



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

April 12, 2017 2:45 PM Room 224

**LATE**

**In SUPPORT GM 663 and GM 664**

Relating to the Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Nominations of Samuel Gon III and Keith Downing

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Aloha Chairman Rhoads and members of the Water and Land Committee,

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports GM 663 and GM 664** relating to the nominations of Samuel Gon III and Keith Downing for the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), is composed of seven members, one from land district and two at large, and the Chairperson, the executive head of the Department. The BLNR convenes twice monthly to review and take action on department submittals, including land leases and Conservation District Use Applications.

Samuel 'Ohu Gon III is currently the O'ahu member on the BLNR and is the Nature Conservancy's senior scientist and cultural advisor. His extensive scientific knowledge and knowledge of Hawaiian cultural practices has made him an asset as a Boardmember.

Keith Keone Downing is currently an at-large member for the BLNR and an expert waterman. His knowledge of our coastal reefs, beaches, and waves has made him an important addition to the Board.

These two candidates are dedicated advocates for the protection of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. For their continued good work on the BLNR, we support the reappointment of both candidates Samuel 'Ohu Gon III and Keith Keone Downing in GM 663 and GM 664.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Marti Townsend  
Director