

Florida Museum of Natural History  
Division of Invertebrates

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Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to offer my recommendation of Gubernatorial Nominee Dr. Norine Hayes for the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I have known Norine for 5 years. In that short time Norine has revolutionized our knowledge of Hawaii's unique and highly endangered land snails, one of the most diverse groups of animals in the state with more than 850 species. Her research uncovered a large number of species previously thought extinct and highlights the fact that there is still time to conserve much of the state's unique snail fauna. Her communication skills are excellent and she stitched together a working group of government agencies, academics and private land owners. I was very happy when Norine landed her current position as Curator/Researcher at the Bishop Museum. The Bishop Museum has the largest holdings of Hawaii's endemic snails and many other plant and animal groups. Norine has encouraged researchers from around the world to work with Bishop Museum's collections, which are the largest library of Hawaiian biodiversity in the world. She has been very successful garnering outside funding.. Norine's has generated more than a million dollars of funding from National Science Foundation for the study of native Hawaiian species highlighting her passion and the quality of her ideas. I cannot think of anyone that cares more about the preservation of Hawaii's unique and highly endangered biota. Norine has deep interests in the states native fauna and flora and I think she would make an excellent Commission member. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely



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