

# GM 691

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN SINTON, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: WTL

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		<b>Status Text</b>
3/1/2013	S	Received.
3/1/2013	S	Referred to WTL.
3/20/2013	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 03-28-13 1:15PM in conference room 225.

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  
WATER AND LAND**

**Thursday, March 28, 2013  
1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 691, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOHN SINTON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 691 to appoint John Sinton to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

The responsibilities of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission include advising the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Governor on matters that have to do with protection and enhancement of native ecosystems and geological features in as unmodified a condition as possible; to review, consider and make recommendations for strengthening the Natural Area Reserves System, as well as to review and recommend management plans, policies, and permitted uses within the Natural Area Reserves System.

Dr. Sinton, a resident of O'ahu, is a Professor in the Department of Geology and Geosciences at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa; his particular expertise is in Hawaiian geology, Volcanology, Marine geology, Geochemistry of volcanic materials used in Polynesian tool making, and Geochemical analysis. He has broad field experience in geological field mapping on many Pacific islands in addition to Hawai'i, and is familiar with many areas of geological importance across the State, developed during more than 30 years on the faculty of the University and provides a very important perspective for the Commission.

Per the requirements under Section 195-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Dr. Sinton possesses scientific qualifications evidenced by an undergraduate degree in Geology, a Masters in Geology, and a Ph.D. in Geology, and is being reappointed to serve a second term. As such, the Department supports Governor's Message 691 on the reappointment of Dr. John Sinton to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission and looks forward to continue working with him in the future.

**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  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



## United States Department of the Interior



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Hawaiian Volcano Observatory  
Post Office Box 51  
Hawaii National Park, Hawai'i 96718-0051

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 13, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I write in support of GM691 which includes Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Dr. John Sinton for a second 4-year term on the Natural Area Reserve Commission.

I've known John Sinton for about 30 years and always found him to be exceptionally knowledgeable about Hawaiian geology, both from his experience on Hawaiian ground identifying the rock units and interpreting their meaning and from his work in similar volcanic terrain in other parts of the world in comparison – Galapagos Islands, Iceland, Society Islands, and the East Pacific Rise. He was sought out by USGS geologist Dr. David Sherrod as a collaborator and coauthor for a recent publication of the "Geologic Map of the State of Hawai'i" in 2007, the first attempt at a state geologic map.

Dr. Sinton's work has also contributed to the field of Polynesian archaeology where he has used his knowledge to "fingerprint" volcanic rocks in order to track commerce in basaltic stone tools, like adzes throughout Polynesia. These studies have been crucial to tracking how early Hawaiians interacted within Hawai'i and also in other Polynesian Island groups.

John's broad professional experience and interests is a valuable asset for the NAR commission as it tries to evaluate many permit applications and issues relating to scientific and other uses of the state's valuable NAR areas. Personally, I have known John as a very thoughtful professional with broad scientific knowledge and an intimate familiarity with Hawai'i. He is an excellent choice to continue the high technical level of the NAR Commission.

Jim Kauahikaua  
Scientist-in-Charge





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
**Hawaiian Volcano Observatory**  
51 Crater Rim Drive; P.O. Box 51  
Hawaii National Park, HI 96718  
Phone: 808 967 7328; Fax: 808 967 8870  
trusdell@usgs.gov



March 27, 2013

Dear Senator Solomon:

Without reservation, I highly recommend Dr. John Sinton to you as the geologic representative and Chairperson on the Natural Area Reserves Commission (NARS).

With this letter, I am supporting the continuance of John Sinton as a Natural Area Reserves Commissioner representing the geologic community on the (NARS). Dr. Sinton's expertise and judgment are thorough and sound.

John is a volcanologist with worldly experience. Because of these encounters John is sought after by his peers and colleagues as a collaborator for investigations in volcanology, marine geology and geochemistry. In addition, members of the community seek John out for input to committees and to serve in an advisory capacity on graduate research committees.

For years, John has devoted countless hours to community service projects. He is currently on the faculty at the University of Hawaii-SOEST School. He has a great love for Hawaii and its children. Dr. Sinton is fully capable of being a NARS commissioner, and I have every confidence he will do an excellent job.

Thank you very much for this consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Trusdell

## Piikea Tomczyk

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**From:** izukas001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2013 10:16 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Subject:** GM691 Nomination of John Sinton to the NARS Commission

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

March 13, 2013  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Senator  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land

Dear Senator Solomon,

I wish to express my full endorsement for the nomination of Dr. John M. Sinton to the Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) Commission. I have known Dr. Sinton for more than 30 years, starting from my undergraduate and graduate years at the University of Hawaii and through my career as a working professional in geology. Over these years, Dr. Sinton proven to be an excellent communicator, dedicated teacher and mentor, and expert in the geological sciences, particularly the geology of Hawaii's volcanoes. His extensive scientific knowledge and continuing research will be key to bringing science and management together to preserve Hawaii's unique and fragile natural resources.

Sincerely,  
Scot K. Izuka, PhD