

GM 615

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, April 4, 2016
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 615
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHANA VALLEY
LIVING PARK PLANNING COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LAUREN TANAKA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2017**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) expresses its strong support for Governor's Message 615 on the confirmation of Lauren Tanaka as a gubernatorial appointed member to the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council (Planning Council) for a term to expire on June 30, 2017.

The Planning Council was created with the passage of Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009. This five member council is comprised of one member representing the Department that has general knowledge of land use laws or land use planning or community-based planning as well as an objective and impartial perspective regarding Kahana. Lauren Tanaka has been a Planner with the Department since 1988 and has the ability to be fair and appropriate. Combined with her experience working with communities throughout the State, and her knowledge of the master planning process makes Lauren Tanaka well qualified.

Lauren Tanaka is cognizant that there are multiple views on controversial projects and she has maintained the Department's position through the impartial treatment of issues and factual analysis. Lauren currently serves on the council and will continue to contribute to the efforts of the council to find ways that the State and the people of Kahana can work cooperatively and collectively to provide interpretive programs for the cultural enrichment of all those who visit the park.

The Department urges your support of Lauren Tanaka for her confirmation to the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council.

*GM 615 Lauren Tanaka
456 Mananai Place #E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96818*

March 30, 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Water, Land and Agriculture Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Gabbard:

This is in response to your request for information regarding my appointment to the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council (KPC).

Why do you wish to be a member of the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

Dan Quinn, former State Parks Administrator, now retired, asked me to be the department's representative on the Council. At the time, I was the only Planner in the State Parks Planning Branch and he knew me to be fair and impartial.

From 2009 to June 2013, I served as a voting member of the KPC and in July 2013, was a holdover until the end of the 2015 legislative session. In August 2015, Governor Ige continued my appointment on an interim basis. In July 2013, I was voted Vice Chair and have been running the meetings since the former Chair's term limit was reached in 2015.

In addition to being a voting member, I put the council together and did all the administrative tasks associated with its establishment, management and operation.

How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

As a member of the KPC, my role is to actively participate in the development of a Master Plan for the park that will guide the way the State manages the land, the residents and its resources. As a representative of the department, my responsibilities are to provide information and direction that reflects the rules and policies of the administration.

Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council, why do you believe that 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 Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

Having worked for the Department as a Planner for about 30 years, my primary responsibilities are managing consultant contracts for park master plans. I have extensive experience working with communities and organizations in developing solutions for the outstanding issues and concerns they have about the parks within our system. I am able to work collaboratively with other governmental entities as well as interested parties in the private sector.

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

I hope to make a significant contribution to the successful development of a Master Plan for the park, finding resolutions for the outstanding issues and concerns that prevent the State and the residents from peacefully coexisting and maintaining a level of trust and responsibility to providing meaningful cultural programs for park visitors. I would also like to see the residents have a sustainable lifestyle by implementing the ahupua'a system utilizing the natural resources in the area.

Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

I am fair, objective and open to hearing other points of view. I work well with all types of people, including community groups, other agencies, individuals from the private sector and work collaboratively to come up with solutions that are beneficial to all.

Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

I put together the Kōke'e State Park Advisory Council that was legislatively mandated to work with State Parks on revising and updating a draft Master Plan for Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks. Community concerns over a number of the recommendations in the plan resulted in the passage of Act 223 which created the Council. After several years of meetings, a lot of dialogue and negotiations, I reworked the Master Plan and EIS which was accepted by the Council, Land Board and the Governor in 2015.

Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interests?

I do not foresee any potential conflicts of interest. My involvement with the people and the park lands is strictly on a professional basis. I would like to see that the people who live there are engaged and committed in the cultural and educational programs they participate in for their hours which will result in an improved and enlightened experience for the park visitor. If they take advantage of the natural resources available in the valley, they would be able to provide their families with a sustainable lifestyle based on the ahupua'a system their ancestors made a part of their lives.