

GM 731

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, NATHAN YUEN, 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</u> <u>Date</u>		Status Text
3/25/2013	S	Received.
3/25/2013	S	Referred to WTL.
4/4/2013	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 04-16-13 1:15PM in conference room 225.

Nathan P. Yuen
91-233 Hanapouli Cir #29T
Ewa Beach, Hawai'i 96706

April 11, 2013

The Honorable Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM731 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Yuen, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Dear Senator Solomon:

Thank you for this opportunity to share my qualifications to be on the Natural Area Reserves Commission. I respond to the questions posed in your letter of April 3, 2013 as follows:

1. Why do you wish to become a member of the Natural Area Reserves Commission?

I'd like to be on the Natural Area Reserves Commission to help save rare and endangered native Hawaiian plants and animals. For the past 15 years I have been an amateur naturalist/hiker/ photographer/blogger where I have hiked to remote parts of the islands to photograph and blog about these unique creatures. My blog and website is at HawaiianForest.Com. Hawai'i is known as the extinction capitol of the world. The NARS Commission can play a big part in reversing this unenviable distinction.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Natural Area Reserves Commission?

The NARS Commissions advises the Board of Land and Natural Resources on matters pertaining to some of the most biologically sensitive and geologically interesting lands owned by the State of Hawai'i. The role of the commission is to recommend areas for inclusion as Natural Area Reserves and to recommend policies on their management, protection, and permitted uses. I'm being appointed to a hiking seat on the NARS Commission to represent the interests of hikers. It is my opinion that in order for conservation measures to succeed in the long run, public education and support is

needed. Natural Area Reserves should not be some abstract concept the public can only see in photos. Unless there are extremely endangered species on the brink of extinction, hikers should be allowed into NARS and measures should be instituted to prevent the spread of invasive species – like installing brushes at trailheads so hikers can remove seeds from their shoes and establishing a weeding crew to sweep through the NARS periodically.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, why do you believe 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 Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

My hiking and photography explorations to remote parts of the Hawaiian Islands have allowed me to see rare and endangered native plants and animals and to understand many of the threats to them. I'm an avid hiker and have been a member of the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club since 1997. I am a hike coordinator for the club and I am part of the trail maintenance crew which keeps some 65 trails open on Oahu per year. I also participate in search and rescue missions with the club after the 3-day customary search period by the police and fire departments expire and the missing hiker is still not found. My appreciation for the native flora and fauna and my connection to the hiking community puts me in a unique position to be on a hiking seat on the NARS Commission.

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

Many endangered creatures – the kahuli (Oahu tree snail), elepaio (monarch flycatcher), and pinao ula (damselfly) are in the stories and chants of old Hawai'i. What a shame it would be if we did nothing to prevent these creatures from going extinct and our grandchildren never got to see them. I hope to make a difference in preserving rare and endangered species for future generations.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Natural Area Reserves System Commission?

I'm a good listener. It's important to hear and consider all points of view. I work well with others to reach decisions. I'm able to develop consensus with others in developing a framework for decision-making. I'm fair. I'm able to reach decision in an impartial

manner based on the merits of an issue. These qualities are important to any decision-making body such as the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Natural Area Reserves System Commission?

In 2008, I found a kahuli – Oahu Tree Snail – *Achatinella abbreviata* – that was last seen in 1965 and thought to be extinct. My find was big news to the snail community – it revealed that some extremely rare native snails are still around. The photos I took at the snail are the only ones that exist of the live animal. My passion for rare and endangered native Hawaiian species and my wish to protect them for future generations is what the Natural Area Reserves System Commission is all about.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflict of interest that could arise during your service on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

While unlikely, it is possible for a matter to appear before the commission that affects an undertaking in which I have a financial or other interest. In such cases I would disclose my financial or other interest to the members of the commission and recuse myself from voting on the matter before the commission.

I appreciate this opportunity to tell you how I can be an asset to the Natural Area Reserves Commission. Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,



Nathan P. Yuen

Testimony of Nathan Yuen

to the Senate Committee on Water and Land

On April 16, 2013

GM 731

Re: GM 731 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves Systems Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Yuen, for a term to expire in June 30, 2017.

