

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

Friday, April 13, 2017

1:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in SUPPORT of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 701
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF ROBERT PARSONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

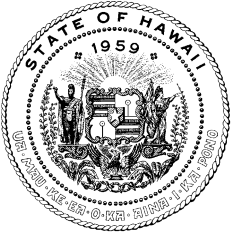
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

The Environmental Council ("Council") is established in Section 341-3, HRS, 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).

Mr. Parsons has actively participated in rulemaking, conducting educational events, and conveying the perspectives and concerns of Maui residents. As a neighbor island member, he has made every effort to regularly attend Council and committee meetings. With respect to the Council's functions, duties, and powers, and in consideration of Mr. Parson's experience as demonstrated on his resume and participation to-date, OEQC supports his re-nomination to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, STATE OF HAWAII
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 586-4185
Email: oeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov

David Y. Ige
Governor

Chairperson
Puananionaona Thoene

Vice Chair
Mary Begier

Members
Roy Abe
Stephanie Dunbar-Co
Scott Glenn (*Ex Officio*)
Maka'ala Ka'auomoana
P. Ka'anohi Kaleikini
I. Robin Kaye
Theresita Kinnaman
Robert Parsons
Charles Prentiss
Ron Terry
Michael Tulang
N. Mahina Tuteur

Testimony of
Puananionaona Thoene
Council Chair on behalf of the State Environmental Council

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, April 13, 2018
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in SUPPORT of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 701
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF ROBERT PARSONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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

The Environmental Council (Council) is established by 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 Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) Director and the general public to make recommendations concerning ecology and environmental quality. The Council monitors the progress of the 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).

Mr. Parsons has served on the Council since 2015. His experience as the Maui County Environmental Coordinator, and various community and environmental organizations state-wide, has contributed greatly to Council discussions. With respect to these functions, duties, and powers, and in consideration of Mr. Parson's experience as demonstrated on his resume and participation to date as a current member and Chair of the Annual Report Committee, the Council supports the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Parsons to continue to serve on the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

April 4, 2018

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Agriculture and Environment Committee

FROM: Robert Parsons, member, Environmental Council

RE: REQUEST FOR RE-APPOINTMENT TO HAWAII ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Aloha Honorable Senator Gabbard;

I have great respect and gratitude for the opportunity to have served as a member of the State Environmental Council for the past few years. Thank you and your committee for your diligence in reviewing my stated reasons for seeking re-appointment.

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

I have had the privilege of serving on the Hawaii Environmental Council since May, 2015. In the first year, the Council missed convening at least a half dozen times, due to lack of quorum and unfilled seats. Over the past two years I feel we have truly hit our stride, with insightful, experienced members from across the state. I feel I bring a unique Maui-island perspective, in part because I have served as Maui County Environmental Coordinator for 11 years and worked with many conservation and community groups, as well as county, state and federal agencies engaged in meaningful environmental efforts and initiatives.

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

I believe it is vital as a council member to bring forth information and talents in a collaborative manner, and to be ready to both contribute and listen. I currently serve on the Information & Outreach Committee, and Chair the Annual Report Committee. Both committees afford the opportunity to analyze and share valuable information to our decision makers and general public as well.

(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 believe I am better qualified to serve on the Council now than when I initially applied three years ago. At that time I stated my experience and expertise with writing skills, having authored nearly 200 published articles (www.legacyprojectshawaii.com). That led to my chairing the Annual Report committee (http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/EC_Reports/EC-Annual-Report-2017.pdf). A year-long Council review of updating the administrative rules pertaining HRS Chapter 343 has provided an in-depth study of environmental policy and practice that is essential for current and future Council deliberations and action.

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

It is my hope that through my service on the Council there may be greater awareness brought to key environmental issues that are foundational to sustainability practices throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Through my 6-year association with Hawaii Green Growth and the Aloha + Challenge, I have attained a clear understanding of the goals our state must achieve, and the paths to accomplish them. My hope is that with the Council serving as a strong team, we may collaboratively help guide public awareness and policy towards the meaningful paradigm shifts that are urgently needed to preserve and protect our valuable natural resources.

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

I believe I possess qualities of diplomacy, knowledge and trustworthiness that enable me to serve Hawaii's community in strong, meaningful ways. By diplomacy, I mean the ability to tailor a message to various audiences in order to assure that the message is properly received. My many years of working with conservation groups, the public, and governmental agencies has helped me acquire a vast knowledge of the roles each of these entities plays. Through my many years of service, I have attained the trust of others, who have observed that I show up with passion and integrity and follow through with appropriate actions to serve the greater good.

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

I have twice run for public office in Maui County, and experience that requires great dedication and stamina. While I did not win, both campaigns had positive outcomes in highlighting vital community and environmental issues, and in electing challengers who better represented those issues than the incumbent. The extra effort needed to go beyond my own comfort zone has had an enduring impact that will surely carry into my serving as an Environmental Council member.

- (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 do not envision any potential conflicts of interest in serving on the Environmental Council. Generally, I believe that financial, personal or ethical conflicts ought to be broadly interpreted so that even the *appearance* of such conflict merits recusal of participation. I have a great respect for my fellow Council members and expect that if any of us perceived a conflict of interest on the Council, we would recognize it and deal with it accordingly.