

GM 725

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
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Monday, April 18, 2016
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 725
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL
AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ARTI
MICHELLE CLARK, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2020**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports
Governor's Message 725, nominating Arti Michelle Clark to the Natural Area Reserves
System Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2020.**

Pursuant to Section 195-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (Commission) shall: (1) Establish criteria to be used in determining whether an area is suitable for inclusion with the reserves system; (2) Conduct studies of areas for possible inclusion within the reserves system; (3) Recommend to the Governor and the Department areas suitable for inclusion within the reserves system; (4) Establish policies and criteria regarding the management, protection, and permitted uses of areas which are part of the reserves system; (5) Advise the Governor and the Department on any matter relating to the preservation of Hawaii's unique natural resources; (6) Develop ways and means of extending and strengthening presently established preserves, sanctuaries, and refuges within the State; (7) Advise the Department and other public agencies managing state-owned land or natural resources regarding areas under their respective jurisdictions which are or may be appropriate for designation as natural area reserves; and (8) In carrying out the above duties, consult the most comprehensive up-to-date compilation of scientific data on the communities of natural flora and fauna of Hawaii.

Ms. Arti Michelle Clark graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology (with Honors) from the University of Hawai'i Hilo in 2001, with a major in Conservation Biology, Evolution, and

Ecology, a Minor in Tropical Forestry, and related coursework in Biostatistics, Soil Science, and Organic Chemistry. She was a Soil Conservationist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Pacific Islands Area from 1999 to 2008 on the island of Kaua'i where she helped to develop conservation plans for over 9,500 acres of agricultural and wildlife habitat and contracted cost-share assistance funds to address resource concerns on Kaua'i. She was instrumental in working with the Kaua'i Native Plant Society to create an exhibit at the United States Botanic Garden Conservatory (USBGC) in Washington D.C., of approximately 60 rare and endangered native Hawaiian plant species. Titled "Our Nation's Crown Jewels: Rare and Endangered Plants of Hawai'i", the exhibit generated much interest and resulted in a permanent exhibition room of native Hawaiian plants at USBGC. From 2008 to the present, she is the Kaua'i Partnerships Biologist with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) where she collaborates with private landowners, non-government organizations, and the State of Hawai'i to implement conservation projects which aid in the recovery of listed species and threatened ecosystems in a variety of habitats on the island. She works with partners from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds in a range of environments from coastal areas to caves, mesic and wet forests, and montane bogs. She is involved in a number of programs and activities with numerous partners, including the State, and the Natural Area Reserves System Commission and Department will benefit greatly from her perspective and can do nature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this nomination.



7370 Kuamo'o Road • Kapa'a • Hawaii • 96746 • 808-821-1490 • www.kauaiisc.org

April 13, 2016

Testimony of Bill Lucey – Manager - Kauai Invasive Species Committee

Regarding: GM725

Hearing: Monday, April 18, 2016 2:50 pm Conference Room 224

Testimony in **SUPPORT of appointing Arti Michelle Clark to the NARS Commission**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members,
As the Project Manager for the Kauai Invasive Species Committee I enthusiastically support nominating Arti Michelle Clark to serve on the Reserves System Commission.

Our organization is primarily focused on incipient invasive species and one of the reasons we try to control these pests is to protect the native forests of Kauai. The NARS program is extremely important to the overall conservation effort, acting as islands of remnant biodiversity in an increasingly invaded ecosystem. These areas need to be maintained as a reservoir of the ancient Hawaiian life forms and examples of what was and what may return again as new methods are invented to restore larger parts of the landscape.

Michelle has dedicated herself to both protecting and learning about these complex diverse forests. I have seen her abilities first hand with her deep knowledge of the native plants, distributing federal funds strategically to benefit programs working on the land and providing astute direction and direct assistance to numerous groups as they grapple with a wide variety of conservation challenges.

Finally, it is vividly apparent that Michelle experiences great joy in the presence of native wildlife, forests and insects that form the “remains of the rainbow”. This passion drives her effectiveness and has produced lasting on the ground results. Michelle would be a valuable addition to the NARS Commission through sharing both her experienced expertise and insight and we fully support her nomination.

Sincerely,

Bill Lucey
Project Manager
Kauai Invasive Species Committee
University of Hawaii

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Monday, April 18, 2016 at 2:50 p.m.**

**By
Adam Griesemer**

GM 725 – RELATING TO NARS COMMISSION, ARTI MICHELLE CLARK

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Clark for confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (Commission). Based on my experience in the Pacific region, I am in a good position to attest to the importance of the contributions of conservation biologists to the preservation of Hawaii's unique natural resources, and, specifically, Ms. Clark's scientific qualifications to serve as a member of the Commission. Ms. Clark plays a crucial role in conserving Kauai's biodiversity and securing funding to implement large scale, on the ground management to benefit native, rare, and endangered species.