Chair Solomon and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

My name is Nathan Yuen. I want to thank Governor Abercrombie for nominating me to a hiking seat on the NARS Commission. It is an honor and privilege to serve on the commission. The NARS Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources concerning some of the most biologically sensitive and geologically interesting lands owned by the State of Hawai`i.

I have an MBA from Hawai`i Pacific University and a BBA in Accounting and Management Information Systems from the University of Hawai`i. For the past 4 years I`ve worked as an accountant for InSynergy Engineering. For the 19 years before that I worked in several research administrator positions at Kaiser, Queen`s, and the University of Hawai`i where I supported physician and scientists write grant proposals, perform research, and commercialize their research. For the 5 years prior to that I work in several computer programmer/analyst positions at the State of Hawai`i and Electronic Data Systems.

But I`m not here for what I do for a living. I`m here for what I do on my own time on the weekends. For the past 15 years, I have been an amateur naturalist/hiker/photographer/blogger. Each weekend you can find me hiking to remote parts of the islands to photograph and blog about rare native plants and animals found only in the Hawaiian Islands. My blog and website is at HawaiianForest.Com.

I'm a hike coordinator for the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club (HTMC) and part of the trail maintenance crew that labors to keep about 60 trails on Oahu per year. I also participate in search and rescue missions when the customary 3-day search period by the police and fire departments terminates without finding the lost hiker.

I write a column in the quarterly Hawai'i Sierra Club newsletter highlighting some of Hawaii's biological treasures many of which are rare or endangered. I also volunteer weeding invasive plants from sensitive areas like 'Ihi'ihilau'akea Crater at Hanauma Bay with the Hawai'i Audubon Society, habitat restoration on the Mokulua islets off Lanikai with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and picking up beach and plastic trash with Sustainable Coastlines Hawai'i.

I have an affinity for Hawaii's unique plants and animals, and believe they must be protected for future generations. Serious challenges face Hawaii's natural environment. Invasive species like strawberry guava and pigs wreak havoc over the land. When pigs, goats and other ungulates browse native forests, they create openings for invasive alien plants such as strawberry guava, ginger, and other fast growing alien plants to take root. Many plants from elsewhere in the world have no natural enemies or pathogens in Hawai'i to keep them in check. Once invasive alien plants become established, they spread rapidly, and choke out the native species, resulting in a complete replacement of native forests with alien weeds. Strawberry guava is especially bad for the watershed because it provides food for pigs – pigs love strawberry guava fruit – and strawberry guava uses more water than native 'ōhi'a trees. Native forests use less water and capture more moisture from passing clouds, and can increase the amount of ground water capture by the aquifer.

When pigs run rampant in the watershed they dig-up the vegetation and roto-till the earth foraging for food. So when heavy rains fall, nothing holds the soil back from washing into the streams. Muddy torrents sweep down the mountains and destroy native stream ecosystems. The destruction continues when the muddy water reaches the ocean. Tons of soil settle on the sea floor and smother everything that lives there. Entire reef systems can be killed from the silt

and freshwater that washes down from denuded mountain slopes. Given how important our beaches are to attracting visitors, invasive species can negatively affect tourism, the very engine that drives Hawaii's economy.

Perhaps the most alarming long term threat is the drying trend confronting the Hawaiian Islands. For the past 20 years, rainfall has decreased during the winter months and has increased slightly in the summer months although not nearly enough to compensate for the reduction in winter.

Although we have little control over the amount of rain that falls, we can influence how much of that rain is captured in our aquifers. Which is why Governor Abercrombie's plan to double the acreage of protected watersheds in 10 years is so important to Hawaii's future – we need to secure our source of water in a time of climate uncertainty.

Many of the places where rainfall is highest in the Hawaiian Islands coincide with places where rare native plants and animals can still be found. If the land is properly managed by removing invasive plants such as strawberry guava which uses significantly more water than native 'ōhi'a trees, we can increase the ability of aquifer to capture and store water while protecting native species at the same time.

In order for conservations measures to be effective, public support and education is needed. The public needs to understand that our drinking water comes from the forested mountains on the interior of our islands which attract rain from passing clouds. The Hawaiian knew this and memorialized this wisdom in an olelo noeau "Hahai no ka ua ika ulu la au" or "the rain follows the forest".

