

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

1:00 PM

Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 687
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, LISA SPAIN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025**

Governor Message 687 considers for confirmation to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC), gubernatorial nominee, Lisa Spain, for a term to expire June 30, 2025. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this nomination.**

Pursuant to Chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the ESRC reviews all applications and proposals for habitat conservation plans, safe harbor agreements, and incidental take licenses. After a full review of the best available data and at least one site visit to each subject property, and in consideration of the cumulative impacts of the proposed action on the recovery potential of the listed species, the ESRC makes recommendations to the Department and the Board of Land and Natural Resources as to whether these proposals should be approved, amended, or rejected.

Ms. Spain holds a bachelors and master's degree in Zoology, as well as an executive master's degree in Business Administration, giving her a sought-after combination of academic and professional knowledge. Ms. Spain has over 24 years of natural resource management experience, which includes previous service with the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife in which she served as a manager on Hawaii Island and later as the Division's Administrator. She has a significant working knowledge of the state's regulatory and permitting process. In addition, Ms. Spain has previously served on a number of boards and commissions, including the University of Hawai'i Mauna Kea Management Board, the Bishop Museum Business Plan Task Force and the National Endangered Species Joint Task Force, and currently serves as a member of the ESRC. Her administrative background combined with her motivation to protect and conserve the natural

resources of Hawaii is greatly beneficial to the ESRC and makes her an ideal at-large appointee to the ESRC.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's support of Governor's Message 687, nominating Lisa Spain on to the ESRC.

GM-687

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:34:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Terry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and AEN Committee Members: My name is Ron Terry and I am a biogeographer from the Big Island. I strongly support Lisa Spain's confirmation to a second term on the ESRC. I have come to be very familiar with Ms. Spain's intelligence, temperament, judgment, courage and work ethic in my capacity as a geography professor, principal at an environmental impact assessment consulting firm specializing in Hawaiian biology, and a volunteer board member on the Environmental Council, the Mauna Kea Management Board, the Nahelehele Dry Forest Working Group, and the Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council. She was instrumental in developing the Natural Resources Management Plan for Mauna Kea, which dealt with, among other issues, endangered species. She has been a tireless advocate for dry forest endangered species as part of her professional career at DLNR and in her volunteer work. What is most welcome about the perspective Ms. Spain brings is that she can combine her advocacy with pragmatism, which she demonstrated as the head of an agency that not only has regulatory powers but also project development duties. She is able to quickly analyze large quantities of data and accept diverse opinions and not get discouraged or paralyzed, which is a unique skill. I strongly urge the Committee on Agriculture and Environment to recommend the Senate to confirm Ms. Spain for this position in which she has graciously offered to serve.

GM-687

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:47:31 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Ostertag	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wish to express my strong support for Lisa Spain for the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Ms. Spain has been working as a conservation professional in Hawaii for several decades. She conducted her Master's degree on endangered snails, and later worked tirelessly in the Hawaiian dry forest, an ecosystem severely threatened by invasive species, fire, and development. Lisa served as the DOFAW Administrator and was based in Honolulu, setting priorities for the agency. Lisa brought to that position a deep understanding of the scientific method, an appreciation for the cultural values of Hawaii, and an understanding that effective natural resource management involves listening and compromise. At the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Lisa has proved herself to be an effective communicator and implementor of change. She is highly qualified for this position and the State would benefit greatly from her expertise and enthusiasm.

GM-687

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:24:19 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.

GM-687

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 7:55:15 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Kozar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I would like to support the nomination of Lisa Spain to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Lisa has been committed to the preservation of natural resources in the state of Hawai'i her whole career. As a fellow conservationist working for the National Park I have been impressed by her dedication to the saving and recovery of endangered species. She would be a valuable member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kozar

GM-687

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:05:25 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberta Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Dr. Roberta Martin, fully support the nomination of Lisa Spain to Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Spain has a long history of dedication and experience in conservation and management in Hawaii. She will be an excellent addition to the committee.

GM-687

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:10:36 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Lisa Spain has been an important member of the Hawai'i conservation community for decades. She has served in several leadership positions and has also significant experience as a field biologist. She has a fair and balanced and perspective with a dedication towards protecting the unique and diverse natural and cultural communities of Hawai'i. Her can-do, decision making skills, spirity of generosity and community, and highly developed work ethic make her an incredible asset to this committee - a committee tasked with some of the most important decisions that affect our vulnerable species. I highly support the nomination of Lisa Spain to this committee.

GM-687

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:38:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Hart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a past member of the ESRC for eight years (2008-2016), I strongly support Lisa Spain's confirmation to the ESRC. I know Lisa as a great biologist and administrator- she has an unusual combination of expertise in Conservation Biology and Environmental public policy that is absolutely essential for being a knowledgeable and balanced voice on the many complex topics the ESRC will be faced with over the coming years.

A written statement that addresses the following questions:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee?

I have spent my entire career committed to protecting and managing Hawaii's unique and irreplaceable resources. I have worked with some of the most critically endangered species in Hawaii including both plants and animals on several of the main Hawaiian Islands. I feel it is my civic duty to contribute my expertise to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Throughout my career, I have worked on several projects that include the need for collaboration between the state and federal government, private landowners, non-profits, businesses and concerned community members.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee?

As I understand my role, I will be tasked with reviewing Safe Harbor Agreements, Habitat Conservation Plans, Incidental Take Licenses, along with other matters that pertain to endangered species in the State of Hawaii and outlined in HRS195D. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and is not a decision making body. In addition to reviewing documents, we must also conduct site visits to each project area. I have had natural resource management experience working across the State in several of the project areas and will be able to contribute my expertise to the committee in a fair and ethical way.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, why do you believe that you're 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 Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

Please see attached resume. Briefly, I have been committed to conservation in Hawaii for the last 30 years. I possess an undergraduate and graduate degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Zoology focused on Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology. In addition, I received an Executive MBA from the Shidler College of Business also at UH Manoa. Most of my career was working directly with Endangered Species including plants and animals from across the state. My 15 year career at Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife including oversight of the State's Endangered Species Program. I also served on the national State and Federal Joint Task Force regarding the Federal Endangered Species Act.

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

During my term of service, I hope to assist the committee with fair and accurate reviews of Safe Harbor Agreements, Incidental Take Licenses, Habitat Conservation Plans, and other relevant endangered species issues that will be considered by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I will use my experience and expertise to the best of my ability to evaluate each project.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Endangered Species Recovery Committee?

The three qualities that best describe me include passionate, committed, and a strategic thinker. I have had a great deal of experience working with Endangered Species in Hawaii. I have seen incredible successes, and some unfortunate losses on this front. I am passionate and committed in protecting our natural resources in Hawaii. I come to it with the ability to think strategically across sectors that are impacted, as I am a conservation biologist with a business degree, a combination that is not typical. I feel my skills and experience will contribute to the success of the committee.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Endangered Species Recovery Committee?

In my former role as Administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, I participated in the National Endangered Species Act State and Federal Joint Task Force. I was one of seven State Wildlife Administrators that worked directly with the Federal USFWS Leadership in DC to work towards improving the relationship between state administrations and the federal government.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interests with my service on the ESRC. Should something unforeseen arise, I would consult with the staff Deputy AG and recuse myself from reviewing the project.