

# GM8 62

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JONATHAN PRICE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

**From:** John Culliney [jculliney@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 11, 2012 7:35 AM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Subject:** NARS confirmation hearing for Dr. Jonathan Price (GM862)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Dr. Jonathan Price to serve on the NARS Commission. The reference designation for the hearing on April 12, 2012 is GM862.

I believe that Dr. Price's background and knowledge of Hawaiian geography, ecosystem structure, and endemic flora make him an excellent candidate to become a NARS commissioner. I know that he has a strong ethos of conservation regarding Hawai'i's unique and threatened living natural resources. Moreover, his teaching background at the University of Hawai'i, Hilo makes him a natural when it comes to interpreting and advocating the protection of Hawaiian natural systems for upcoming generations.

Sincerely,

John L. Culliney, Ph.D.

GM862

James D. Jacobi  
P.O. Box 265  
Volcano, HI 96785

April 10, 2012

**Testimony Provided To:**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

**I am writing this letter in full support of the nomination of Dr. Jonathan Price to the Hawai'i Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission.**

Dr. Price has been studying Hawaiian species and ecosystems for more than 10 years focusing on species evolution, biogeography, distribution, and conservation. He is highly respected by his colleagues and has been involved with many research, management, and outreach efforts related to conservation of Hawai'i's unique biological resources. Dr. Price has been the primary author on numerous scientific publications relating to conservation of Hawai'i's natural resources including a book chapter that discusses potential conservation strategies for Hawaiian forest birds. He recently completed a major project to model and map the potential distribution of most (over 1,150) of the native Hawaiian plant species. These maps are currently recognized as the foundation for many ongoing research and management efforts throughout the State including mapping biodiversity hotspots, identifying potential species restoration areas, as well as for assessing the potential impacts of global climate change on the Hawaiian species and ecosystems. Although his current research is primarily focused on the island of Hawai'i he has extensive field knowledge of the plant species and ecosystems on all of the main Hawaiian Islands.

Dr. Price is already very familiar with the mission and operation of the NARS Commission and in 2008 – 2009 he assisted with the development and implementation of a process to identify potential sites for additional Natural Area Reserves throughout the state. His appointment to the Commission would ensure the continuation of the high level of scientific expertise needed to advise the Board of Land and Natural Resources on the needs and operation of the Hawai'i Natural Reserve System.

Sincerely,



James D. Jacobi, PhD  
Research Biologist

**From:** James Juvik [jjuvik@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 09, 2012 2:21 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Subject:** NARS Nomination Dr. Jon Price (GM862)

Aloha WLH Senate Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Dr. Jon Price for appointment to the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission (position GM862). In my opinion, Dr. Price would seem an ideal candidate for a vacancy on the NARS Commission. He has been working in Hawaii for more than fifteen years on issues relating to Biodiversity, Landscape Ecology, and Native Ecosystem Conservation. As chair of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, I hired Jon five years ago as an assistant professor. He teaches courses in Landscape Ecology (a particularly important topic related to large scale land use management for conservation as defined in NARS Commission duties), Climate Change Impact on Native Hawaiian Ecosystems, and related issues of local Biodiversity mapping and Geospatial techniques (GIS and remote sensing). He has published extensively and has a well deserved international reputation as an island biogeographer, as well as long established local relationships with state, federal, and private conservation agencies. I believe he would bring a thoughtful, science based management prospective to the NARS Commission as well as a sensitive understanding of the complex range of diverse stakeholder interest in public land stewardship. I also think Jon's intimate knowledge of Big Island ecosystems and conservation issues will prove valuable to the Commission.

Mahalo for considering my comments.

James O. Juvik, Ph.D.  
Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies  
University of Hawaii at Hilo  
(808) 896-4460

## Testimony in support for Dr. Jonathan Price for the NARS Commission: GM862

**I am Kealohanuiopuna Kinney. I am Kanaka maoli -a native Hawaiian resident of Hawaii- and I am writing this testimony in support of Dr. Jonathan Price's nomination to the NARS Commission: GM862.** Over the last 5 years, I have come know Dr. Price in many capacities, to name a few; 1) Professor of Geography at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, 2) Advocate for threatened and endangered ecosystems, 3) Botanist and Hawaiian flora expert, and 4) Conservation community organizer and leader. I support Dr. Price's nomination for the NARS commission because he has earned my respect by consistently showing his passion and unyielding determination to protect, preserve, and conserve the ai'na of Hawai'i.

