



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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SCOTT J. GLENN
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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 829, MICHAEL TULANG
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. Michael Tulang 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. Tulang. He has demonstrated a commitment to the Council and its mission through his contributions to the rules update, participation in the Council's various committees, and knowledge of agriculture, environmental history and regulation, and neighbor island considerations. For these reasons and more I support the appointment of Mr. Tulang to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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July 1, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON GM 829

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL TULANG, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Room 224
12:30 PM

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

I am Randy Cabral, Vice-President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of Michael Tulang to the Environmental Council.

Mr. Tulang has a long history of environmental stewardship. Beginning with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and then at the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, Mr. Tulang helps farmers and ranchers as well as the communities across the state, develop and practice best management practices to protect and conserve natural resources.

His knowledge of the environment and its' needs across the state will be of great value to the Council.

HFB respectfully requests your support to the confirmation of Mr. Tulang to the Environmental Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

GM-829

Submitted on: 6/29/2020 10:30:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

GM-829

Submitted on: 6/25/2020 3:30:30 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am testifying as an individual for the reappointment of Michael Tulang. He has served the State of Hawaii and County of Hawaii in many capacities. The Environmental Council is fortunate to have a volunteer of his calibre willing and able to serve. Thank you for this opportunity to support Michael Tulang.

GM-829

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 9:31:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-829

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 3:37:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Michael Tulang to the Environmental Council. I have known Mike for many years and his knowledge and experience with NRCS and HACD makes him a valuable asset to the Council.

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) 829
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION OF **MICHAEL TULANG** 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 829, appointing Mr. Michael Tulang 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 829 in my individual capacity. I have served on the Council with Mr. Tulang since 2016. Mr. Tulang's experience on the Hawai'i County Council and years of work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service lends well to the matters before the Council and offers needed insight representing the Hawai'i island community.

For these reasons, I strongly support GM 829 and ask that this Committee please confirm Mr. Tulang's appointment to the Council.

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



Puananionaona P. Thoene

Michael C. Tulang
POB 1119
Hilo, HI 96721

June 30, 2020

Senator Michael Gabbard
Hawaii State Senate
Honolulu, HI

Aloha Senator Gabbard:

Thank you for providing me with the guide questions to structure my Statement which efficiently clarifies my personal commitment to serve the people and communities in our state. Throughout my professional career in the fields of Agriculture and the Environment, I have always remained dedicated to service and working with fellow professionals. This attitude of always working in a collective groups or teams has served me well in aspects of program delivery within organizations such as local Soil and Water Conservation District Boards, 4H Leader Groups and Agricultural Organizations. I view my commitment to serve on the state's Environmental Council as an extension of my enjoyment of working with other people with similar interests representing similar passions of dedications.

Mahalo,
Michael C. Tulang

Questions/Answers:

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

I believe that I possess a unique combination of education and experience in the agricultural and environmental fields. I am confident that I can become a valuable asset to the council. Throughout my thirty-one years of working with state, county, federal agencies to assist the agricultural industry and local communities to address environmental and natural resource issues, I have become a practitioner in the art of collaboration and cooperation. I had a great career working with community leaders, conservation district directors, and leaders of the agricultural industry, I hope to continue that experience as a working member of the environmental council.

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

As members of the Environmental Council we are charged with the responsibility of becoming uniquely educated on the issues and making consistent and balanced decisions after listening to each other and members of the community.

(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.

After graduating with a Masters Degree in Agricultural Resource Economics, I was employed by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service as a Watershed Planning Economist. I was a member of the Planning Team, which worked with local communities, conservation districts, counties, and state agencies in addressing natural resource problems such as flooding, sediment, water shortage or pollution. We assisted communities throughout the state, from Waianae, and Kahaluu Oahu to West Maui, Hilo and to Kona, Hawaii. Through the Public Law 566 Small Watersheds Act we were able to provide planning and technical and financial assistance to the counties and many local communities in the state. In order for these projects to become realities, we had to develop the expertise in listening, cooperation, collaboration and coordination. Above all, we were dedicated to serve the communities, and local agencies. I personally took great satisfaction in coaching and watching local leaders grow and develop. I have enjoyed some close personal friendships throughout the years.

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

As a council, we have an awesome responsibility of providing advice and counsel to our Governor and other elected leaders of our state. Concurrently, we are charged with guiding our communities as they address agricultural and environmental issues. I personally hope to contribute my expertise and knowledge in developing a team of individuals or that enjoys serving our communities

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

I am a team player that will support facilitation efforts in order for the Environmental Council to make decisions. I believe in making consistent and balanced decisions. My personal convictions will help the Council to maintain an even keel through out its deliberations. Throughout my professional career, I have strongly supported efficient well-structured meetings. As such, I will continually press for decision-making actions. I take pride in being a "focused" individual and will try hard to remain on task, because I feel meeting time is a precocious commodity. These three qualities will benefit the operational efficiency of the Environmental Council's program/

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

I served on interagency planning teams formed to assist Hawaii's congressional delegation formulate and implement solutions to resolve critical agricultural and environmental issues that were impacting the tourist industry located on the West Maui Coast. The West Maui Tourist Development was being negatively impacted by floodwaters coming off the agricultural fields and watershed area. In addition, the near shore environment was being degraded by sediment pollution. My experience on the interagency planning team can provide the Environmental Council with lessons of collaboration, cooperation, and coordination.

My previous experience as a member of an interagency team working with members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation and State Legislature to address critical water issues will help the Environmental Council understand its task of coordinating and facilitating the collaboration to develop avenues of available assistance , particularly in the present political climate.

(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 can not foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during my service on the Environmental Council. If I sense any possibility, I will immediately seek advice and counsel from our legal counsel.