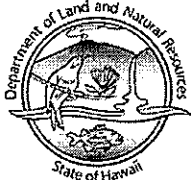


GM 686

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN HARRISON, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

**Thursday, March 14, 2013
3:20 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 686 –
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, JOHN HARRISON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports Governor's Message (GM) 686, nominating John Harrison to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (Committee) for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 195D, the Committee reviews all applications and proposals for habitat conservation plans, safe harbor agreements, and incidental take licenses and makes recommendations, based on a full review of the best available scientific and other reliable data and at least one site visit to each property that is the subject of the proposed action, and in consideration of the cumulative impacts of the proposed action on the recovery potential of the endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species, to the department and the board as to whether or not they should be approved, amended, or rejected.

John Harrison has served one four-year term on the Committee, and has been a valuable and integral member. Mr. Harrison's professional background in ecology, natural resource management, and conservation biology has allowed him to contribute greatly to the Committee. Mr. Harrison has an exceptional understanding of the issues and conservation goals related to threatened and endangered species in Hawaii.

Thank you for considering the reappointment of John Harrison to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

TESTIMONY OF
JOHN T. HARRISON, PH.D.
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Re:

G.M. 686

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN HARRISON, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Hearing Thursday, March 14, 2013
Room 225, Hawai'i State Capitol

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the subject Gubernatorial Nomination, and please accept my regret that attending my grandson's 3rd birthday on the mainland precludes my personal appearance before you today.

It has been my privilege to be a charter member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC), having served for all but two years since the Committee was established pursuant to Act 380 of the 1997 Legislature. From 1998 until 2007, I served *ex officio* in my capacity as head of the UH Environmental Center. Following my retirement from the University at the end of 2006, I was re-appointed to the ESRC as an at-large member in 2009, meeting the criterion of a "field biologist with expertise in conservation biology" as provided in HRS §195D-25(a).

The idea for the ESRC originated in discussions among environmental management professionals on the UH faculty and colleagues in federal and state agencies. It first appeared as a component of SB 1089 in the 1997 Legislature, which proposed adding a new chapter to the Hawai'i Revised Statutes with the underlying intent to augment existing provisions for the protection and recovery of endangered species. In testimony at a January 30, 1997 hearing before the Senate Committee on Health and Environment, I stated, "...this measure constitutes a step, albeit and imperfect one, in the direction of achieving cooperation between land owners, government officials, scientists, and environmentalists in the implementation of more effective recovery [of endangered species]."

I met with Committee Chair Senator Andy Levin on February 5th, 1997 to discuss improvements to the structure and organization of the proposed ESRC, and the present language of HRS §195D-25 ultimately arose from that meeting.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

March 13, 2013
RL: 2305

GM 686

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN HARRISON,
for a term to expire 6-30-2017

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Public Hearing – Thursday, March 14, 2013
3:20 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 225

By
David Penn, Environmental Center
IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and committee members,

The University of Hawaii Environmental Center supports the confirmation of John Harrison as a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC). Dr. Harrison's experience with the ESRC and his expertise in conservation biology, cumulative impact considerations, environmental governance, and landowner relations lends extra strength to the foundation for achieving ESRC's mission. As the new Environmental Center designee now serving on the ESRC, I am grateful for the wealth of knowledge, depth of insight, and egalitarian spirit that John brings to the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this confirmation. Please note that our testimony does not represent an official institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Responsibilities and duties of ESRC members are delineated in §195D-25(b), and my prior service on the Committee largely has entailed participation in the exercise of those prescribed functions. I would note that instruments such as Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) and Safe Harbor Agreements (SHA) comprise complex legal frameworks with both federal and state implementing authorities. As such, their effective application and implementation require levels of familiarity with procedural, scientific, and ecological constraints that are sharpened by continued experience. My years of experience on the ESRC have provided a wealth of both knowledge and contextual understanding of available endangered species management tools and complexities. As a result, my ability to make decisions that best promote the interests of the affected species has been both focused and tempered by my prior service.

Over the course of a long career in both academic and private sector endeavors, I have had the opportunity to acquire a network of diverse resource contacts among both government and private enterprise communities, and experience in both sectors provides me with a balanced perspective that accommodates interests of each in decision making. In addition, years of participation in a wide range of scientific research endeavors have imparted a strong pragmatism that helps me to assess the distinction between what is desirable and what is achievable in terms of outcomes. Finally, underlying all of the previously mentioned qualities, I bring an unequivocal commitment to intellectual integrity to my deliberations on all matters, along with an unshakeable conviction that the best decisions emerge from a basis of the best possible information.

If my nomination is confirmed, I look forward to continuing my contributions to the conservation and recovery of endangered, threatened, candidate and proposed species in the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on my nomination.