



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5<sup>TH</sup> Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 | energy.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**  
Wednesday, July 1, 2020  
12:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of  
**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 827, ROY ABE**  
**Appointment to the Environmental Council**  
**(Written Testimony Only)**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of the appointment of Mr. Roy Abe to serve as a member of the Environmental Council.

Pursuant to HRS § 341-6, the Council is tasked with the following functions and responsibilities: promulgate administrative rules for the implementation of HRS Chapter 343; serve as a liaison between the director and the general public by soliciting input concerning environmental quality through public hearings or any other means; make recommendations concerning ecology and environmental quality to the director; and monitor the progress of state, county, and federal agencies in achieving the State's environmental goals and policies.

In my former capacity as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, I had the great pleasure to work with Mr. Abe. He has demonstrated a commitment to the Council and its mission through his contributions to the rules update, leading the Information and Outreach Committee, and organizing topical presentations on environmental quality (e.g., wastewater, OTEC), among other contributions. For these reasons and more I support the appointment of Mr. Abe to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM-827**

Submitted on: 6/25/2020 3:28:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 7/1/2020 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please confirm Ian Kaye for reappointment to the Environmental Council. I am testifying as an individual. My experience with Ian Kaye is one of integrity. He gives a good deal of thought to what he says, always mindful of the community he represents. Most important he does what he says he is going to do. Thank you for the opportunity to support this reappointment.

**Puananionaona Patria Thoene**

onaona.thoene@gmail.com

---

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

12:30 pm

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Testimony of Puananionaona P. Thoene before  
the **SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND ENVIRONMENT**

in **SUPPORT** of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE (GM) 827  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION OF **ROY ABE** AS MEMBER OF  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

June 30, 2020

Aloha e Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I strongly support GM 827, appointing Mr. Roy Abe for another term as a member of the Environmental Council (Council) for a term to expire on June 30, 2024.

I am the current Chair of the Environmental Council (Council), however, I submit this testimony in support of GM 827 in my individual capacity. I have served on the Council with Mr. Abe since 2016. Mr. Abe's many years of experience in engineering and in particular, planning and wastewater design for water infrastructure projects, is of value to the Council's work. Mr. Abe is always willing to step in to help with additional Council duties and provides thoughtful insights and a unique perspective during Council discussions. He is the former chair of the Information and Outreach Committee and during his time as chair of that committee, he successfully assisted in planning presentations for members of the public, the Council, and state and county agencies.

For these reasons, I strongly support GM 827 and ask that this Committee please confirm Mr. Abe's appointment to the Council.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this matter and for your consideration,



Puananionaona P. Thoene

**Roy K. Abe**  
46-291 Kupale Street  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Phone: (808) 247-3297  
Email: [roy.abe@hdrinc.com](mailto:roy.abe@hdrinc.com)

June 25, 2020

**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee

Subject: Responses to Questions for Environmental Council Appointment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you very much for considering me for the Environment Council. The following are my responses to questions forwarded by Senator Gabbard.

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

*Since I retired in 2015 and currently only work as a part-time engineer, I am interested in performing community service in the environmental field. I am especially interested in promoting policy and actions that will cost-effectively enhance freshwater and near shore/coastal water quality and ecosystems.*

*Coral reefs are under stress due to sediments in stormwater runoff and higher ocean temperatures. Sediments in stormwater runoff result from watershed degradation due to feral pigs and goats, invasive plants, and plant diseases. Hawaii is currently not taking advantage of EPA's Integrated Planning program where critical stormwater pollution control projects can be given a higher priority for funding and implementation than wastewater treatment plant upgrade projects. Water quality and other environmental problems, which impact the state's economy, will continue to worsen unless proactive action is taken. With the economic downturn associated with COVID-19, it is now even more important to evaluate and prioritize environmental protection actions.*

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

*One role of the Environmental Council (EC) is to assist the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) with various aspects of the environmental permitting process under Chapter 343, HRS and Chapter 11-200, HAR. I am familiar with the current regulations due to consulting*

*experience on preparing EIS and environmental documents and the knowledge gained during my current term on the EC that began in 2016. The EC members, which are intended to represent various sectors of the public, can also provide the administration (executive branch and various departments) and legislature with input on environmental protection objectives and issues. The EC members, with OEQC, could provide input and guidance on developing and implementing actions and changes to better achieve the objectives. Members of the EC should strive to make unbiased rationale decisions and recommendations that take into account the viewpoints of all stakeholders, and result in fair and appropriate outcomes that are consistent with the applicable law.*

- (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 am a licensed civil engineer with approximately 40 years of consulting engineering experience primarily in the wastewater engineering and pollution control field. I received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the UH-Manoa and a M.S. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.*

*In addition to experience in the planning and design of wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities, I have a good background in water quality issues due to my work on various pollution control and discharge permits and environmental studies. I have specialized knowledge on some key relevant wastewater management issues, including but not limited to cesspools/onsite disposal systems, and wastewater injection wells.*

*Since I have been directly involved in preparing EIS and environmental assessment documents, I am familiar with the environmental permitting regulations and process and many of the associated challenges and issues. I am also familiar with the details of the recently updated Chapter 11-200 regulations since the OEQC and EC developed, analyzed and implemented the revisions during my current term on the EC.*

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

*I am particularly interested in providing input on environmental issues from a rational scientific viewpoint and thereby help promote spending our limited environmental protection funds in a cost-effective manner. I would like to build a bridge between the engineering/scientific community and the various environmental groups. Both groups are interested in protecting the environment but do not communicate well with each other. Litigation has often*

*shut down communication and there is typically a lack of trust between the two groups. Environmental groups are very vocal and are effective in communicating with the press, politicians and community leaders. Engineers and scientists are generally not good communicators and are typically not active in the political process. I feel mutual trust and improved communications between technical experts and the community can lead to more timely and cost-effective solutions for our many environmental problems.*

- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Environmental Council?
- a) *Good technical knowledge and professional contacts in a wide range of pollution control and public health subject areas due to both work experience and participation in professional activities.*
  - b) *Good listener -- interested in the viewpoints of others.*
  - c) *Good facilitator -- interested in promoting exchange of information and views to help reach sound decisions.*

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

*I served as president of the Hawaii Water Environment Association (HWEA) and continue to be active in the organization. HWEA is the primary professional and technical organization for the water quality and water pollution control field in Hawaii (<https://www.hwea.org/>). Through HWEA, as well as my work, I have developed contacts with science-based experts and professionals with expertise in a wide range of environment-related subject areas. I would be able to seek input and information from appropriate contacts if needed to help the EC understand and address specific issues. HWEA members include engineering and environmental consultants, management and staff personnel from various government agencies (engineers, scientists and regulators employed by the City and counties, State, and Federal agencies), university researchers, and facility operations staff.*

- (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?

*Potential conflicts may arise if my clients, which primarily include various Federal, State and City/county agencies involved in wastewater infrastructure, are involved in a decision by EC. Approval of the OEQC exemption lists would be an example of this. I would overcome this conflict of interest by disclosing the conflict and recuse myself from the discussion and voting.*

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy K. Abe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "R".

Roy K. Abe, P.E.