EC and recuse myself if appropriate.*