

GM 701

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARK PRESCOTT, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH
919 ALA MOANA BLVD., ROOM 308
HONOLULU, HI 96814-4920

In reply, please refer to:
File: SDWB
WTPO1(Mark Prescott Recommendation
Letter)

March 31, 2017

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Hawaii State Capitol, room 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Via email [cphtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Dear Senator Baker:

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 701: NOMINATION OF MARK
PRESCOTT TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC WATER
SYSTEM OPERATORS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the nomination of Mr. Mark Prescott to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators. My name is Jennifer Nikaido, and I am an environmental engineer in the Safe Drinking Water Branch, Department of Health.

Mark has been a small water system owner and operator of the Hawaiian Beaches Water Company on the island of Hawaii for the past eleven years. Mark's hands on involvement in major system improvements include new well installation, reservoir replacement, back-up generator installation, well pump controls integration, and a meter retrofit program. Mark has had excellent communication with the State throughout the implementation of these upgrades. He works well with regulators and strives for compliance. These technical, financial, and managerial improvements helped Hawaiian Beaches Water Company survive hurricanes, tropical storms, earthquakes, and a narrow escape from a lava flow hit.

Mark has demonstrated exceptional capability to improve the operations of his water system. Because he is both an owner and operator, he knows how vital the role of an operator is in the success of drinking water system, and therefore values the operator certification program.

Mark would bring a wealth of private work experience in the drinking water industry which would balance the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators as other members are from the County. He would be a valuable member of the Board in an effort to continue to protect the health and environment for all people in Hawaii. I strongly recommend that his nomination is approved.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nikaido
Safe Drinking Water Branch

From: [Joy Gannon](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: mprescott90@gmail.com; jodi.yamami@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: GM# is 701 - Recommendation for Board of Operator Certification
Date: Monday, April 3, 2017 9:53:18 AM

It is my pleasure to recommend Mark Prescott for placement on the Board of Operator Certification. I have worked with Mark Prescott and Hawaiian Beaches Water Company since 2006. I know Mark to be one of the hardest working water system operators in the State of Hawaii who is always striving to do the right thing with both his water company and his water customers. Mark started working for the water company with no background in water system operations and has since become a grade 4 distribution operator by continually studying and seeking to improve his knowledge. He is always developing innovative ways to solve problems. Whenever the opportunity has arose, he has shared his knowledge with other operators in the state and has lead by example by placing first in the AWWA Top-Ops competitions. Without a doubt, I confidently recommend Mark Prescott to join the Board of Operator Certification. He is a dedicated individual, a knowledgeable water operator, and an all-around great person. I know that he will be a beneficial addition to the Board.

Please feel free to contact me should you like to discuss Mark's qualifications and experiences further. I'd be happy to expand on my recommendation.

Mahalo,



Joy Gannon

Director of Utilities

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GM701

Mark Prescott: Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I would like to be a member of the Board to provide representation from the Big Island and other Small System throughout the State.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

The responsibility of the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators is to make decisions in accordance with the rules set forth in HAR Chapter 11-25 to ensure the individuals applying for licensing within the State of Hawaii meet a professional level to safely provide drinking water to the public.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

By performing my role as a Board member, I would be able to vote and help determine if the qualifications of individuals applying for certification are adequate to ensure under qualified applicants are not put in a position to be responsible for the quality of drinking water.

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I am a certified Grade IV DSO and a Grade I WTPO. For the past 11 years I have owned and operated Hawaiian Beaches Water Company and successfully made improvements to the system to ensure safe quality and quantities of water for our customers. As operator for Hawaiian Beaches Water Company and contract operator for Hawaiian Shores Community Association I have hands on experience with daily operations of water systems through all levels from basic repairs to compliance sampling so I am aware of what is required of an Operator to ensure they fulfil their responsibility of providing the public with safe drinking water.

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

I hope to use the knowledge and experience I have gained through years of operating water systems to provide a service to the public by helping to make the decisions that determine only qualified applicants will become certified and safely operate public water systems.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

Three qualities that describe me and would benefit the board are: 1) My hands-on experience operating a small water system and making several system upgrades allows me to share a “from the trenches” operator’s perspective with other board members. 2) I have traveled extensively through South America and have seen first-hand the effects of unsanitary water supplies so I understand the need for qualified operators. 3) As the owner of small system I have experienced the challenge of finding experienced certified operators from within the state so I am aware of the need to help qualified operators obtain certification.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

I have volunteered for several seasons as a soccer coach for Puna AYSO and Na Hoa O Puna Soccer Club. This experience has helped me learn to be diplomatic and work with Board members, fellow coaches and parents to make the decisions that are beneficial to the team/club not just individuals.

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

The only possible conflict of interest I foresee would be making decisions regarding my own certification or certification of an operator employed by my company and in these situations, I would be willing to step aside and not be involved in anyway or try to influence the decisions of other board members.