

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Friday, April 8, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

in consideration of
GM 599
**NOMINATING MICHELE LEFEBVRE TO THE
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports GM 599.

Michele Lefebvre currently serves as an environmental scientist and project manager in Hilo. With a doctorate in biology, she has managed, organized, conducted analyses, and prepared National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents including environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for many projects in Hawai'i, California, Nevada, Oregon, Wyoming and Idaho, for a variety of industries and government-funded projects.

Her experience also includes the management, organization, analysis and writing required for the preparation of documents pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes and Chapter 11-200.1, Hawai'i Administrative Rules. We believe that Dr. Lefebvre is eminently qualified for service on the Environmental Advisory Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-599

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 9:56:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Convard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Ms. Michele Lefebvre's nomination to the Environmental Advisory Council. Michele has been my colleague for about four years, and I have been impressed by her deep knowledge of Understanding of HEPA (Chapter 343, HRS), other environmental laws, policies, and goals and her application of this knowledge to a wide range of projects with integrity. She has a strong understanding of ecology and the environment through both her academic training and professional experience. Since moving to Hawai'i she's demonstrated a strong commitment to Hawai'i specific issues.

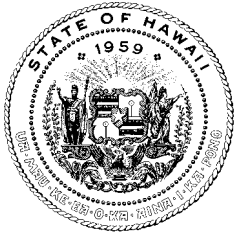
Importantly, she is highly skilled at communicating the issues surrounding project reviews. She is focused on making sure she seeks out and multiple perspectives to incorporate into her advice and decision-making.

Michele and her family are active members of the community and truly values community engagement as she assesses projects and her community involvement.

I offer this support with enthusiasm as the Council will be enhanced through Michele Lefebvre's membership and the community will gain thoughtful and expert inputs to the matters considered by the Environmental advisory council.

Sincerely,

Nancy S. Convard



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Testimony of the Environmental Advisory Council on GM 598 and GM 599
Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
April 8, 2022 at 1:00 pm

David Y. Ige
Governor

Chairperson
Puananionaona Thoene

Vice Chair
Mary Begier

Members
Roy Abe
Stephanie Dunbar-Co
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom
Makaala Kaaumoana
Ian Robin Kaye
Theresita Kinnaman
Ron Terry
Michael Tulang
N. Mahina Tuteur

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

The State of Hawai'i Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is in strong **SUPPORT OF GM 598¹ and GM 599** appointing Ms. Michele Lefebvre to the EAC for a term to expire on June 30, 2026.

The EAC is established by HRS § 341-5.5, which also directs membership "to ensure 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, and media; and voluntary community and environmental groups."

The functions of the EAC are to serve as a liaison between the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) Director and the general public, to make recommendations concerning ecology and environmental quality, and to monitor the progress of the State, county, and federal agencies in achieving the State's environmental goals and policies. The EAC also worked on and promulgated the administrative rules for implementing Chapter 343, HRS and now serves an advisory capacity in that respect.

Ms. Lefebvre's experience in permitting, compliance, and preparing both HRS Chapter 343 documents as well as NEPA documents will contribute to the EAC's roles and discussion. With respect to the EAC's functions, duties, and powers, and in consideration of Ms. Lefebvre's experience as demonstrated on her resume, including her community involvement, the EAC strongly supports her nomination. The EAC respectfully requests that this Committee vote in favor of her confirmation to serve on the EAC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Puananionaona Thoene
Chair
Environmental Advisory Council

¹ We note that GM 598 appoints Ms. Lefebvre to the EAC for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. The EAC's understanding is that GM 599 sets forth the correct term for Ms. Lefebvre, ending on June 30, 2026.