Since I am being appointed to a hiking seat on the NARS Commission, my role is to represent the interests of hikers. Unless there are extremely endangered species on the brink of extinction, hikers should be allowed into NARS and measures should be instituted to prevent the spread of invasive species – like installing brushes at trailheads so hikers can remove seeds from their shoes and establishing a weeding crew to sweep through the NARS periodically. By

allowing the public in these special places, people can learn where our water comes from, see the special creatures that live there, and support measures to protect them.

In closing I would like thank this Committee for the work you do for the State of Hawai'i and for giving the opportunity to be here today. I hope my passion for Hawaii's native plants and animals comes across and that you will support my nomination to the NARS Commission. Thank you for considering my nomination. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

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

Tuesday, April 16, 2013
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 731
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL
AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
NATHAN YUEN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 731 to appoint Nathan Yuen 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 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.

Mr. Yuen, a resident of O'ahu, graduated from the University of Hawai'i Manoa with a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1984 with a double major in Accounting and Management Information Systems; following that in 1990 with a Graduate Certificate in Telecommunications and Information Resource Management in the College of Arts and Sciences. He received a Master of Business Administration from Hawai'i Pacific University in 2002 and has held a number of positions.

It is Mr. Yuen's long interest and connection in hiking with the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club (HTMC) and Sierra Club that has resulted in his nomination to the Commission. He is a hike coordinator and member of the trail maintenance crew for HTMC, which helps to keep about 65 trails open on O'ahu each year. He has volunteered for search and rescue missions to find lost hikers. Mr. Yuen is also an accomplished photographer, and curated the Club's photo exhibit "100 years of Hiking with the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club" at Hamilton Library

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

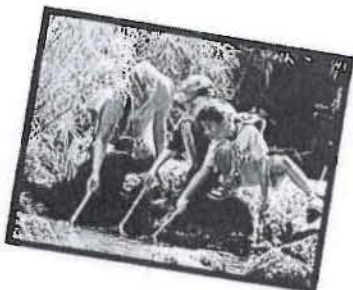
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

and created the centennial calendar to celebrate hiking from the founding of the Club in 1910 to present; he created the Year of the Hawaiian Forest Calendar for the State of Hawai'i in 2003.

Mr. Yuen is also active in the Sierra Club and Hawai'i Audubon Society, helping to lead hikes, writing articles for their publications and allowing them use of his photos.

Per the requirements under Section 195-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Mr. Yuen is a member of a recognized hiking organization, as evidenced by his membership and activity in the HTMC. As such, the Department supports Governor's Message 731 on the appointment of Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission and looks forward to working with him in the future.

HAWAII NATURE CENTER



HEADQUARTERS

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*Connecting
children and families
to nature!*

April 9, 2013

Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 21
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM731 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, **NATHAN YUEN**, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Dear Senators Solomon and Shimabukuro:

As the Volunteer Program Manager of the Hawai'i Nature Center, I am writing to you to support the confirmation of Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I have known Nathan for many years because he has been an avid supporter of our organization. He has done presentations about the Hawaiian forest for our volunteers and as a special Earth Day/30th Anniversary Event. Nathan has also made generous donations of his photographs that we have used for our fundraising and volunteer recognition events. Nathan used these opportunities to inspire, educate and enlighten everyone about the importance of our Hawaiian forests and its varied and unique ecosystems.

As an active member of Sierra Club High School Hikers, I enjoy reading the informative articles that Nathan writes for every issue of the Sierra Club newsletter, *Mālama I Ka Honua*. Each of his stories, like the support he's given to Hawai'i Nature Center, inspires, educates and enlightens. I always feel like I am there on the trail with Nathan.

Nathan not only is passionate about photographing native plants and animals but he "walks the walk and talks the talk." Two years ago, Nathan was a part of my volunteer service project to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. It surprised me to find out that Hakalau was one place that Nathan had not been to. It was such a pleasure having him on my crew because he worked so hard with the native outplanting project and he got along well with the rest of my work crew. What made it even more special is that he documented our entire trip that we could all view on his blog - <http://hawaiianforest.com/2011/08>.

Nathan will make an excellent addition to the NARS Commission. But what I believe will make him a great asset to the Commission is that he will always make decisions based on what is best for Hawai'i and its special and unique natural environment.

