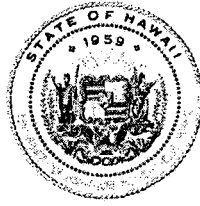
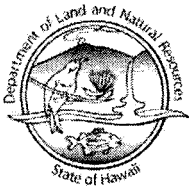


**GM 559**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**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

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

**Before the Senate Committee on  
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS**

**Thursday, March 6, 2014  
1:15PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 559  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
HAWAII HISTORIC PLACES REVIEW BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
GEORGE CASEN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2018**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports Governor's Message 559, nominating Mr. George Casen to the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board, for a term to expire June 30, 2018.

The Hawaii Historic Places Review Board is established under Section 6E-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Review Board is responsible for maintaining the Hawaii Register of Historic Places, as well as ordering historic properties into the Hawaii Register of Historic Places and recommending the nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Casen has seventeen years of experience as an architectural historian, and seven years of experience as an environmental planner. He has worked in Honolulu as an architectural historian and planner for over a decade for both public and private entities. During these years, Mr. Casen has acted as a researcher, leader and educator in Honolulu's historic preservation community. Mr. Casen received a Master of Science in Secondary Education and History, a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, and a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation. As both an architectural historian and environmental planner, Mr. Casen brings a unique and thoughtful perspective to the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board.

Mr. Casen has served on the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board since July 2011. Senate confirmation will ensure this important member's term is extended until June 30, 2018.

**Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2014 10:12 AM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Cc:** lindalegrande2243@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM559 on Mar 6, 2014 13:15PM

**GM559**

Submitted on: 2/26/2014  
Testimony for TEC on Mar 6, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Legrande	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Geore Casen has been a dedicated and strong advocate for historic preservation for the last 25 years that I have known him. He keeps himself informed on the big preservation issues in our State and brings years of knowledge to this position. I support his appointment on the Review Board wholeheartedly. Thank You, Linda LeGrande

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.

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## Gordon Fernandez

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**From:** Scott, Gloria@DOT <gloria.scott@dot.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2014 1:06 PM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Subject:** George Casen's nomination to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Mr. George Casen's nomination to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board. His continuation as a board member would be a great asset to the board as a whole.

Mr. Casen and I worked together when he was an architectural historian at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). In that position he evaluated many buildings and a variety of property types within our project areas to determine their eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), as well as to determine whether project effects would have the potential adverse effects to historic properties. The Southern California region in which Mr. Casen worked is historically and currently one of the most ethnically diverse regions in the United States, whose cultures influenced the history and development of Southern California. He was aware of the importance of this cultural diversity when evaluating resources for potential historic significance.

This work was done in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as state environmental laws. Caltrans policy is to use the National Register eligibility criteria and its accompanying bulletins and guidance for these evaluations. One specific project was very controversial, involved hundreds of potential historical resources, and required working under difficult time lines. He was tactful, professional and thorough in his evaluations.

I heartily support his re-appointment to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Gloria Scott  
Built Environment Preservation Services Branch Chief  
Cultural Studies Office  
Caltrans Division of Environmental Analysis  
ph: 916-653-1029  
fax: 916-653-6126  
web: [Cultural Resources - Caltrans Division of Environmental Analysis](#)

## **Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** Jeyan Thirugnanam <jeyant@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2014 8:55 AM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony - GM 559 - George Casen

I strongly support George Casen's re-appointment to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board.

I worked with Mr. Casen in the Office of Environmental Quality Control in 2007, where he reviewed historic, cultural and archaeological assessments. I found him to be an expert in these issues, diligent in performing his work and passionate about public service.

He will make good judgments in determining whether properties meet the significance criteria for inclusion in the historic register.

Please approve his re-appointment.

## **Gordon Fernandez**

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**From:** Tonia <tonia@funghawaii.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2014 11:32 AM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM559

To whom it may concern:

I support the nomination of George Casen to the Hawaii Places Review Board. He has attended every meeting during his past appointment and continues to work diligently towards ensuring a high level of quality. He remains dedicated to the preservation of significant historic sites.

