

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 703
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF STEPHANIE DUNBAR-CO TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

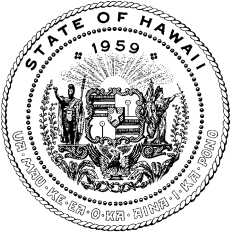
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

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).

Ms. Dunbar-Co has actively participated in rulemaking, conducting educational events, and conveyed the perspectives and concerns of Moloka'i residents. As a neighbor island member, she 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 Ms. Dunbar-Co's experience as demonstrated on her resume and participation to-date, OEQC supports her 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 703
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF STEPHANIE DUNBAR-CO 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).

Ms. Dunbar-Co has served on the Council since 2016. Her experience with The Nature Conservancy, Moloka'i Program, and training in botany, ecology, and conservation, has been very valuable to the Council's work and contributed to the Council's discussions. With respect to these functions, duties, and powers, and in consideration of Ms. Dunbar-Co's experience as demonstrated on her resume and participation to date, the Council supports the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Dunbar-Co to continue to serve on the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



GM703

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, STEPHANIE DUNBAR-CO, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE ON 06-30-2022**

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

April 13, 2018

1:15 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** GM703, which would confirm Stephanie Dunbar-Co to the Environmental Council.

Ms. Dunbar-Co has a long and impressive history studying and working to protect native species and ecosystems, including through consultation and collaboration with community members and Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. OHA has particularly appreciated her recent work on the East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership's East Slope management plan, in which she worked with cultural and subsistence practitioners, other experts, landowners, nonprofit organizations, and agencies – including OHA -- to protect high-priority watershed areas from invasive plants and animals, while addressing and balancing the concerns and needs of Moloka'i's subsistence hunters. Such experiences highlight a career of work that demonstrates Ms. Dunbar-Co's high level of expertise in native ecology, her understanding of environmental impacts that may result from a range of human activity and inactivity, and her commitment to ensuring the protection and perpetuation of our islands' critically important natural and cultural resources. OHA believes that her skills, insights, and dedication will make Ms. Dunbar-Co an excellent and valuable member of the Environmental Council.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM703. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

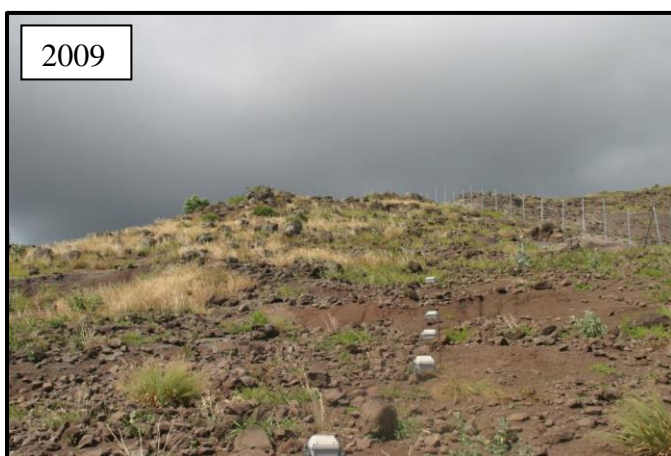
Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting Governor's Message 703
Nominating Stephanie Dunbar-Co to the Environmental Council
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Friday, April 13, 2018, 1:15PM, Room 224

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i strongly supports the appointment of Stephanie Dunbar-Co to the Environmental Council.

Steph currently works for The Nature Conservancy on Moloka'i helping communities, landowners and government agencies plan and implement expanding forest and watershed conservation actions in the east slope area of the [East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership](#). Steph's education and experience in conservation biology, botany, ecology, watershed management, sustainable agriculture, and community engagement will allow her to provide excellent service to the Environmental Council, the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the people of Hawai'i in meeting our collective goals for environmental and ecological management and protection.

The photos below are an example of the kind of conservation success Steph is working to achieve in watersheds of Moloka'i.



East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership area before and after fencing and animal management.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III
Brian J. Doyle Dr. Alan M. Friedlander James J.C. Haynes III Sean A. Hehir Kris N. Kobayashi Eiichiro Kuwana
Brett MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui James C. Polk Dustin E. Sellers Nathan E. Smith (Chair) Peter K. Tomozawa Richard N. Zwern

Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose

Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

GM-703

Submitted on: 4/11/2018 8:03:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/13/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Stephanie Dunbar-Co
9759 Kamehameha V Hwy
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

April 3, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Agriculture and Environment Committee

Aloha Senator Gabbard,

Below please find the requested information regarding my nomination to the Environmental Council:

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

As a scientist, Hawaiian, landowner and mother, I believe that Hawai'i's native, natural resources are fundamental to the health and economy of our islands. Caring for these resources is the best investment we can make in Hawai'i's future. My interest in serving on the Council stems from a personal and professional obligation to help improve and protect the native biota of my birthplace.

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

Broadly, the Council's role is to have an advisory voice on environmental issues in Hawai'i. As a Council member I also understand that I am a liaison between the OEQC Director Scott Glenn and the public. The Council is also tasked with monitoring the progress of the state in meeting its environmental goals through the publication of its annual report on the state of Hawai'i's environment. It creates administrative rules for Hawai'i's environmental impact statement (EIS) process and vets state and county agency lists for actions that can be considered exempt from having to prepare EIS's or environmental assessments (EAs). I appreciate that Council members come from diverse fields and every island, thus bringing a breadth of experience and expertise that allows issues to be approached from many perspectives.

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?

My education includes MS and PhD degrees on the ecology, evolution and conservation biology of the Hawaiian flora. Through both my position as the East Slope Project Manager with The Nature Conservancy as well as my role as a fifth generation landowner on Molokai, I consider myself well-informed on a variety of environmental

issues including resource protection, invasive species, endangered species, finding diplomatic resolutions to land management, cultural practices, environmental review, mitigating climate change, resource monitoring, sustainable agriculture, and community outreach.

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

Broadly, I hope to play a role in rebuilding the Environmental Council so that it can meet its responsibilities. More specifically, I hope to play a role in the creation of the annual report on the state of Hawai'i's environment, vet exemption lists, help with Chapter 11-200 EIS Rules revisions, and bring environmental issues of particular importance on Molokai and Maui Nui to the discussion.

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

Three qualities that best describe me and may make me stand out are: determination; knowledge; empathy. I believe the Environmental Council needs informed, hardworking members who can be a bridge on contentious issues.

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

Starting in 2013, I led the expansion of the East Molokai Watershed Partnership to include most of southeastern Molokai. This took three years of intense community outreach to bring landowners and community (some of whom were contentious) on board. Additionally, the effort required remote watershed reconnaissance and monitoring across the landscape to determine priority protection areas. This was an ambitious undertaking and I am both proud and amazed at its success thus far. Kindness, empathy, determination, hard work and being knowledgeable about the resources, their opportunities and challenges, were essential to the success of the project. I believe this experience and these qualities benefit the Council.

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

I don't foresee any conflicts of interest; however, if a conflict were to arise, I would follow all necessary procedures.

Me ke aloha,
Stephanie Fraser Maunaiheleia Dunbar-Co