



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013
02:45 PM

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 506

Chairperson Senator Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 506, submitting for consideration and confirmation as a member on the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, ROGER BREWER, Ph.D. The Department would like to express its strong support for Dr. Brewer's nomination.

Dr. Brewer is currently a Senior Environmental Scientist/Toxicologist with the Hawaii Department of Health and has considerable experience in the use of risk-based decision making methods to rapidly assess risks to human health and the environment at contaminated sites. Dr. Brewer would serve as a representative from the Department of Health.

Dr. Brewer is the lead scientist in the development of an environmental hazard evaluation program for the State of Hawaii and helped develop a similar program for the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

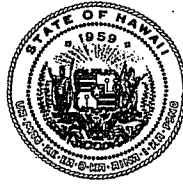
Dr. Brewer's environmental experience includes regulatory compliance audits, soil and groundwater investigations, quantitative human health risk assessments, and screening-level ecological risk characterizations. He has over twenty (20) years of experience in oil and gas explorations and environmental site investigations. His work has taken him to such foreign countries as Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan and Venezuela

Dr. Brewer's toxicology background would be an invaluable asset to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File: 13-114 BB

February 24, 2013

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator, Senate District 17
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Nishihara,

I am pleased to write a letter of support for Dr. Roger Brewer regarding his recommended appointment to the Pesticide Advisory Committee. I am well aware of the expertise required to be a productive member of the Pesticide Advisory Committee, as I served two terms under previous administrations. I have known Dr. Brewer for almost 20 years and have been his supervisor since 2005. Dr. Brewer is a nationally recognized expert in the complex specialty of environmental risk assessment. In Hawaii, Dr. Brewer is recognized as a leader and innovator in evaluating health and environmental risks associated with toxic chemical releases

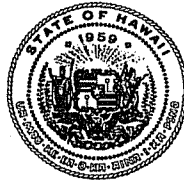
One of the tasks of the Pesticide Advisory Committee is to look at the registration of pesticides that may cause a threat to Hawaii's vulnerable and valuable groundwater. Knowledge on the fate and transport of pesticides is essential in evaluating the risk of groundwater contamination from currently used pesticides. Dr. Brewer actually developed the State's requirements and techniques for investigating historical pesticide contamination on former agricultural properties. His expertise in the fate and transport of chemicals will greatly enhance the Pesticide Advisory Committee's ability to make sound scientific decisions on the risk of currently used pesticides in Hawaii.

I feel that the Pesticide Advisory Committee would truly benefit from appointing Dr. Brewer to this committee. If you should have any questions, please call me at 586-4249.

Sincerely,

BARBARA BROOKS, Ph.D.
State Toxicologist
Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File: 13-116 BB

February 24, 2013

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator, Senate District 17
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Nishihara,

As Deputy Director of Environmental Health for the Hawaii Department of Health, it is my pleasure to support Dr. Roger Brewer's confirmation to the Pesticide Advisory Committee. Dr Brewer is our recognized expert in complex environmental soil and groundwater issues. He has assisted the Department with several high profile emerging environmental issues such as chromium-6 in groundwater, pharmaceuticals in wastewater, and investigation of legacy pesticides at former sugarcane operations. We rely upon Dr. Brewer's rigorous scientific evaluation of these complex issues, and at the same time, his measured, common sense approach in solving problems. Dr. Brewer will be an invaluable asset to the Pesticide Advisory Committee.

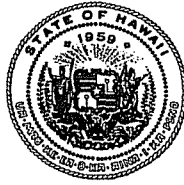
If you should have any questions, please call me at 586-4424.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary L. Gill".

GARY L. GILL
Deputy Director of Environmental Health

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File: 13-115 BB

February 24, 2013

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator, Senate District 17
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Nishihara,

I am pleased to offer a letter of support for Dr. Roger Brewer's appointment to the Pesticide Advisory Committee. As the Program Manager of the Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office, I have known Dr. Brewer since 2005. Dr. Brewer is an acknowledged expert in the field of environmental hazard evaluation and has brought respect and national recognition to the Hawaii State Department of Health.

In addition to his individual contributions, Dr. Brewer is a responsive and collaborative team player within our office. Engineers and specialists throughout the DOH Environmental Health Administration rely on Dr. Brewer for day-to-day advice and counsel on complex environmental issues.

I strongly support Dr. Brewer's appointment to the Pesticide Advisory Committee and have no doubt that he will be a great asset to the team. If you should have any questions, please call me at 586-4249.

Sincerely,

KEITH E. KAWAOKA, D. Env.
Program Manager
Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office



Environmental Science International
354 Uluniu Street, Suite 304, Kailua, Hawaii 96734
(808) 261-0740 phone / (808) 261-0749 fax

March 3, 2013

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Chair, Committee on Agriculture
Senate District 17
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 506, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Advisory Committee on Pesticides.
Gubernatorial Nominee, ROGER BREWER, For a Term to Expire 6-30-2015.
Hearing Date and Time: March 5, 2013, 2:45 p.m.

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members of the State Committee on Agriculture:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Roger Brewer to join the State Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

I first started working with Dr. Brewer in 1995, during his first stint with the State of Hawaii Department of Health [DOH] Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response [HEER] Office. At that time, he was preparing a document that would become a critical element in how the DOH would deal with issues involving environmental contamination (*Risk-Based Corrective Action and Decision Making at Sites with Contaminated Soil and Groundwater*). In my opinion, that document was seminal in the state's evolving, scientific approach to addressing environmental contamination.