Sincerely,

Pauline Kawamata

Pauline Kawamata
Volunteer Program Manager



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII'I

April 16, 2013

Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Support for** GM 731 Nomination of Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Dear Senator Solomon and Senator Shimabukuro,

Aloha. I am writing on behalf of the Conservation Council for Hawai'i to support the nomination of Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I have known Nathan for the past 20?? years. He is passionate about the native plants and animals found nowhere else in the world, and committed to preserving the natural environment for future generations.

Nathan is an avid outdoorsman and talented photographer. Over the years, he has posted on his website interesting and informative articles and photographs of his hikes and outdoor adventures. His enthusiasm for protecting and enjoying nature is contagious. He has also allowed CCH and many others to use his photographs of native plants, animals, and natural areas for educational purposes.

In addition to his knowledge and experience in the wild, Nathan is a great "people person." He is kind, respectful, fair, and open to new ideas and strategies to better protect our environment. He will make an excellent NARS Commissioner, and we are very happy to support him.

Please confirm Nathan Yuen's nomination to the NARS Commission. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife - *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org
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President: Hannah Springer * Vice-President: Julie Leialoha * Treasurer: Bianca Isaki * Secretary: Wayne Tanaka
Directors: Rick Barboza * Lida Pigott Burney * Maka'ala Ka'auomoana * Koalani Kaulukukui * Robin Kaye
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

April 8, 2013

The Honorable Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 21
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM731 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Yuen

Dear Senators Solomon and Shimabukuro:

As the former Program Coordinator for the O'ahu Program of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i, I was happy to learn that Nathan Yuen has been nominated to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. Mr. Yuen has spent many hours working as a volunteer for The Nature Conservancy, as well as many other conservation organizations.

He has demonstrated a strong desire to protect and preserve the native plants and animals found in Hawai'i, and has become very knowledgeable about these rare and unique species. Nate Yuen is an accomplished photographer and educates others through his photos.

If confirmed, I believe he will be able to use his knowledge and talents to further protect and enhance the natural habitats of our native wildlife.

I strongly support Mr. Yuen's confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves Commission.

Sincerely,

Lynette Williams

44-126 Kauinohea Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744
WilliamsL015@hawaii.rr.com



From the desk of MAHEALANI CYPHER

April 4, 2013

To: Sen. Malama Solomon, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair / & Members
Senate Committee on Water & Land

From: Mahealani Cypher
Mahealani Cypher

Re: Support for Nathan Yuen – Natural Area Reserves Commission
(GM731)

Aloha, Chair Solomon and Committee Members:

I offer my **strong and heartfelt support** for the confirmation of Nathan Yuen, who has been appointed to serve on the Natural Area Reserves Commission.

I have known Nathan since the 1990s, and have always found him to be dedicated to protecting our state's natural resources and forest reserves. I have gone on hikes in the mountains with him, and am impressed with the wealth of knowledge he possesses about rare and endangered island flora and fauna, always eager to share his knowledge with others.

Nathan is the perfect choice for this commission, having spent much of his life working with groups to protect Hawaiian plants and remove alien species from our forests. He joins this commission as a strong advocate for Hawai'i's precious natural resources.

I urge this committee to approve his confirmation to serve on the Natural Area Reserves Commission.

Mahalo.

P. O. Box 4749
Kaneohe, HI 96744
(808) 226-4195
e-malamapono744@gmail.com

April 11, 2013

Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 21
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 731 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves Systems Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Yuen, for a term to expire in June 30, 2017.

Dear Senators Solomon and Shimabukuro:

I am writing to you to support the confirmation of Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

I have known, hiked with, and shared many outdoor adventures with Nathan for more than 15 years now. He will add valuable perspective and insight to the work of the Commission which will be truly beneficial.

As a hike coordinator for the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club (HTMC, established 1910) and a regular participant with the HTMC trail maintenance crew, Nathan is widely respected within Oahu's hiking community. His passion for our rare and endangered native plant and animals has forged strong relationships and respect among like-minded people not only on Oahu but Statewide. Nathan's efforts as a search and rescue volunteer show his caring for not only our environment but also for the people who enjoy the outdoors. His photography work exhibits his commitment to preserving and managing our environment for future generations.