For 15 years, I have worked in the Pacific region in various positions relating to natural resource management which provided me an interdisciplinary understanding of endangered species conservation. I coordinate with a wide variety of influential researchers, managers, and other conservation professionals working on a broad spectrum of issues related to endangered species in Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific Affiliated Territories. I coordinate with Ms. Clark in the implementation of ecological restoration projects and invasive species control projects.

Ms. Clark implements a wealth of projects that directly support stewardship of native, rare, and endangered species in Hawaii. Currently, she is in the middle of a major scientific undertaking in partnership with the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Project and the San Diego Zoo to begin a captive breeding program for two critically endangered forest birds, the Akikiki (*Oreomystis bairdi*) and Akekee (*Loxops caeruleirostris*). Ms. Clark's experience makes her a vital member of the Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Working Group. She is also a crucial member of a team that is developing and implementing a Kauai Mongoose Management Strategy.

Ms. Clark's leadership in implementing the East Alakai Protective Fence Project in partnership with the State of Hawaii, The Nature Conservancy, and private landowners is an example of her excellence in conservation biology and ecology. The project entailed the management of 2,000 acres of native forest and sensitive bog habitat to protect rare and endangered plants and birds, and safeguard ecosystem functions in a key area of the Kauai watershed. The project continues to provide an example of how to plan and implement successful landscape conservation in native forests across the Hawaiian Islands.

In summary, Ms. Clark has demonstrated outstanding leadership to preserve the natural resources of the Hawaiian Islands. It is with great pleasure that I recommend she is confirmed a member of the Commission.



NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Chartered by Congress to Create a National Resource in Conservation, Research, and Education

Attn: Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture.

Re: Appointment of Michelle Clark to NARS Commission

I have had the privilege of having both a professional and personal relationship with Michelle Clark, Kaua'i Partnerships Biologist: USFWS, for 4+ years now, and I can honestly say that she is an ideal candidate to serve on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. Her long term commitment to conservation on Kaua'i is unparalleled. She has a first-hand understanding of the myriad of the uniquely Kaua'ian historical tensions, as well as the socio-economic, financial, and environmental issues that come into play when bridging gaps between various conservation groups, individuals, and community members, and is able to navigate those often sticky areas with relative ease. Michelle excels at bringing people and groups with sometimes wildly different goals, to a place of common ground and mutual understanding. She has no personal stake in the game, but instead her motivation is truly the ultimate success of various conservation efforts, and the overall health of the flora and fauna of Kaua'i. Her extensive work experience on Kaua'i speaks for itself, but what may not be readily apparent from her resume is her ability to put things in perspective. She is able to be a long term/ big picture thinker, without losing her passion for conservation and creative problem solving skills. Michelle is professional and diplomatic, with an amazing work ethic and level of integrity. She is just as comfortable in a board meeting, as she is digging holes for endangered plants in an enclosure, jumping out of a helicopter, or releasing native birds. In a word, she is versatile. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Ashly L. Trask
Nursery Manager, National Tropical Botanical Garden: Kaua'i
atrask@ntbg.org
(808)346-5203

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dwalexander1@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM725 on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 9:48:07 PM

GM725

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David W. Alexander	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known Ms Michelle Clark for almost twenty years, and I know she will serve the NARS Commission well if she is admitted to it. I worked for the Kokee Resource Conservation Program for eight years, and Michelle often helped our group in many ways. She is a joy to be around and very professional at the same time. At present we both are members of the State Advisory Committee for Kokee State Park. I consider her a close friend, and am always impressed with her work. Mahalo, David W. Alexander

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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15 April, 2016

ATTN: COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Subject: Letter of support for Michelle Clark's nomination to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I have known Michelle in both a personal and professional capacity since 2007; she is a dear friend and an inspiration in our field. I have worked alongside her and watched her collaborate with partners across the spectrum of conservation on the island of Kaua'i. Many of Kaua'i's most prominent conservation organizations, including the Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project, the National Tropical Botanical Garden, and The Nature Conservancy, have been able to meet important goals with her support. I have also witnessed first-hand her passion for and commitment to her work. She is capable of balancing several ongoing projects while seemingly giving each her undivided attention. Ms. Clark's aptitude for her work and dedication to protecting Hawai'i's native species will make her an excellent member of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Jessica Lynn Hallman Behnke

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: eastsidegrrrl@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM725 on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM
Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016 4:48:13 AM

GM725

Submitted on: 4/16/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Conrow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Michelle is well-educated in environmental issues and dedicated to natural resource protection and care. She is an excellent candidate for NARS and I urge her confirmation.

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4/14/16

Aloha,

I am the Program Coordinator of the Koke'e Resource Conservation Program, a project of Garden Island Resource, Conservation & Development, Inc. We perform invasive weed removal to save native forest in northwest Kauai, using volunteer labor.

