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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, April 12, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 726
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
JOHN SINTON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message (GM) 726 to appoint John Sinton to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2023.

Mr. Sinton resides in the City & County of Honolulu and possesses scientific qualifications, as well as membership in an environmental organization, thus fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of subsections 173A-2.4(a), -2.4(a)(1), and -2.4(a)(2), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

John Sinton served two full terms on the Department's Natural Area Reserves Commission, and that body selected him to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission from 2013 to 2017. In that role, Mr. Sinton consistently demonstrated a well-informed and respectful curiosity about the merits and shortcomings of each proposed land acquisition, and utilized his professional background in island geology and higher education to shed new light on matters for his fellow commissioners, Department staff, and program constituents.

Displays of Mr. Sinton's scientific prowess made important and memorable contributions to the Commission's annual field visits with grant applicants, and his calm reasoning helped to frame and resolve important questions about the broader purposes and practices of the Legacy Land Conservation Program. John Sinton's institutional knowledge, professionalism, practicality, and reputation makes him a particularly welcome nominee. The Department strongly supports GM 726 and recommends that the Senate confirm the appointment of Mr. Sinton for a four-year term.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Hawaiian Volcano Observatory

PO Box 1026
Hilo, HI 96721
Phone: 808-443-8289
trusdell@usgs.gov



April 4, 2019

Dear Senator Kahele:

Without reservation, I highly recommend Dr. John Sinton to you as a scientific representative for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (LLCP).

With this letter, I am supporting the nomination of John Sinton as a Legacy Land Conservation Commissioner representing the scientific community on the LLCP. Dr. Sinton's expertise and judgment are thorough and sound.

John is a volcanologist with worldly experience. Because of these encounters John is sought after by his peers and colleagues as a collaborator for investigations in volcanology, marine geology and geochemistry. In addition, members of the community seek John out for input to committees and to serve in an advisory capacity on graduate research committees and most recently on the Natural Area Reserves Commission.

For years, John has devoted countless hours to community service projects. He is currently on the faculty at the University of Hawaii-SOEST School. He has a great love for Hawaii and its children. Dr. Sinton is fully capable of being a LLCP commissioner, and I have every confidence he will do an excellent job.

Thank you very much for this consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Trusdell

Geologist---HVO

April 9, 2019

The State Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hearing scheduled Friday, 04/12/2019 at 1:15 PM

Chair, Senator Kaiali'i Kahele
senkkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov

Vice Chair, Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran
senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: Testimony in support of GM 725 and GM 726

Aloha Committee Members:

I strongly endorse Jacob Tavares, GM 725, for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (Commission). As a Commissioner myself, I have firsthand experience of the knowledge and insight Jacob has brought to the Commission's deliberations. His awareness of agricultural practices, challenges and needs has been instrumental in the Commission's ranking of projects related to food security, agroforestry, and sustainability. He is enthusiastic about his service on the Commission and recognizes the importance of being frugal with recommendations involving public funds.

I strongly endorse John Sinton GM 726 for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (Commission). During site visits, Jon would share his knowledge of geology and observations of geologic processes and how they influence a site. Jon also had good insight as to whether an organization had sufficient structure and organizational capacity to be successful at the land management goals that it proposed. John has extensive institutional knowledge from his years of voluntary service that would be beneficial to new Commissioner's and the program itself.

For the reasons listed above among others, I respectfully recommend you support Jacob Tavares and John Sinton for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Mahalo for your time and consideration!



Thorne Abbott
117 Loi Pohaku Place
Wailuku, HI 96793
Thorneabbott@yahoo.com
808-344-1595

CC: Senator Riviere senriviere@capitol.hawaii.gov

GM-726

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 12:55:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Menard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairman Kaiali'i Kahele and members of the committee on Water and Land,

I served with Dr. John Sinton on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission from 2014 to 2017. As a scientist, Dr. Sinton was a notable asset to the committee as we ranked the various applications for land acquisition funds. I had the opportunity to make several site visits with John to assess the natural resource value of different places. He is able to clearly convey the geological importance of a given site, whether it is one of the remaining few natural springs in East Honolulu (Kanewai Spring) or the watershed value of forests above Haleiwa (Pupukea).

During my time on the committee, John served as Vice-Chair in 2015. He is familiar with the statutes and administrative rules which guide the Legacy Land Conservation Program. As a past commissioner, he will be a "brain trust" for the new commissioners, who may have questions about how various issues were handled in the past.

I strongly recommend that he be confirmed to serve another term.

Sincerely,

Theresa Cabrera Menard

Former Chairperson of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

Department of Earth Sciences



Senator Kaiali'i Kahele
Chair, Committee on Water and Land

LATE

April 2, 2019

Aloha e Senator Kahele,

I am writing to support John Sinton's nomination to the Legacy Land Commission (officially bill GM726). As you probably know, Dr. Sinton served previously on the Legacy Lands Commission and when I talked to him about its work it was clear that he believed deeply in the Commission's goals, and was proud of its accomplishments.

To me and many others, John has been a teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend, and he is truly someone who has the best interests of Hawai'i's natural resources and people in his heart. John's formal training is as a geologist, and since moving to Hawai'i in the late 1970s he has conducted important geological research onshore and offshore of all the major Hawaiian islands. He has become one of the top 2-3 experts in the world on Hawaiian geology. He can look at a stone and tell you with reasonable accuracy not only which Hawaiian volcano it likely came from, but whether it is from the old, middle, or young part of that volcano!

Because John's research always includes a large amount of fieldwork, John has become very familiar with Hawai'i's geography, and he will therefore be able to visualize the juxtaposition of various land parcels and land owners, which is obviously an important ability for a Legacy Land Commission member. He also knows many of the major land owners from having gained access to their lands for field work, and as far as I know they all have high opinions of him. Although not originally from Hawai'i, John is a transplant who definitely "gets it".

Before retiring, Dr. Sinton was one of the best instructors in the Dept. of Geology & Geophysics because of his ability to distill important and complex concepts for non-experts. This talent will be important on the Legacy Lands Commission because it interacts with stakeholders and the public who will have diverse amounts of background knowledge. Importantly, I have always observed Dr. Sinton to be fair, thoughtful, and respectful, even if he is disagreeing with someone. That too, is a key ability for a public commission member.

During his years of research and teaching, Dr. Sinton developed a very deep appreciation and love for Hawai'i's native flora and fauna, and he has become quite an amateur botanist - this appreciation will mean that he will have the best interest of the Hawaiian environment in mind when he makes a decision. Finally, Dr. Sinton has a very deep appreciation for Hawaiian history and culture, and these too are important knowledge bases that must be part of any Legacy Land Commission decision. You will not regret supporting his nomination.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Rowland
Specialist
scott@hawaii.edu