Aloha,

**Tonia Moy, AIA**

### **FUNG ASSOCIATES, Inc.**

1833 Kalakaua Ave., Suite 1008  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Ph: 808.941.3000

Fax: 808.941.0900

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## Gordon Fernandez

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**From:** Dee Ruzicka <dr@masonarch.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2014 9:52 AM  
**To:** TECTestimony  
**Subject:** Re: GM559 Recommendation

Aloha,  
I would like to recommend George Casen to serve another term as a member of the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board. I worked with George for about 2 years while he was employed at Mason Architects here in Honolulu. During that time I found him to have an excellent understanding of National register requirements and the historic preservation process, both at Hawaii State and National levels. George has impressed me with his expertise and insight while evaluating properties for eligibility. I feel that during the past years he has effectively contributed to the decisions of the Hawaii Historic Places review board and that his familiarity with the State and National Register requirements and his eye for preservation will continue to make him a valuable member of the Review board. I recommend him to continue as a member.

Sincerely,  
Dee Ruzicka  
Architectural Historian

**Dee Ruzicka**  
Mason Architects Inc.  
119 Merchant St. Suite 501  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
808-536-0556 ext 1012  
dr@masonarch.com

## Testimony re George Casen, nominated for Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board

I would like to testify in support of George Casen's nomination for the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board. For about four years beginning in 2003, George and I worked at adjacent desks at Mason Architects, Inc., where he worked as an architectural historian. He was concurrently completing his Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation at the University of Hawai'i. I attended the presentation in which he discussed his research project for the Graduate Certificate; he had traveled to Singapore to study the preservation of historic buildings and neighborhoods there. I could see that he was a tenacious researcher and was especially good at tracking down information about the people and families associated with various historic sites in Hawai'i. Before coming to Hawai'i, George had spent many years working in California, where he studied buildings that might be adversely impacted by the operations of the CalTran transportation system.

I once drove George's car while he conducted a "windshield survey" to identify and evaluate historic buildings along Nimitz Highway that might be eligible for the National and Hawai'i Registers. Although a windshield survey need not be more than a preliminary perusal of the properties, George asked me to stop at each site on our list and proceeded to get out of the car and examine the property thoroughly.

George is a clear and concise writer; he has contributed several articles to the newspaper, usually on local politics or issues of historic preservation.

His broad interests, curiosity, and commitment to the community recommend him, in my opinion, for further service on the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Stimson



Julie Molloy

I fully support the appointment of George Casen as Gubernational Nominee for the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board. Over the years, I have worked with and known George Casen to be thorough, knowledgeable and quite expert in his work. Not only does he have tremendous skills, but he is also very passionate about the history and the stories of our buildings here in Hawaii. I could not think of a more suitable person for this position. I give George Casen the highest of recommendations and believe he would be an asset to your organization.

GEORGE CASEN

February 26, 2014

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts  
State Capitol, Room 216  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Wakai,

Re: Nomination to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board, GM559

Thank you for considering me for re-appointment to a position on the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board.

Answers to questions listed in your correspondence of February 24 are as follows:

(1) My wish to continue to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board emanates from my interest in nurturing the preservation of Hawai'i's historic and cultural heritage. This endeavor will contribute to the understanding and enjoyment of history and culture by residents, as well as, build a stronger tourist industry. I completed a Masters thesis on Singapore that explained how historic preservation legislation helped re-energize the economy and bond the citizenry to the state. I wish to influence Hawai'i in that direction.

My interest in historic preservation was piqued at an early age. I was raised in a suburb founded as a farming community in 1695. As an elementary school student on my way to school, I walked each day past a home built in 1700 that had three sub-basements. The downtown of our community retained the feel of a nineteenth century farm village. This interest thrust me into a career in historic preservation.

Upon moving back to Hawai'i in 1998, I volunteered to work as a docent at Bishop Museum. A cultural awareness course given for docents increased my interest in the history and culture of Hawai'i. This led me to enroll in the Graduate Certificate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Hawai'i.

(2) The roles and responsibilities of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board are clearly delineated in Chapter 6E, §6E-5.5, of Hawaii Revised Statutes. These duties include (a) assessing the integrity and historic significance of properties considered for listing on the Hawai'i Register according to established Register criteria, (b) recommending said properties for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, if appropriate, (c) reviewing the State survey of historic properties, (d) reviewing the content of the State historic preservation plan, (e) electing a chairperson and vice-chairperson for the Board, (f) maintaining the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places inclusive of all Hawai'i properties listed on the National Register, and (g) instituting a program to notify and publish information regarding properties listed. I would also be available to consult with State Historic Preservation Division staff concerning specific resources, should the need arise. During my three years on the Board, however, the members have not been involved with the duties delineated in points (f) and (g) listed above.

