



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, STATE OF HAWAII
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Testimony of
Puananionaona Thoene
Council Chair on behalf of the State Environmental Council

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, March 31, 2021
1:00 PM
Via Videoconference

in SUPPORT of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 634
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF THERESITA KINNAMAN TO
THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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

The Environmental Council (Council) is established by HRS § 341-3, which also directs membership "to assure a broad and balanced representation of educational, business, and environmentally pertinent disciplines and professions, such as the natural and social sciences, the humanities, architecture, engineering, environmental consulting, public health, and planning; educational and research institutions with environmental competence; agriculture, real estate, visitor industry, construction, media, and voluntary community and environmental groups."

The functions of the Council are to serve as a liaison between the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) Director and the general public to make recommendations concerning ecology and environmental quality. The Council monitors the progress of the State, county, and federal agencies in achieving the State's environmental goals and policies. It issues an annual report with recommendations for improvement to the Governor, the Legislature, and the general public (HRS § 341-6). Finally, the Council promulgates administrative rules for implementing Chapter 343, HRS (HRS § 343-6).

Ms. Kinnaman has contributed her time and expertise as a member of the Council since 2017. As a resident of Kaua'i, Ms. Kinnaman provides important perspective from and representation for the neighbor islands on this statewide board. Ms. Kinnaman's extensive experience in advocacy and with community groups is very valuable to the Council's work and contributes to the Council's discussions and roles. With respect to the Council's functions, duties, and powers, and in consideration of Ms. Kinnaman's experience as demonstrated on her resume and participation on the Council to date, the Council supports her nomination and confirmation to continue to serve on the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-634

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:22:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this nomination.

March 24, 2021

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, Agriculture and Environmental Committee

From: Theresita B. Kinnaman, Environmental Council Nominee by Gov. Ige

Subject: Environmental Council Nominee by Gov. Ige

As a member of the EC these past three years, I have enjoyed working, collaborating, sharing differing views and approaches with other members to a resolution of issues within EIS / Rules Guidelines and to also liaison between the public and OEQC Director.

Community service has been and is part of life for over 40 years. I have testified and participated in numerous County and State public /meetings advocating for community needs and especially environmental protections, respect for the aina (natural, cultural, historical , etc resources), a need to preserve, conserve and sustain a healthy, quality filled life for future generations to know and enjoy. I serve as a board member of two 501-c3 non profit organizations (Hui Malama O Kaneioulouma, Heiau Complex at Poipu, Kauai and the Koloa Comm. Assn.). Served on the Kauai County Open Space Commission from 2005-2012 (one of 9 appointed members to identify and recommend through a community-based process for the expenditure of funds to acquire entitlements for conservation and public purposes); and the Lawa'I Kai Advisory Committee from 2007-2010 (one of 23 community member group working w/ Landowner NTBG (National Tropical Botanical Gardens), the State of Hawaii (DLNR) in partnership produced the Lawa'I Kai Special Subzone Master Plan & Management Plan for 2010-2030 that created a true ahupua'a-based management strategy that integrates resources (cultural,aquatic/marine,terrestrial) and balance the management of these resources with desires to see this area used for conservation, research, education, and limited recreation. Signed by Gov. Abercrombie in 2010.

If reappointed to serve another term, I hope to continue working with other EC members to update /improve HRS Chapter 341-6; HRS Chapter 343; and HAR, Title 11, (Chapter 11-200_repealed) now HAR Chapter 11-200.1 (EIS RULES), signed by Gov. Ige on July 30, 2019 and effective on August 9, 2019, as well as other issues before the EC with honesty, integrity, and a patient straight forward attitude. All that I have experienced thus far on this EC has been enriching and collaborating with learned members and my belief in supporting and preserving the environmental process. I do not see any possible conflicts of interests and if there are any appearances, I must definitely give notice to recuse myself from such conflicts of interests.

Me Ke Aloha and Mahalo for your kind attention.