I believe that Nathan has a clear vision of the environmental priorities shared by Hawaii's outdoors community and understands the challenges in meeting these priorities. He will be a valuable asset to the Commission.

Sincerely,

Grant A. Oka

A responsible citizen of the Great State of Hawaii for the past 63 years.
Past President of the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club
Avid Hiker and Outdoorsman

April 02, 2013

The Honorable Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 21
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM731 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Yuen, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Dear Senators Solomon and Shimabukuro:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Mr. Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I have known Mr. Yuen for the past 3 years through the birding and hiking communities on the island of Oahu. I had the pleasure of witnessing Mr. Yuen working on bird count projects and coastal clean ups. Mr. Yuen has successfully documented several endemic and endangered species found in Hawaii. His experience will greatly aid the state in protecting Hawaii's fragile ecosystem through the Natural Reserves System Position. Mr. Yuen will be an asset to your commission because of his extensive experiences and knowledge of native flora, fauna and forest trails.

He is currently a hiking coordinator for the Hawaiian Trails and Mountain Club (HTMC). He has led hikes to Waiau, Schofield-Waikane, Keahiakahoe and Iliahi Ridge. Mr. Yuen has also participated in search and rescue efforts of hikers. In 2011 he assisted with the search for the Norwegian Professor Horungnes. Mr. Yuen also participates in the HTMC trail clearings and has helped keep 65 trails clear. His commitment to the aina has also led him to several wonderful discoveries in the remote mountain regions.

On December 28, 2008 Mr. Yuen made an extraordinary find of an endemic snail. Once thought to be extinct, the *Achatinella abbreviate* was rediscovered. New life has been breathed into Hawaiian tree snail research because of this incredible finding. Recently this past summer of 2012 he also recorded the nesting locations of many endemic and endangered birds such as: the Red-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon rubricaud*, Hawaiian Stilt / *Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*, Fairy Tern *Gygis Alba*, Hawaiian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis*, Hawaiian Coot *Fulica alai*, and the hybrid Hawaiian Duck of Oahu *Anas wyvilliana*. These birding excursions document the native birds in their natural habitats. This invaluable information makes Mr. Yuen an expert within the birding community.

He also extends a helping hand to many environmental grass roots organizations that coordinate clean ups. He has volunteered for the Kokee Conversation Research Program, Oahu Invasive Species Committee, The Nature Center, The Sierra Club, Hawaii Audubon Society, and Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii. His previous work in habitat restoration at Mokulua Iki and Ihihilauakea Crater with the Hawaii Audubon Society enhanced his knowledge of native birds and plants.

Most people have an acute knowledge of narrow areas of study. For example, an ornithologist has specific knowledge of birds. A botanist would have a keen understanding of plants. A biologist would know about snails or monk seals depending on their specialty. Mr. Yuen has an accumulated understanding of all of these subjects while also possessing the particulars of the animal's/plant's niche and habitat. This type of knowledge is rare to find in most people irregardless of their education and type of employment. His passion for native plants and animals makes him an expert in identifying and locating these rarities. This passion and commitment to preserving the natural environment for future generations makes Mr. Nathan Yuen an irreplaceable asset to the NARS Commission.

Sincerely,

Vanassa Melendez

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 21
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM731 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves Systems Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Yuen, for a term to expire 6-30-2017

Dear Senators Solomon and Shimabukuro:

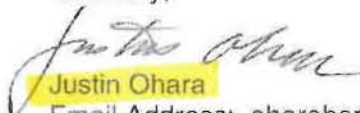
I am writing to you to support the confirmation of Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

I have known Nathan Yuen for the past 13 years as a member of the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club (HTMC). While participating on the membership, entertainment committees, a hike coordinator and the trail clearing crew. I have witnessed Nathan's passion for native plant and animals, found nowhere else in the world, grow to include a love for educating and sharing these with others in our community. Nathan has given numerous slide and power point presentations not only to the Hawaiian Train and Mountain Club but also conservation groups: Sierra Club, The Nature Conservancy, The Nature Center, University of Hawaii Hilo Campus Break Through Adventures, The Kokee Resources Conservation Program and other civic-minded groups.