I very highly recommend Michelle Clark for the NARS Commission. She has an amazingly broad experience and understanding of the conservation issues and natural resource management in Hawaii. She is excellent at working with all the conservation partners. She is involved in and very adept at both the conservation field work on the ground, and administrative office work too. Kauai has been very fortunate to have so capable and dedicated a person as Michelle working with our conservation partners and garnering much needed funding for the island's native ecosystems.

Mahalo,
Katie Cassel
808-338-2405
casselj@hawaiiantel.net

3794 Nanakai Rd
Kalaheo HI 96741

April 14, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Arti Michelle Clark to the Natural Area Reserves Commission.

I have known Michelle since I joined the Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Project as its Coordinator in 2010. In her capacity as Partnerships Biologist, Michelle has been instrumental in helping us secure a number of important grants from foundations and government agencies that have greatly advanced our ability to conserve forest bird species on Kauai; most recently we obtained two large grants to found captive populations of Akikiki and Akekee. She also has facilitated our work by helping with logistical issues, such as securing access to Landing Zones, and by making connections with other conservation partners.

During this time, it has become clear to me that Michelle has a very clear picture of the challenges and prospects of conserving and managing all of Hawaii's natural resources. She has a talent for bringing together people -- whether they work for agencies or the private or not-for-profit sectors -- funds and materials to tackle problems in creative ways, and is always looking ahead for the next potential opportunity to bring more resources to advance natural resource management in Hawaii. She also actively seeks to improve her own skills in leadership and partnership development.

I cannot think of a more suited candidate for this position. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 775-813-4678.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa H. Crampton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa H. Crampton

15 April 15, 2016

Attn: COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Subject: Nomination of Arti Michelle Clark to Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair,

It is my pleasure to submit testimony on behalf of Ms. Clark for a position on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I have worked closely with Ms. Clark in both my current capacity as natural resource manager with The Nature Conservancy's Kaua'i Program and formerly as field supervisor with the Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project and graduate student at Colorado State University, Fort Collins while researching Kauai's endangered Honeycreepers, the Akikiki and Akeke'e. Ms. Clark has been passionate, apt and determined to "move the needle" of conservation on Kaua'i and has had a profoundly positive effect on my own professional arc. I believe that the variety of Ms. Clark's experience and conservation successes uniquely qualifies her for the current position. From the individual species conservation level to support for protection efforts that span diverse landowners and thousands of acres of remote native ecosystems, Ms. Clark has both the perspective and the depth of knowledge to contribute to the wise stewardship of Hawaii's Natural Area Reserves.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lucas Alan Hallman Behnke

From: [Patricia Rouen](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Nominee ATRI MICHELLE CLARK
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 11:39:39 AM

This message is intended as testimony on behalf of Gubernatorial Nominee Arti Michelle Clark.

I have known Ms. Clark both professionally and personally for over thirteen years. Her knowledge of, hands-on experience with and passion for Hawaii's fragile ecosystems makes her uniquely qualified to contribute to the work of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I highly recommend her selection to the commission.

Sincerely,

Patricia Rouen

Sent from my iPad

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: robin@mauirobin.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM725 on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 11:16:01 AM

GM725

Submitted on: 4/15/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robin Newbold	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a current member of the NARS Commission I think Arti Michelle Clark would be an excellent addition to the Commission. I testify in favor of her confirmation.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: menardtheresa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM725 on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 9:14:19 AM

GM725

Submitted on: 4/15/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Menard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Michelle Clark is a dedicated conservation professional and will serve the people well in the capacity of NARS commissioner. I have worked with Michelle on numerous projects relating to conservation in Kauai, from sorting through records of mongoose observations to tracking herbicide use to control the invasive Australian Tree Fern in Wainiha Valley. She is knowledgeable in a diverse array of subjects, from government contracting to helicopter protocols to endangered species management. I strongly support her nomination to the Natural Area Reserves System's commission.

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Arti Michelle Clark
4841 Nonou Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

Date: April 14, 2016

Re: Natural Area Reserves System Commission

**To: Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair, Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz,
Senator Gil Riviere, Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senator Laura H. Thielen, Senator Glenn Wakai and Senator Sam Slom**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee,

I wish to be a member of the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission so that I can work with others to ensure the continuity of our native species and ecosystems for the people of Hawai'i, visitors and future generations. The NARS protects the last remnants of relatively intact native ecosystems in the islands. They are home to the bulk of our remaining endemic species, species which can only be found in Hawai'i. They are a window into the past, offering a hint of what the islands were like before the onslaught of invasive species which have caused many of our species to become endangered and go extinct. Our remaining endemic species are marvels of evolution; they evolved under uniquely Hawaiian conditions, truly shaped by the land and climate of these islands over millennia, they deserve protection. These endemic species are the foundation of Native Hawaiian culture and Hawaiians continue to revere and use native species in their cultural practices.

