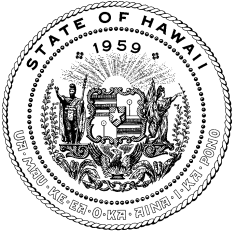


GM 614



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH | 235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702, Honolulu, HI 96813 | oeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT GLENN
DIRECTOR

(808) 586-4185

Testimony of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, April 3, 2017

1:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in SUPPORT of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 614
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF MARY BEGIER TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) administers Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). The purpose of the EIS law is to "establish a system of environmental review which ensures that environmental concerns are given appropriate consideration in decision making along with economic and technical considerations" (HRS § 343-1). Additionally, the OEQC serves "the Governor in an advisory capacity on all matters relating to environmental quality control," as directed in HRS § 341-3.

The Environmental Council ("Council") is established in HRS § 341-3, which also directs membership "to assure a broad and balanced representation of educational, business, and environmentally pertinent disciplines and professions, such as the natural and social sciences, the humanities, architecture, engineering, environmental consulting, public health, and planning; educational and research institutions with environmental competence; agriculture, real estate, visitor industry, construction, media, and voluntary community and environmental groups."

The functions of the Council are to serve as a liaison between the OEQC Director and the general public and to make recommendations concerning ecology and environmental quality. The Council monitors the progress of state, county, and federal agencies in achieving the State's environmental goals and policies. It issues an annual report with recommendations for improvement to the Governor, the Legislature, and the general public (HRS § 341-6). Finally, the Council promulgates administrative rules for implementing Chapter 343, HRS (HRS § 343-6).

With respect to these functions, duties, and powers, and in consideration of Ms. Begier's experience as demonstrated on her resume and participation to-date as an interim appointee, OEQC supports the nomination of Ms. Begier to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, April 3, 2017 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 614 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MARY BEGIER**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** the confirmation of Ms. Mary Begier to the Environmental Council.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Mary Begier has extensive business experience and community involvement that is invaluable to the Environmental Council. As principal broker and owner of Mary Begier Realty with 36 years of experience selling real estate, she has been a past president of the Hawaii Island Realtors (HIR) and the Honolulu Board of Realtors, as well as the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay and the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce. She was named to the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts by Governor Lingle in 2006 and assumed the role of chair of the Commissioners in 2010. She also represents the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce on the Big Island Housing Foundation board. Most recently, she was appointed to serve on the Banyan Drive Redevelopment Authority for the County of Hawaii.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this nomination.

From: [Ross Wilson](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Support Mary Begier to the Environmental Council
Date: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:32:28 AM

Aloha from Kona!

I am writing in to support Mary Begier's nomination to the Environmental Council.

Mary Begier has been an active participant in the Office of Maunakea Management's monthly invasive species weed pulls to malama Maunakea and protect the mountain's fragile resources. Volunteers like Mary Begier are helping to take care of 12,000-acres on the mountain. Not only does Mary care about the environment, she gets her hands dirty to help our island environment.

I wholeheartedly support Mary Begier's nomination to the Environmental Council.

Please feel free to contact me should you need any further information.

Mahalo for your support and kokua!
Ross Wilson Jr.
75-5751 Kuakini Highway, Suite 202
Kailua-Kona HI 96740

808-937-3678

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:59 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: circeyee@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM614 on Apr 3, 2017 13:15PM*

GM614

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for AEN on Apr 3, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Circe Carr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Myoung Oh
1259 Aala Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96817
Telephone: (808) 733-7060

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Mike Gabbard
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARY BEGIER, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

HEARING: Monday, April 3, 2017 @ 1:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of the nomination of Mary Begier to serve on the Environmental Council. Over 15 years, I have had the pleasure to work closely with Ms. Begier.

Ms. Begier prides herself in building coalitions between other business and community organizations to strengthen the ability to accomplish smart goals in the community. This brought about recognition from DLNR/HISC as Community Hero for work performed eradicating invasive weeds on Mauna Kea.

She represented on the Big Island Business Council, where she served as president from 2002-2003. She is also a past president of the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay for 2008-09 and the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce 2009-2010. Ms. Begier served in the United States Navy, going to schools in Florida and California before being assigned to Honolulu. She served 8 years on The Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts including one year as chair and has represented Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce on the Big Island Housing Foundation board.

Ms. Begier is committed to community service and her active membership and experience on various advisory groups will be an asset to the many issues that come before the Environmental Council. She has much to offer with her dedication and expertise.

I ask for your favorable consideration and approval of Ms. Begier's nomination.

PETER ROSEGG
2101 Nu'uauu Avenue #1305
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-1767
peter-rosegg@hawaii.rr.com
808-371-7474 mobile

March 31, 2017

Subject: Governor's Message 614

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, members
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I strongly support the nomination of Mary Begier to the Hawai'i Environmental Council.