Since returning to the DOH HEER Office, Dr. Brewer has been, in my opinion, the principal individual responsible for continuing the state's advancement in assessing environmental issues from a risk-based perspective. The guidance documents that have been developed under his guidance provide the state, the regulated community, and the environmental consulting industry with an organized, scientifically-defensible approach to characterizing and remediating contaminated properties.

Dr. Brewer has performed important work over the past few years regarding the state's approach to addressing arsenic contamination at former agricultural properties. Thus, he has substantive, advanced experience in dealing with sites contaminated with pesticides.

I am a former University of Hawaii faculty member and, for almost 20 years, I have been a practicing environmental consultant specializing in assessing, characterizing, and remediating contaminated sites in Hawaii. From my perspective, Dr. Brewer is the most authoritative, scientifically-astute DOH staff member that I have ever worked with.

I believe that Dr. Brewer's detailed knowledge of issues related to environmental contamination in general and his specific knowledge regarding pesticide contamination associated with past agricultural operations make him an ideal candidate for membership on the State Advisory Committee on Pesticides.

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
March 3, 2013
Page 2

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for this excellent nomination.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard West". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Howard West, Ph.D.
Vice President
Environmental Science International, Inc.

February 21, 2013

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture
Senatorial District 17
Hawaii State Capital, Rm. 204
Honolulu, HI 96813

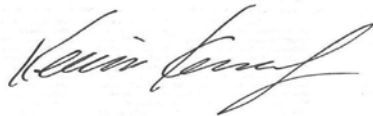
Subject: Dr. Roger Brewer's Nomination for the Pesticide Advisory Committee

I am an independent environmental consultant based in Kailua, Hawaii. As an environmental consultant working for dozens of small businesses, developers and former plantation private clients, I have worked regularly and closely with various regulators at the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) for the last 23 years. During this work I have come to know and greatly respect Dr. Roger Brewer, a nominee for the State Pesticide Advisory Committee

I cannot think of anyone more qualified or more appropriate for the Committee. Dr. Brewer is generally regarded by everyone who works within HDOH, and those of us in the regulated community, as the go-to person whenever technical questions arise regarding environmental contaminants (both pesticides and non-pesticides), their potential human health and ecological risk, sampling protocol, and contaminant handling, treatment and disposal options. Dr. Brewer was also the driving technical force behind HDOH's highly-regarded Technical Guidance Manual that provides guidelines and protocol for environmental investigation and assessment work conducted in the State. On top of his vast technical expertise, no one is more humble or easier to work with than Dr. Brewer.

I strongly support Dr. Brewer's nomination to the Pesticide Advisory Committee and firmly believe he will bring his wealth of experience and knowledge to help protect Hawaii's environment, habitats and communities.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.



Kevin Kennedy

Kevin S. Kennedy Consulting, LLC

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Kailua, HI 96734
808-286-5786
kevin@kskconsultingllc.com

TESTIMONY
OF ROGER C. BREWER
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON
March 5, 2013
G.M. 506

Submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Pesticide Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee ROGER C. BREWER, for a term to expire June 20, 2015.

Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and for consideration of my nomination to the Pesticide Advisory Committee.

I want to thank Governor Abercrombie for my nomination. It would be an honor to join on the Advisory Committee and serve both the Senate and the people of Hawai'i.

I would also like to thank those who submitted letters of support on my behalf and to everyone in attendance at this hearing.

I was quite fortunate to be offered a job as an environmental scientist with the Department of Health twenty years ago. At that time I was living in mainland China and working as a research geologist at a university. I stopped off in Hawai'i to visit a friend from Honolulu that I had met in China and for all practical purposes have remained here since, barring a few years spent working as an environmental scientist on the mainland and elsewhere in between.

I can't imagine having a more fulfilling job, as both a scientist and public servant. The skills I have learned over the years go well beyond my academic training as a geologist. As a scientist I'm tasked with understanding the potential threat to human health and the environment posed by the chemicals that we use in our daily lives and used in the past. Much of my current work deals with problems posed by "legacy" chemicals such as arsenic and other, long lasting pesticides that were used in past agricultural operations. Our office has prepared guidance for testing and assessment of past farmlands that are being converted for residential use. As part of this we have to understand not only the risk posed to future residents, but also the risk to drinking water aquifers as well as streams, bays and other aquatic habitats. Fortunately the risk is in most cases minimal, but there are localized areas of heavy contamination soil that must be dealt with. Understanding the many factors that must be considered to make defensible decisions is well beyond my individual capabilities. Fortunately, I have been able to build a large network of local and outside experts to provide technical assistance when needed.

To be honest, the science is relatively straightforward and I think I can bring access to a significant amount of technical expertise to the Committee. The most difficult part of my job, however, and I think a key responsibility as a public servant, is to be able to balance the benefit provided by a stable and prosperous economy with the potential short-term and long-term impacts on the environment. How do we balance the need for a dependable, local source of food with potential effects of pesticides on the environment? Is the presence of trace levels of a pesticide in our drinking water of

runoff into streams and the ocean “acceptable?” How can we formulate and use pesticides in a manner that minimizes the chance of unwanted impacts?

These types of questions have been raised since societies first formed and we have made giant strides towards a more responsible interaction with the environment that sustains us. I think that my background as a scientist can help the Committee sort through the basic technical issues associated with the use of pesticides in agriculture. This will allow the team to move on to less easily definable but equally significant policy decisions regarding the need for both a healthy environment and a healthy economy. I am confident that we can achieve both.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Senate and the Committee for their dedication as public servants. I know from experience that the fruits of our labor are sometimes difficult to see, but they are clearly evident as I travel in areas of the world where less attention is given to how we interact with the environment that sustains us.

Thank you for consideration of my nomination. At this time I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.