



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0603
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MARK PRESCOTT,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: 5/12/2020 Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination of
- 3 Mr. Mark J. Prescott to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators (Board) for
- 4 a second consecutive term.
- 5 Mr. Prescott has over fourteen years of experience in the drinking water industry and is currently
- 6 the owner and operator in responsible charge of the Hawaiian Beaches Water Company small
- 7 water system on the island of Hawaii. In his position, Mr. Prescott has managed through
- 8 completion numerous major water system improvements to keep his system operating smoothly.
- 9 Such improvements include new well installation, a meter retrofit program, back-up generator
- 10 installation, and reservoir replacement.
- 11 In addition to this experience, Mr. Prescott possesses both a Distribution System Operator and a
- 12 Water Treatment Plant Operator certification and is the operator in responsible charge for two
- 13 water systems. His knowledge brings valuable insight to the Board from both an operator and an
- 14 owner's perspective. His continued willingness to serve a second term demonstrates his
- 15 commitment to his profession and the certification of drinking water system operators.
- 16 **Offered Amendments:** None
- 17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-603

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 3:40:02 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/19/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Joy Gannon and I am the Director of Utilities of Lanai Resorts, LLC; however, my testimony is as an individual and my experiences working with Mark Prescott for the past 14 years. 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. As the director of two public water utilities within the State, I have called him on several occassions to bounce ideas off of and to discuss how he has handled various situations. 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 continue to be an asset to the Board.

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination:

Mark Prescott

Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators Expiration Date:
6/30/2024.

Sincerely,

Kevin Baughman

Mark Prescott
GM 603
Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?
I would like to continue to serve on 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 and to ensure those people renewing licensing have received professional training to continue safely providing water to the public.

- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?
By continuing my role as a Board member, I will 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 and the training individuals are receiving is relevant to continued education in the drinking water industry.

- (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 have been serving on the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators for the past 3 years. I am a certified Grade IV DSO and a Grade I WTPO. For the past 14 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 continue 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 a 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 served on the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators for the past 3 years and prior to this I 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 any way or try to influence the decisions of other board members.