

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**

**Friday, April 9, 2021
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 699**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL
AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NORINE
HAYES, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2025.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports
Governor's Message (GM) 669, nominating Dr. Norine Hayes to the Natural Area Reserves
System Commission (Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2025.**

Dr. Hayes has extensive knowledge, skills, and commitment to the natural world and especially conservation of place here in the Hawaiian Islands. Dr. Hayes is a research biologist, an accomplished field scientist, and a skilled communicator. Dr. Hayes has been an invaluable member of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission in her first term, providing expertise and support for the program. Her current research is focused on understanding the evolutionary mechanisms and processes that affect biodiversity. She is collaborating to comprehensively identify, catalog and reconstruct the phylogenetic relationships of the native land snails of Hawai'i to develop more efficient and comprehensive management policies for rapidly vanishing fauna.

Dr. Hayes is an educator of science, policy, and management, and is interested in integrating research and education in novel approaches to bridge the gap between science and public outreach through the development of environmental education curricula. She received her PhD from the University of Hawai'i, working on the systematics, population genetics, ecology and conservation of seabirds thus fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of Section 195-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, as an expert in a relevant field.

The Department strongly supports GM 699 and recommends that the Senate confirm the appointment of Dr. Norine Hayes on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

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

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 3:47:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I fully support GM699 the nomination of Dr. Norine Yeung to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission (NARSC). I have served with Dr. Yeung as a NARSC member since 2016. She is a world-renowned expert on Hawaiian land snails and has dedicated her life's work to halting their extinction. It was once thought that 90 percent of Hawaii's 750 endemic land snails were lost to extinction, however, through Dr. Yeung's work we now know that over 200 species remain, and some species that were thought to be extinct were re-discovered by her and her team. She brings invaluable insights to the commission on how proposed activities within Natural Area Reserves could impact these extremely rare and fragile species which are important for our native ecosystems and culturally significant to the Hawaiian people.

I strongly support her nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha

Arti Michelle Clark, Kaua'i Representative, Natural Area Reserve System Commission

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 11:37:16 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chandra Earl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii's Natural History and its perserverence is already under extreme peril - we desperately need people in positions who have the requisite abilities and knowledge to maintain/replenish the island's biodiversity. Norine is one of these people. I have full faith in her capabilities and previous works.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 5:03:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mel Riefors	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Norine Hayes is superbly qualified and an excellent nominee for this role on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I support her based on her extensive knowledge and background, as well as ongoing relevant research.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 8:35:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Johns	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of Norine Yeung for renewed appointment as a Natural Area Reserve Commissioner. Norine is a valuable subject matter expert who brings a wealth of experience to this appointment. She is not only a renowned expert on pacific island invertebrates, but she is also knowledgeable about large-scale conservation topics critical to the Natural Area Reserve System. Her longevity of experience, as well as her focus across the entire archipelago, make her an ideal person to serve in this role and uphold the integrity of ecosystems and all species protected within the Natural Area Reserve System.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:26:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chair Kieth-Agaran, Gilbert S.C. and Members of the Water and Land Committee,

I fully support the re-appointment of Dr. Norine Hayes to the Natural Area Reserve Commission. Considering how many of Hawaii's unique endemic tree snails are threatened, Endangered or already extinct, I feel the input of Dr. Hayes on the Commission is much needed. Malacologists in Hawaii are few in number but the diversity of the snails is high and was formerly much higher. We need to protect those that are left, and Dr. Hayes is already thoroughly engaged in that work now and has been for years. Several of the NAR harbor native Hawaiian snails and she seems to know them all. I feel the people of Hawaii have been fortunate to have her expertise on the Commission, looking out for the welfare of a Phylum of invertebrates that few others know much about. As a retired Entomologist of the State of Hawaii, I am aware that native insects have gotten much more attention than native snails. We need Dr. Hayes on the Commission to be sure native Hawaiian snails get some form of protection from loss of habitat and other threats such as predators.

Lastly, I should mention that in an effort to inspire the next generation, Dr. Hayes continues to educate children about our endemic snails and why we need to save them.

Mahalo for this opportunity for me to express my opinions.

Patrick Conant

LATE

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 9:29:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelli DeLeon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the continued appointment of Dr. Norine Hayes as a NARS Commissioner. Her scientific credentials, dedication to the NARS mission and tenacity are an asset to NARS, Hawaii and our community.

LATE

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 1:02:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Sischo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Hayes's confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. Dr. Hayes is a champion for the little guy as she continues to be a strong advocate for invertebrate conservation. Her exemplarily work on land mollusks of the Hawaiian Islands has paved the way for conservation of species that have had little to no attention. Her participation on the commission will insure all creatures great and small will be considered when making decisions about our most important reservoirs of biodiversity, our Natural Area Reserves.

Sincerely,

David Sischo, PhD.

Wildlife Biologist