(3) My qualifications for a seat on the Board are my experience and training in this field. I hold a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Hawai'i. The focus of my Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from the University of Hawai'i was Historic Preservation Planning. I also hold a Master's degree in Secondary Education / History from Long Island University. During the completion of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, I completed numerous courses in architectural history.

I prepared numerous Determinations of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places during the 17 years I worked as an architectural historian. I also reviewed the architectural history reports of private consultants, as well as the work of staff archaeologists, in my role as Heritage Resources Coordinator for two regional districts of the California Department of Transportation. I prepared architectural history surveys for a Honolulu architectural firm. I also worked as a contract employee, on a long-term basis, doing architectural history research at a private Honolulu foundation. This employment helped me to develop a solid grasp of the history of Hawai'i.

(4) I hope to be able to promote the recognition of additional landscapes and trails for their cultural and historic value, as well as expand the number of recognized built properties. I would also like to develop a program to encourage public agencies and private parties to create revolving funds to restore historic properties for adaptive reuse. I would like to see Hawai'i replicate Singapore's success in achieving the goal of "creating a tourist hub, a dream destination of memorable experiences."

I collaborated with the Governor's Boards and Commissions managers to broaden the diversity of the Board, adding two new members who hold critical expertise not held by the other members.

(5) I am innovative. I was at the cutting edge of an effort to broaden the National Register to be more inclusive of historic landscapes. I did research at the Library of Congress in 1982 to satisfy the concerns of the Keeper of the National Register about a Determination of Eligibility that I helped prepare for Beverly Gardens Park in Beverly Hills, California.

I am not easily discouraged by initial failure. I was able to discover the location of the only existing copies of a rare architectural journal printed in the 1890s that had been lost by UCLA for 20 years. The contents of this journal were then copied and distributed to architectural libraries throughout California.

I have unusual and unorthodox research skills. While researching the history of El Sereno, California, formerly known as Bairdstown, I was able to locate the great-granddaughter of the developer, who had inexplicably disappeared close to a century before. She possessed materials concerning the initial development of the community that were previously unknown to exist.

Knowledge of potential sources of information is critical when assessing the significance or integrity of historic properties. At times Board members may require additional research before making a final decision. My individual qualities will help during discussions of the Board. Relating my experiences to other board members and / or those submitting nominations will help resolve issues of inadequate research on properties.

(6) A dilemma was faced in the tourist dollar-dependent historic community of San Juan Capistrano, California. A major highway had to be widened to accommodate commuter traffic and commercial vehicles. Adjacent to the roadway on the south was the National Register listed mansion of the nephew of the last Mexican Governor of California. At the top of the slope on the north side of the roadway was a National Register eligible cemetery. Engineers proposed a high retaining wall to replace the slope adjacent to the cemetery. This would have disturbed the historic setting of both historic properties. The grandson of the historically significant nephew, whose parents were buried in the historic cemetery, threatened to sue the State of California if it proceeded with the project. He was a wealthy landowner with deep pockets. He also lobbied City staff and local NGOs against the project. I was able to bring all the parties to a mutually acceptable solution. There was a 40-foot wide parcel of land at the top of slope, adjacent to the cemetery, not suitable for any zoned use. The City agreed to purchase the parcel from the owner and quit claim it to the state DOT. The slope was then replicated 40-feet to the north, leaving space below for two additional lanes. This preserved the historic ambiance of the City.

The Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board does not operate in a vacuum. There are times when controversial issues are brought before the Board and the State Historic Preservation Division. My ability to discover innovative solutions to difficult problems will benefit the discussions of the Board.

(7) I do not currently own any real property in Hawai'i, nor do I have an interest in any commercial establishment. Should I purchase real property during my term on the Board or find future employment in a private firm or public agency, I would recuse myself from discussion and voting for any property presented where I would have a potential conflict of interest.

I have included a current resume, a list of references, and my memberships / activities to this response letter.

Sincerely,

George Casen