

GM 617

TESTIMONY: Bob Stauffer <bob@rstauffer.com> GM 616

Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2016 3:51 PM

26 March/Malaki

Aloha e Sen. Gabbard,

Best wishes to you, and thank you for your email.

My responses:

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

Answer: based on my experience and expertise, I was approached to take the position. I did not initiate the process. I agreed to do the work as a responsibility I feel towards the Park, the residents of the ahupua'a, and to the State.

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

Answer: my perception of the role and responsibilities of the Council are as spelled in "Act 15" which is the law that created it.

(3) 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.

Answer: I worked, mostly as a volunteer, directly with the Park from the late 1970s through to the early 1990s. I was the first park coordinator. My book on Kahana came from many years of academic research that included reading most of the available extensive reports and manuscripts on the ahupua'a of Kahana.

"Kahana: How the Land was Lost," UH Press, 2004.

"A benchmark book on a subject of paramount important in Hawai'i. . . . Stauffer's work significantly and permanently raises the bar for all future historical study of land in Hawai'i." -- Gavan Daws, author.

"*Kahana: How the Land Was Lost* contains information that is critical to understanding contemporary Hawai'i and the role of the legal system and government in separating an

aboriginal people from their land." -- Carlos Andrade, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

"This is what original scholarship is all about. . . . The original research here is tremendous, as is the author's thoughtful, thorough analysis." -- Burl Burlingame, book review.

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

Answer: to carry out my responsibilities, as called for in "Act 15," to the best of my ability.

(5) 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?

Answer: My background with the Park. My work with the Park. My research and writing on the ahupua'a.

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

Answer: I coordinated and drafted the Park plan in the 1980s that led to the adoption of the policy of issuing long-term leases to residents in the valley.

(7) 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 interest?

Answer: No, I cannot foresee any possible conflicts of interest. If I become aware of any such conflict, I would have to address it at the time, based on the circumstances, either by mitigating the conflict and abstaining from actions that involved the conflict, or by resigning from the Council.

Thank you.

Me ke aloha,

Bob
(Dr. Robert Stauffer)

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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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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 617
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHANA VALLEY
LIVING PARK PLANNING COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ROBERT STAUFFER,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2020**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) expresses its strong support for Governor's Message 617 on the confirmation of Robert Stauffer as a gubernatorial appointed member to the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council (Planning Council) for a term to expire on June 30, 2020.

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 general public. Robert Stauffer is a former state government historical project planning manager and program manager. He is experienced with and knowledgeable of community based planning. Robert Stauffer has a Ph.D. in American Studies and did his dissertation on 19th century Hawaii. He authored *Kahana: How the Land was Lost* (UH Press, 2004).

Robert Stauffer will 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 Robert Stauffer for his confirmation to the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council.