I have known Mary since 2006 when we were both named to Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture & the Arts. Over two full terms, Mary chaired key committees and chaired the commission through a critical transition, giving generously of her time, expertise and experience.

As you know, the Environmental Council is appointed to assure a broad and balanced representation of educational, business, and environmentally pertinent disciplines and professions as liaison to the Hawai'i Director of Health.

As a Realtor with considerable experience in both professional organizations and community service, Mary is well qualified for this role. She is well known and highly respected in her Big Island community and the real estate industry as honest, fair and approachable.

Mary understands the workings and challenges of state government from time lobbying, testifying and serving as an appointed state commissioner. Balancing the urgent needs of protecting our environment and fostering our economy, especially housing development, is a challenge she is well prepared for.

I know Mary to be dedicated, hard-working, clear-headed and concerned about Hawai'i and our people. I strongly urge you to confirm her nomination. Thank you.

Peter Rosegg

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, April 3, 2017, 1:15 pm

By

Jerry L. Chang
2944 Kaumana Dr.
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 286-0461
jerry7@hawaii.edu

**GM 614 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Mary Begier, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and members of the committee:

My name is Jerry Chang and I am the Director of University Relations at University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

I fully support Mary Begier as a member of the Environmental Council. Given her extensive background and experiences, her commitment and service to her community, she is well qualified to be a member of the Council.

As a former member of this Legislature, I experienced firsthand her willingness to speak up and verbalize her concerns to Legislators and others.

Thank you for your consideration of Mary Begier to the Environmental Council.

April 3, 2017

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 614 - Mary Begier on Environmental Council, term to expire 06-20-2018

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee members:

I am writing in full support of Mary Begier, Gubernatorial Nominee, to the Environmental Council.

Mary has served the real estate industry with distinction as volunteer, leader, and principal broker and owner of Mary Begier Realty. She has served on the Legislative Committee of the Hawaii Association of Realtors since 1991, including as Chair. She has represented the Hawaii real estate industry at the national level by serving on numerous committees of the National Association of Realtors.

Mary is also an active community volunteer. She has endeavored to work towards advancing and balancing the varied interests of all by applying her energy, intellect, and dedication. Her leadership and effectiveness have certainly been recognized by the many professional and community organizations to which she has contributed.

Having retired as the Vice President of Government Affairs with the Hawaii Association of Realtors, I have known Mary Begier for over 25 years. I have great respect and admiration for her ability and willingness to contribute to make her community a better place in which to live.

I urge your Committee to support her nomination to the Environmental Council. She will be a true asset to our State.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merrily Leong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Merrily Leong

55 South Kukui Street, #2901
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GM 614, Mary Beiger

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Environmental Council?

It is important to all residents of Hawaii as well as our visitors and Ohana that strive to come back home that we protect our resources . As a business person I may be criticized or labeled as only wanting to pave paradise. That is so not true of the majority of business people I know. I want to be a part of the advisory body that oversees protecting our natural resources as we grow with forethought and smart growth planning.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Environmental Council?

Read, research the information provided. Be open minded, ask questions, and actively participate in discussions as appropriate. Be the voice of my community to the OEQC. Then in turn be a voice for OEQC back to the community.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Environmental 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 Environmental Council.

I am active in my community through the work I do as a Realtor as well as a volunteer through the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay, the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce and the Hawaii Island Realtors. I am also a member of the Honolulu Board of Realtors. I have served in leadership roles in most of these organizations. I am known for being willing to do everything and more than what I ask others to do. In partnership with the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce I was recognized by DLNR HISCA as "Community Hero" for engaging business person's island wide to assist in the eradication of invasive species on Mauna Kea. We did that work initially and have added planting of native plants as well. This is an ongoing activity done in concert with OMKM for over the past 4 years. I love checking in on the silver swords we've planted and watching them thrive.

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

I'd like for the business community to be more respectful of the work of environmentalist because I can speak to the creditable manner decisions are made because I will see that occur during my service on this council. By the same token I'd like to see the environmental community realize that business people care about our surroundings both of land and sea equally.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Environmental Council?

- A. I'm a hard worker, I enjoy researching and learning new things. God blessed me with lots of energy.
- B. I was counseled for being shy as a child and young teenager. Most who know me would say I have outgrown that trait.
- C. I love Hawaii, I love sharing it with others.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Environmental Council?

I served on the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture & the Arts for 8 years, including one year as chair. This taught me a good deal about the state budgeting process, the civil service system, the hiring process, travel policies, complying with Ethics filings etc.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Environmental Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I am active on many levels in my community as well as the real estate community. I know a lot of people in many walks of life. There may be time(s) when someone I know comes before the OEQC for work they are doing. I will always declare any relationship whether or not it may include my benefiting financially. Money isn't everything. I recognize there can be other forms of benefit. I pride myself on being known as an honest hard worker. I strive every day in every way to maintain that walk of life.