**The NARS commission would benefit greatly from Dr. Price's experience and knowledge of working at the grassroots level of conservation.** We know that it can be a difficult task to find a common ground between the goals of NARS and NARS stakeholders. Although, there may not be a perfect panacea to the conflicts experienced by NARS, I think Dr. Price's genuine respect, recognition, and willingness to integrate local and Hawaiian ways of knowing the environment into conservation resolutions is important to the future of NARS.

**Dr. Price is adept at considering the interaction of natural and human systems on the landscape.** I have had many conversations with Dr. Price about integrating western and traditional perspectives of science to solve real-world problems that lie at the intersection of human land use and the conservation of natural resources. These conversations eventually led to action when Dr. Price and I designed a series of "ecosystem appreciation" mini-workshops held at Pu'u Maka'ala – called Ka imi na'auao o' Pu'u Maka'ala. The idea was to have "local family " attendees compare the diversity of plant species inhabiting natural areas vs. areas invaded by strawberry guava. Each family was simply tasked with find the total number of plants inhabiting a designated area- natural or invaded. We only held the workshop a few times but it was impressive to see how the power of self-discovery could shift personal views about the issues facing native and endangered plant conservation. There is a saying among Hawaiian people Ma Ka Hana Ka ike' – you learn by doing. Ka imi na'auao o' Pu'u Maka'ala was an attempt to let people learn on their own about conservation through experience.


**Dr. Price is dedicated and deeply passionate about preserving Hawaii's cultural and biological heritage.** Dr. Price has volunteered countless hours taking students as well as many local folks to the forest ecosystems to share knowledge about Hawaii's native biota and the threats to it. These excursions are focused exposure to the ai'na through the lens of biology, culture, land use, history, and geology. Through these activities Dr. Price has inspired many people, like myself, to share their voice and perspective about protecting the ai'na with members of government and media.

**I think Dr. Price's academic training coupled with his long history of being part of Hawaii's local culture has enabled Dr. Price to connect and interact with people on a personal level whether they are local, non-local, students, scientists, academics, or land managers.** Dr. Price will bring energy to the NARS exploration of holistic, equitable and sustainable trajectories for natural resource conservation in the future.

It is without hesitation that I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Jon Price for the NARS commission.

*Kealohanuiopuna Kinney*

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**From:** Christina Cornett [ccornett@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012 7:13 PM  
**To:** WLH Testimony  
**Subject:** GM862 testimony

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Good evening committee members,

I would like to recommend Dr. Jon Price to serve on the NARS commission. I have been a student of Dr. Price's and worked with him at the U.S. Geological Survey. He is an excellent scientist that is interested in sound ecological methods regarding his research. He is interested in investigating questions that will provide useful information for understanding Hawaii's ecosystems. He is among the most knowledgeable botanists in Hawaii and an expert in his field. I believe that Dr. Price would bring a great deal to the NARS commission and encourage his appointment.

Mahalo for your time,

Christina Cornett

April 10, 2012

Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair; Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM862 – NARS Commission Nominee Jonathan Price

Mr. Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing:

Please accept my testimony in strong favor of Jonathan Price's nomination to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

I've had the pleasure of working for the State of Hawaii NARS program, working with Dr. Jonathan Price, and knowing Jon outside of these realms. I can personally and professionally vouch that he is intelligent, eminently well informed, engaged, and committed to conservation in Hawaii. I hold in high regard his judgment, his wealth of experience, and his activism in promoting the welfare of Hawaii's natural resources. His presence would be a great asset to the NARS Commission both in furthering the stewardship of its current landholdings and in establishing new Reserves.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Michael Koontz  
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Fort Collins, CO 80521  
410.370.1815  
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