As a fellow hike coordinator, trail clearer volunteer, search and rescue volunteer, I have been with Nathan as he regularly introduces and guides the public into the unique mountains, forests, and streams that are Hawaii. Nathan does this while balancing the need for public safety and sensitivity for protecting of our precious native plants and animals. I have been with Nathan when we have searched for, and on one occasion found, a missing person.

As one of Nathan's hike companions, fellow volunteer on conservation trips and a member of his audience during power point presentations, I have witnessed Nathan's commitment to preserving the natural environment for future generations. Nathan Yuen will make a good addition to the NARS Commission with his passion for Hawaii's native plants and animals.

Sincerely,



Justin Ohara

Email Address: oharahanayo@gmail.com

Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2013 6:23 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: Jayf1111@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM731 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM

GM731

Submitted on: 4/12/2013

Testimony for WTL on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jay Feldman	Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club	Support	No

Comments: April 12, 2013 Senator Malama Solomon Chair, Committee on Water and Land Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro Vice Chair, Committee on Water and Land Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Re: GM731 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, NATHAN YUEN, for a term to expire 6-30-2017. Dear Senators Solomon and Shimabukuro: I am writing to you in very strong support of the confirmation of Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I have known Nathan for over fifteen years through the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club and have hiked many, many miles with him. Without question, when it comes to native foliage and fauna, Nathan is one of the most engaging and informative hikers I know. However, this was not the case when I first met him, but over the years he has studied, taken classes, and proved to be an autodidact of the highest caliber and has evolved to one of our most knowledgeable members when it comes to trailside plants, snails, birds, and insects, - native and invasive. In the process he has developed his skills in photography, both for visual documentation of his research as well as to capture the beauty of nature that surrounds his efforts. One can easily judge the quality of his work by viewing his educational and thought provoking blog entries at his web site (HawaiianForest.com). Additionally, associated with his increasing knowledge of nature and the environment, he is an excellent hiker and explorer who knows the trails and history of the islands as well or better than most. He has served the club as a Hike Coordinator, a member of the Trail Maintenance Crew, with other members assisted Fire and Rescue in the search for missing hikers, designed the club's very popular "2010 HTMC Centennial Calendar", curated a photographic and hiking artifact exhibit at University of Hawaii's Hamilton Library ("100 Years of Hiking with HTMC"), and served as the club's archivist saving treasured and historic hiking photos, maps, and news articles collected from HTMC, State of Hawaii, UH, Bishop Museum, and DOFAW archives. In summary, Nathan is one of the brightest and most capable individuals I've had the pleasure to know and hike with. His passion for native plants and animals, his service as hike coordinator, trail clearer, search and rescue volunteer, and his commitment to preserving the natural environment for future generations will make an excellent addition to the NARS Commission. I'm confident his service to the state will be extraordinary. Jay Feldman, President Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 10:25 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: ahuntemer@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM731 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM

GM731

Submitted on: 4/9/2013

Testimony for WTL on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: RE: GM731 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Yuen, for a term to expire 6-30-2017. I am writing to testify in support of having Nathan Yuen confirmed to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. Nathan has shown himself to be knowledgeable about the ecosystems here in Hawaii and of course as an avid hiker, has regular contact with areas that still exhibit intact ecosystems but are at the same time very fragile. Nathan's professional background puts him in an excellent position to be a part of a team. His understanding of professional expectations involved in the Commission's work is therefore a given. Nathan is generous with his time and gracious with those less knowledgeable than he. He has been involved in many volunteer projects pertaining to the environment. Last, but not least, Nathan's ability to bring to life Hawaii's natural beauty through his photography is nothing short of incredible. This form of communication is very powerful and allows even people who cannot access areas where he goes to see and appreciate the beauty there. These three skills combined with intelligence, humor and empathy make Nathan a great choice for your commission. His knowledge, professionalism and activities in the areas of hiking and photography combine to produce a person who is deeply committed to preserving Hawaii's native and endangered, plants, animals and ecosystems. You could not have a better person than Nate. Mahalo.

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Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, April 06, 2013 7:39 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: travel@lezardetravel.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM731 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM

GM731

Submitted on: 4/6/2013
Testimony for WTL on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra L Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: RE: GM731 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Yuen, for a term to expire 6-30-2017. Nathan Yuen is a good friend to conservation in Hawai'i. As a property owner on the Orchid Isle, I support his confirmation.

