



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 635
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF DAWN HEGGER-NORDBLOM 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. Hegger-Nordblom has been serving on the Council since November 2020 as an interim member. Ms. Hegger-Nordblom's experience as a planner and working with federal, state, and local agencies both in the private sector and as a state employee is very valuable to the Council's work and contributes to the Council's discussions and roles. Ms. Hegger-Nordblom is based on Maui and therefore provides important representation for the neighbor islands on this statewide board. With respect to the Council's functions, duties, and powers, and in consideration of Ms. Hegger-Nordblom's experience as demonstrated on her resume and participation to date, the Council supports her nomination and confirmation to serve on the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-635

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:36:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the nomination of Dawn Hegger-Nordblom to the Environmental Council. I worked with Ms. Hegger-Nordblom for a number of years while we were both employed at the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. She worked for DLNR's Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands as a planner/ regulator. Her responsibilities required in-depth knowledge of state, county and federal environmental rules concerning conservation and coastal lands, requirements and process for permits, and competency to examine, inspect and present requests for Land Board approval. She approached her responsibilities as an OCCL staff member, and consultation with other DLNR divisions, and other agencies, with the highest application of rigorous standards and efficient and effective management skills. Her further career steps have only added to her depth of knowledge and capabilities to make wise environmental decisions. Thank you for your sincere and affirmative review of her qualifications.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Ward, Communications Specialist, 1997-2018

GM-635

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 7:41:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vernon Kalanikau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please consider and confirm to the Environmental Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dawn Hegger-Nordblom, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Mahalo

Vernon Kalanikau

GM-635

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 10:37:02 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Varde	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

1. HEGGER-NORDBLOM has been championing environmental causes as long as I knew here. She is a surfer, and water person and has been researching and studying environmental issues intensively. She has a great combination of formal education and passion for environmental issues. She will be a good asset to the Environmental Council.

GM-635

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 2:41:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am strongly in support of Dawn Hegger-Nordblom's nomination to the Environmental Council. She has the experience, the ethics, and the understanding of Hawaii's laws regarding the conservation of Hawaii's resources.

Thank you, Deborah J Ward (farmer, and chair of Hawaii Island Group of Sierra Club)

GM-635

Submitted on: 3/21/2021 7:45:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

Dawn Hegger – Nordblom
PO BOX 1175
Lahaina, Hawaii 96767

March 22, 2021

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Date: March 31, 2021
Time: 1:00 PM
Place: via videoconference

Aloha Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,
Thank you for allowing me to make a statement on the following questions for the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment for GM635.

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

I want to do my part to serve the State of Hawaii and to protect Hawaii's environment for future generations. I believe everyone should volunteer and provide the time to invest in what they believe in. Being a member of the Environmental Council is one way I can give back to the community and use my skills to help the Environmental Council. I agree with the State's motto "the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness."

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

The Environmental Council should be made up of a consortium of professionals that liaison with County and State agencies and the General Public regarding Hawaii's environmental goals and policies.

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.

Professionally I have extensive experience working with private clients and as a prior staff member working with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act for the Department of Defense, Hawaii Army National Guard, City and County of Honolulu's Authority for Rapid Transit, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands. I have reviewed hundreds of Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments, pursuant to Chapter 343 HRS. I have the knowledge, skills and experience to aid in my

decision-making as a member for the Environmental Council. My key strengths are community planning, marine and terrestrial environments, climate change and sea level rise.

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

I serve on an Interim Basis on the Environmental Council. I am on the Administrative Rules and the Information and Outreach Committees. I bring my past professional skills and experience to the Administrative Rules Committee to help streamline the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) and Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Statutory rule(s) can be a challenge to understand in general and even more difficult to apply in practice. As part of the Information and Outreach Committee, I hope to accomplish outreach and education on Chapter 343, HRS to the General Public, working professionals and community members through quarterly education sessions. I aim to be an active participant on the Environmental Council.

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

I am confident, eager to learn and honest. I have the confidence to make decisions. I am eager to learn about the issues and concerns that individuals and communities deal with. I value honesty and integrity. These qualities will benefit the Environmental Council.

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

I had the help of the community and County and State agencies when I processed Enforcement Cases in Haena, Kauai. I had to navigate through county and state agencies rules and regulations to present a case to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Understanding community needs and navigating county and state agencies benefits the Environmental Council.

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?

Possible conflicts could arise from past applicants who submitted regulatory permits to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands. Other possible conflicts could come from my work as a consultant. I will disclose and recuse myself from matters that present a conflict of interest.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the above questions to assist the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment's review for my appointment.

Dawn Hegger-Nordblom