

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021  
1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 562  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, PAUL MEYER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2025**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports the Governor's appointment of Mr. Paul Meyer to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2025.

The Commission is required under Section 174C-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to select commissioners through an open, competitive process. An independent nominating committee composed of two (2) members selected by the Governor, one (1) by the Senate President and one (1) by the House Speaker solicits candidates typically by placing an ad in the papers across the State, in the monthly bulletin of the Commission, and on the Commission's website. The Nominating Committee reviews the applications, conducts interviews if desired and sends to the Governor the names of at least three individuals for consideration.

The nominees, by law, must have "substantial experience in the area of water resource management." In accordance with this nominating process, the Governor selected Mr. Paul Meyer.

Mr. Meyer currently serves on the Commission and has dutifully executed his responsibilities since 2017, contributing to important and challenging Commission decisions and establishing statewide water resource protection and use policies. Mr. Meyer served as the Deputy Director for the County of Maui Department of Water Supply from 2011 to December 2016. In this capacity, Mr. Meyer was directly responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of

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

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

the department and its 200+ personnel overseeing five separate potable and non-potable water systems serving over 37,000 connected customers.

Prior to joining the Maui Department of Water Supply, Mr. Meyer was the Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration for Maui Land and Pineapple Company and all its subsidiaries for 22 years. Management oversight included the company's public utility companies, Kapalua Water and Kapalua Waste Treatment, its private and semi-private surface water systems including the Honolua Ditch and the Kailili system, as well as irrigation systems and punawais covering 14,000 acres. In addition, Mr. Meyer oversaw the company's watershed conservation efforts.

Mr. Meyer has extensive and substantial experience in the area of water resource management. He brings to the Commission expertise in both public and private water supply system management and financial oversight, as well as seasoned executive and leadership skills and experience. Under his leadership, Maui Department of Water Supply successfully met many challenges in securing and providing safe drinking water to the citizens of Maui County, while also leading the counties in terms of financial contributions to support watershed stewardship efforts.

The Department strongly supports the nomination and appointment of Mr. Paul Meyer to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**GM-562**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:30:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaleo Manuel	Testifying for DLNR-CWRM	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to testify. Please allow me Zoom access. Thank you.



**HALEAKALA RANCH**  
• EST. MAUI 1888 •

**March 1, 2021**

**GM-562**

**RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF PAUL J. MEYER TO COMMISSION  
ON WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**Haleakala Ranch Company strongly supports the appointment of Paul J. Meyer** for an additional term of service on the Commission on Water Resource Management. Mr. Meyer has consistently and effectively brought his many years of prodigious expertise in water resource administration to bear in support of the people of the State of Hawai'i. Mr. Meyer's deeply-seated concern for his community is exemplified through the diversity of his experience and the rational and thoughtful approach that he employs to resolve complex issues of critical importance. Administration of water resources – the cornerstone component our public trust – is a crucial responsibility with generational implications. Mr. Meyer's capacity for and commitment to this enormous responsibility are abundantly clear, proven and are extraordinarily valuable assets to our community.

It is our view that Mr. Meyer has demonstrated his ability to judiciously consider the diverse array of often competing perspectives in the realm of water use management and has consistently advanced creative and rational administrative solutions for the betterment of our community, the preservation of our culture and the sustenance of our economy.

Mahalo,

J. Scott Meidell  
Senior Vice President

**GM-562**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 10:56:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/3/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eva Blumenstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Eva Blumenstein and I am the Planning Program Manager for the County of Maui Department of Water Supply (MDWS). Over the last twenty years I have worked in water resource planning, watershed and source protection and water conservation. As Deputy Director for the MDWS, Paul Meyer was innovative, cooperative and dedicated to public service. Mr. Meyer is not afraid to tackle difficult, controversial issues with a perspective of long-term benefits. He understands the challenges in balancing public trust uses and takes a holistic, objective and realistic approach.

Mr. Meyer understands the operational needs of a utility to provide adequate and reliable water supply for domestic uses, agriculture and fire protection and the consequences of commission decisions on the community as a whole. Mr. Meyer has substantial experience in the area of water resource management, which is a requirement for each Commission member per §174C-7(b), but I believe his multifaceted background is equally important in weighing competing needs, reasonable and beneficial use of our precious water resources that protect the public interest. MDWS financial support for watershed protection and restoration doubled under Mr. Meyer's direction, demonstrating his commitment and stewardship of water resource protection.

I support the nomination of Mr. Meyer as I believe he will continue to serve as a diligent trustee to oversee the rightful sharing of water, *Ke Kahawai Pono*.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva M. K. Blumenstein

March 2, 22021

The Pearson's  
19 Uahaa Place  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

To: Senator Inouye and Committee

Re: Advise and Consent Hearing for Paul Meyer

GM562

Dear Senator Inouye and Committee,

My name is Jeff Pearson, I currently work at the County of Maui, Department of Water Supply as Director. This short note is to show my support for Mr. Paul Meyer, to serve a second term as commissioner for the DLNR, Commission on Water Resource Management.

My previous position was Deputy Director at DLNR, under Susan Case. While I was in that position Paul was appointed to the Water Commission. While he had much to learn, he always was open, fair, and compassionate to everyone that came before the commission. While at his previous position as Deputy Director of Water Supply on Maui, he gained much understanding on both county and state issues concerning water.

Please approve Paul Meyer for a second term as commissioner, at the State Commission on Water Resource Management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey T. Pearson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffrey T. Pearson, P.E.



# Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

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February 26, 2021

**Via Email-** [j.arriola@capital.hawaii.gov](mailto:j.arriola@capital.hawaii.gov)

Commission on Water Resource Management-State of Hawai'i

Dear Chairman of Commission on Water Resource Management:

**Re: Nomination of Paul Meyers for Water Commissioner**

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.  
Consent hearing on Governor's Nominees for the Water Commission

I am writing to express my STRONG SUPPORT for Paul Meyers' nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management for the upcoming term.

I have known Paul for almost 20 years, first during his tenure at Maui Land and Pineapple Company, then as Assist Director of the Maui County Department of Water Supply. I have always been impressed by Paul's familiarity with the complex issues of water use in Hawai'i and his efforts to reach fair and balanced outcomes. This reflects his long experience in both the public and private sectors. Further, he has been a strong advocate for watershed protection and native forest restoration as he understands the cultural, ecological, and economic benefits of healthy, functional watersheds in Hawai'i.

Paul Meyers is, in my opinion, uniquely qualified to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management. His distinguished career in agriculture and water management in Hawai'i, speaks to his competency and this has earned him the respect and admiration of his peers in the natural resource management community.

Thank you for your consideration of Paul Meyers' nomination.

Respectfully yours,

*Nicklos S. Dudley*

Nicklos Dudley  
Forestry Program Manager