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Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 11:18 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: mariebro@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM731 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM

GM731

Submitted on: 4/5/2013
Testimony for WTL on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marie Alohalani Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha mai kākou, I support Nathan Yuen for this appointment. Mahalo, Marie Alohalani Brown

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Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 10:40 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: ohukaniohia@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM731 on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM

GM731

Submitted on: 4/5/2013

Testimony for WTL on Apr 16, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sam 'Ohu Gon III	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known Nathan Yuen for many years. He is knowledgeable and a strong advocate for our natural areas, and will be a fine addition to the NARS Commission. I enthusiastically support his nomination and hope you confirm his appointment. mahalo! Dr. Sam 'Ohu Gon III

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Testimony in support of GM 731 Appointment of Nate Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Malama Solomon, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuru, Vice-Chair

Aloha Chair Solomon, Vice-Chair Shimabukuru and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Annette Kaohelauii and I am submitting testimony in support of the appointment of Nate Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

I am a former member of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission and served for two years as Chair of the commission. I know first the skills and interest required to perform the duties of this commission.

Nate Yuen has been a friend for many years and I have long admired his concern and caring for both the native flora and native fauna of Hawaii. His body of photographic work is proof of that. He will be an excellent member of the commission and will represent the interest of the hikers and outdoor aficionados who care about the natural areas of our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my wholehearted support for this fine appointment.

RE: GM731 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Nathan Yuen, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

April 03, 2013

The Honorable Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 21
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation of Nathan Yuen to Natural Area Reserves Systems Commission

Dear Senators Solomon and Shimabukuro:

I am writing to you to support the confirmation of Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

I have known Nathan Yuen for the past 5 years. He is a fellow hike coordinator with the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club, and a volunteer for club trail maintenance and search and rescue operations.

He has visited Pahole, Ka`ena and Mt Ka`ala Reserves many times. He enjoys finding and photographing the native plants, birds, insects, and snails there. More importantly, he shows a genuine concern for the preservation of the native species in the NARS.

I believe he will make a good addition to the NARS Commission.

Aloha,

Stuart Ball

Confirmation of Nathan Yuen to the Natural Area Reserve Commission-

I have been active in the Oahu hiking community since I joined the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club trail clearing crew in the early 1980s. When the Hawaii Statewide Trail and Access System was established in 1988, I became an exofficio member of the Oahu Advisory Council representing the Division of State Parks. Since retiring from the Division in 1998, I became a member of the Advisory Council representing hiking interests.

Nathan has become a very active member of our hiking community. He is Hawaii Trail and Mountain Club hike leader and has worked on various club projects. However, in sharing a growing library of email film presentations on nature depicting hikes on Oahu and elsewhere, his overriding interest in photography with nature prevails. By himself or with a few others, his interest, patience, and photography skills include knowledge and proper identification of his subject matter. A hiker with his interests and skills should be of special value to the Natural Area Reserve System.

Submitted by

William N. Gorst

Support

Bill Number: GM 731

Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Nathan Yuen, for a term to expire 6-30-2017

Submitted by: Daniel Chung

I would like to submit my testimony in support of Mr. Yuen to be a member of the Natural Areas Reserve System Commission. I have known Mr. Yuen for the past five years as an active hiking partner and a person who has been an active supporter of hikers and all those interested in Hawaiian natural history and Hawaiian culture. I have been a lecturer in Biology at Kapiolani Community College for more than 20 years, I have worked with the environmental community here for 30 years and have been doing field observations of and research on the native land snails for 40 years, but I present my testimony as an informed private citizen. I have seen very few people who have had the type of commitment in helping people with interests in hiking and Hawaiian natural history as Mr. Yuen has shown. From his informative and beautiful blog about hiking in Hawaii, to his deep involvement in the Trail and Mountain Club and the personal help he has given to many individuals, he has shown a dedication to working cooperatively with others to promote hiking in Hawaii as both a recreational as well as a cultural and educational activity. I cannot think of a more qualified person who can act as a conduit for communication between the hiking community and the NARS commission as well as be a thoughtful member of the commission who can represent community interests and perspectives. Through people like him, the NARS commission can achieve a greater community reach and do a better job protecting natural and wild areas in the State.