

GM 726

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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 726
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL
AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
JONATHAN PRICE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2020**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports
Governor's Message 726, nominating Jonathan Price 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 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.

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

Dr. Jonathan Price meets the requirements as one of six members with scientific qualifications and an academic degree. He received a Bachelor of Science in Geography with a major in Botany from the University of California, Davis and a Ph.D. in the same disciplines at the same University. His Doctoral Dissertation, for which he did extensive field work in Hawai‘i is entitled Paleogeography and Floristic Biogeography of the Hawaiian Islands. His post-doctoral research focus continued to be in Hawai‘i, first through funding from the Smithsonian Institution, then under funding through the United States Geological Survey, stationed at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. Dr. Price’s current position as Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Hawai‘i Hilo provides him with an excellent link between the scientific community, local community, and management agencies. Dr. Price’s ongoing research focuses largely on mapping and analyzing distributions of native insects and invasive plant species on the landscapes of various islands. He has visited most of the current Natural Area Reserves and is committed to the mission, as well as further supporting and bridging natural as well as cultural history.

The Department strongly supports the appointment of Dr. Jonathan Price to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

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

April 14, 2016

To: Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Hawai'i Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

From: John M. Sinton, Chair
Natural Area Reserves System Commission

Re: Nomination of Jonathan Price to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission

As Chair of the State of Hawai'i, Natural Area Reserves Commission, I offer my strongest support for the nomination of Jonathan Price to serve a second term on the Commission. Dr. Price presently serves as one of six Governor-appointed commissioners with scientific background. With a specialty in biogeography and Hawaiian ecosystems, Dr. Price has been an important voice in commission matters, consistently offering conscientious input to our deliberations. His extensive field experience in Hawai'i has proved to be an especially valuable perspective. The reappointment of Dr. Price will allow the Commission to continue with its business of advising the Governor and Board of Land and Natural resources, seeking a balance between all the various expectations. I strongly support this nomination.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: robin@mauirobin.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM726 on Apr 18, 2016 14:50PM
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 11:19:21 AM

GM726

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 member of the NARS Commission for the past four years I have enjoyed working with Jonathan Price, appreciate the wisdom and experience he brings to the discussions, and thus recommend confirmation of his nomination.

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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April 14, 2016

Senator Gabbard:

I write to you today regarding my recent nomination by Governor Ige to a second term on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission and to respond to specific questions posed in your recent message. I will answer these in the order given in your letter and numbered for your reference.

(1) First, let me state that I am enthusiastic about continuing my service with the commission. My interest stems from an established career in studying Hawaiian ecosystems built upon a deep reverence for Hawai'i's natural beauty. I also have a genuine sense of obligation to offer my professional expertise and ties to the community of the Island of Hawai'i to work toward the best possible stewardship of Hawai'i's natural areas.

(2) Based on my experience of the last four years, I see the role of a member of the commission as representing both the community and upholding the public trust doctrine. I am aware that the responsibilities involve regular attendance of meetings, diligent consideration of laws, scientific studies, and public testimony, and respectful consideration of cultural issues.

(3) My extensive experience in native Hawaiian ecosystems has provided me with the requisite expertise to contribute to effective decision making on the part of the commission. My work in Hawaiian ecosystems dates back to 1992, when I worked as a biological assistant at Haleakalā National Park. It extended to my graduate studies, with a dissertation project focused on examining spatial patterns in biodiversity in the native Hawaiian flora.

My work has continued through the present where, as a faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, I specialize both in studying various aspects of Hawaiian ecosystems and teaching courses centered on Hawaiian natural history. As a final note, I would also like to mention that I have personally visited most of the system's reserves. Over the past four years on the commission, I have weighed in on difficult decisions, in some cases with conflicting viewpoints from different members of the public. Working with the other members of the commission, I have accrued valuable experience in consensus-building through active communication with stakeholders and DLNR staff.

(4) I hope to accomplish a number of things as a member of the commission. I aspire toward continued thoughtful and well-informed environmental stewardship. Being witness to several ongoing issues regarding the Natural Areas Reserves (for example closures of certain areas), I hope to bring direct experience to bear on decisions that will benefit from institutional memory and an established rapport with other members of the commission and DLNR staff.

(5) The three qualities that best describe me are experienced, respectful, and communicative. I have experienced not only many of Hawai'i's natural areas first hand, but also many of the ways in which they have been changing, both in terms of biological function and legal status. I hold a deep respect and reverence both for Hawaiian culture and the unique natural system upon which it is built. Most importantly I bring strong communication skills. Through my background as a teacher, I know that being able to lecture does not in itself make for a complete experience. Instead, I make a pointed effort to listen, consider, refine, and reflect in order to cultivate a complete communication process.

(6) Apart from my experience with the NARS commission as described above, one experience that I believe makes me stand out is having worked closely with Natural Area Reserve system staff for many years. Prior to my appointment, I worked with NARS staff to extensively evaluate existing reserves in order to measure how well they represent the diversity of Hawaiian ecosystems. I also regularly interface with NARS staff on the island of Hawai'i, integrating my own research with on-the-ground management. Through this experience, I have gained a detailed understanding of the resources of the various reserves and the objectives of the Natural Area Reserves System.

(7) The only potential conflict of interest involves my research, which occasionally involves applying for permits to work on Natural Area Reserves. So far, and likely in the future as well, these projects have been graduate student research in which I participate as advisor while

the actual study design and fieldwork are conducted by students. I intend to be completely forthcoming in any instance in which my own research goals relate to decisions made by the commission.

I thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Price". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jonathan Price
Associate Professor and Chair
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies
Email: jpprice@hawaii.edu
Phone: 932-7241