The 21 reserves which make up the system across the islands are the last stronghold for many endangered birds, plants and invertebrates. Not only do the Natural Area Reserves (NAR) provide the last refuge for these species, many of the NAR contain core areas of essential watersheds, watersheds that need protection in order to continue to provide our islands with freshwater. The continuity of the NARS Program, with adequate resources for management, is a strategic approach to saving Hawai'i's native species, culture, ecosystems and watersheds.

The NARS Commissioners roles and responsibilities include establishing criteria to be used in determining whether an area is suitable for inclusion within the NARS; they may also conduct studies of areas for possible inclusion and make recommendations to the Governor and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for new NAR. The commissioners work with the DLNR to establish policies and criteria regarding the management, protection, and permitted uses of areas which are part of the NARS and they advise the Governor and DLNR on any matter relating to the preservation of Hawai'i's unique natural resources. The NARS Commissioners develop ways and means of extending and strengthening presently established preserves, sanctuaries, and refuges within the State and advise the DLNR and other public agencies managing state-owned land or natural resources regarding areas under their respective jurisdictions which are or may be appropriate for designation as natural area reserves.

In carrying out the above duties, the commissioners utilize the most comprehensive up-to-date compilation of scientific data on the communities of natural flora and fauna of Hawai'i.

I believe that I am qualified for the position of Kaua'i Representative for the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (replacing Trae Menard, whose term has ended) because of my experience over the years with protecting and restoring native ecosystems and conserving natural resources on Kaua'i. For the past 8 years as the Kaua'i Partnerships Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office (PIFWO), I've worked with partners such as the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, DLNR, The National Tropical Botanical Garden, Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee, Plant Extinction Prevention Program and others on a daily basis to restore native ecosystems on Kaua'i. These partnerships have been critical to the conservation of biodiversity and watersheds on Kaua'i as the majority of the island is owned by the state and private landowners. Prior to working for PIFWO, I worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service for 9 years, helping farmers and ranchers to conserve natural resources such as soil, water, native plants and animals on their lands.

Conservation of Kaua'i's biodiversity is my guiding principle in my decision making process. Kaua'i is a small island (562 square miles) with big threatened and endangered species issues. There are 179 threatened and endangered species occurring on Kaua'i, including three single-island endemic forest bird species with populations under 1,000 individuals and over 70 plant species with populations of fewer than 50 individuals. With such a high number of endangered species, many on the verge of extinction, and limited resources, partnerships, innovation and prioritization of conservation activities are essential tools that I use to achieve conservation goals.

During my term of service on the NARS Commission, I hope to assist the NARS Program with implementing conservation on the ground in the most effective and efficient manner and assist with securing resources to ensure continued management of existing NAR as well as to be poised for acquisition of additional areas of ecological and or geologic importance.

My passion for conserving native species and ecosystems makes me stand out as a candidate for the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. It's more than a job to me, it's a calling. My passion has led me to not only dedicate my life to conserving biodiversity in a very literal way through my work, it has also led me to inspire others to do the same through national and local botanical and art exhibitions highlighting the plight of our flora and fauna. My ability to work with others to get conservation on the ground is a quality that makes me a good candidate, I am able to find common ground and walk the middle path to achieve desired outcomes. Perseverance through seemingly unsurmountable obstacles is another quality that I have strengthened during my tenure working to conserve the natural resources of Kaua'i.

Implementing Kaua`i's first landscape level conservation project (2,000 acres of montane wet forest) is an experience in which I needed to utilize all three of the above qualities and more. The East Alaka`i Protective Fence Project started in 2009 and was completed in 2012 and it benefits 29 endangered species and protects the islands primary source of freshwater from feral ungulates and invasive weeds on private and state lands within the Alaka`i Wilderness Preserve. I worked with the Kaua`i Watershed Alliance, DLNR and The Nature Conservancy to gain support and funding for the project. I was substantially involved with the implementation as well as subsequent, adjacent projects which protect over 5,300 acres of montane and lowland wet forests. Many lessons were learned on what it takes to implement landscape-scale projects in remote and rugged terrain and I believe this knowledge and experience will help me tremendously with serving on the NARS commission.

I will serve on the NARS Commission in my personal capacity, not in my official capacity as a federal employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to avoid any possible or perceived conflicts of interest. As a federal employee I am required to take federal ethics training and if confirmed to serve on the commission, I will take the State of Hawai`i's ethics training for state board members and commissioners. In addition to the trainings, I will recuse myself from voting on any matters affecting the funding of projects that I am involved with and any matters affecting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I humbly ask for your support to represent Kaua`i and serve the State of Hawai`i on the Natural Area Reserves Commission. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Arti Michelle Clark

Arti Michelle Clark
Ph.: 808.651.9926
Email: kauaimichelle@gmail.com