



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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

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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 603
**NOMINATING RACHEL SPRAGUE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

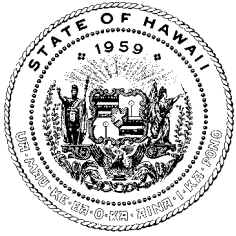
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) supports GM 603.

Rachel Sprague currently serves as the director of conservation for Lanai Resorts, LLC. With a doctorate in fish and wildlife biology and extensive professional experience with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office, among other organizations, she directs conservation programs, policy, and priorities for 98% of the island of Lānaʻi.

We believe that Dr. Sprague is eminently qualified for service on the Environmental Advisory Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAII
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Testimony of the Environmental Advisory Council on GM 602 and GM 603
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 602¹ and GM 603** appointing Ms. Rachel Sprague 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.

As a resident of Lana'i, Ms. Sprague provides important perspective from and representation for the neighbor islands on this statewide board. Ms. Sprague's extensive experience working with federal and state agencies, as well as in the private and non-profit arenas, is valuable to the EAC's work and will contribute to the EAC's discussions and roles. With respect to the EAC's functions, duties, and powers, and in consideration of Ms. Sprague's experience as demonstrated on her resume, 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 602 appoints Ms. Sprague to the EAC for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. The EAC's understanding is that GM 603 sets forth the correct term for Ms. Sprague, ending on June 30, 2026.

GM-603

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 5:31:44 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Kaye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of the nomination of Ms. Rachel Sprague in my individual capacity. I have known Rachel Sprague for many years, both as Director of Conservation for Pulama Lana'i and as Board Chair of the Conservation Council for Hawaii (CCH.)

Rachel has brought great passion, knowledge and community awareness to her work preserving and protecting Lana'i's natural resources. As a member of the Environmental Council (EAC), she would bring a strong local, statewide and national network of environmental leadership to Hawaii's EAC. Her knowledge of our state's environmental regulations and laws would be invaluable to the EAC. Her work on preserving the U'a'u, along with other seabirds on Lana'i, has made a significant impact on their resilience. Lana'i is a better place with Ms. Sprague as our conservation leader.

I have also had the privilege of working with Rachel in her role as Board Chair for CCH. Our tenures overlapped, and I have had the opportunity to marvel at her leadership. She is so well connected to — and respected by — the national environmental community, bringing an invaluable network to our efforts to improve and protect Hawaii's challenged environment. She leads by listening to others first.

I support her nomination without any reservations whatsoever.

GM-603

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 9:15:29 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Grove	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Esteemed Representatives,

I write to show my strong support for the nomination of Rachel Sprague to the Hawaii Environmental Advisory Council. Her conservation work on Lanai is unparalleled and some of the most meaningful in the state. It's not just her mastery of the issues and intelligence that make Rachel a strong candidate, it is her collaborate style, strong sense of kuleana when it comes to environmental stewardship, and wanting to do it for "the right reasons."

I have conducted polling for the Council to inform its last annual report, serve as Board Chair of the Hawaii Land Trust (HILT) and am a resident of Lanai. I understand the issues facing our islands and this Council and can speak with confidence about Rachel's ability to meet them head on. She would be a big asset not just to Lanai but to all of Hawaii.

Mahalo nui loa,

Lisa Grove

Lanai, Hawaii

GM-603

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 9:21:51 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Elliott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in Strong Support of the nomination of Gubernatorial Nominee, RACHEL SPRAGUE to the Environmental Advisory Council. Dr. Sprague is highly qualified and exceedingly professional on matters concerning ecology and environmental quality in Hawai'i. I have worked directly with Dr. Sprague on Hawai'i wildlife conservation and value and have high regard for her professional expertise and her gracious willingness to collaborate.

GM-603

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 10:00:05 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Kaaumoana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members,

I am pleased, honored and proud to **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the nomination of Dr. Rachael Sprague to the Environmental Advisory Council. Her experience and work on behalf of Hawaii's environment is exemplary and continuing. Her knowledge, committment and integrity will serve the Council and Hawaii well.

Mahalo for this opportunity to support Dr. Rachael Sprague for EAC.

Makaala Kaaumoana

GM-603

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 11:53:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caren Loebel-Fried	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Rachel Sprague who is under consideration for a position in the Environmental Advisory Council. I have had the pleasure of working with Rachel on several occasions, including a tour of the 'ua'u colony in Lanai Hale. Rachel's passion for wildlife and conservation, her intelligence, and her ability to communicate clearly and thoughtfully, are qualities that would serve her well in this position.

Thank you for your consideration,

Caren Loebel-Fried

GM-603

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 6:06:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Likeke Scheuer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members:

I have had the honor of knowing Dr. Sprague professionally for many years. I have had the experience serving on state boards and commissions for eleven years. I strongly support Dr. Sprague's nomination and urge you to advise and consent.

Mahalo nui,

--

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Ph.D.

Kahālāwai Consulting - Managing Environmental Conflict

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/likeke>

Water and Power In West Maui (2021) is available now from the University of Hawai`i Press

GM-603

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 6:54:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David M Ryan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Rachel Sprague for over 10 years. We first worked together at the Midway Island National Wildlife Refuge. Since then we have remained in touch and although I am in a completely different field, I can vouch for her work ethic, dedication and professionalism. Her passion for the the environment and all the creatures that inhabit our world has always provided inspiration to me. In closing, Rachel is a remarkable woman that will make your organization proud.

David M. Ryan C.M.

Director, Arlingotn Municipal Airport

Arlington, WA 98223

dryan@arlingtonwa.gov



April 7, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President
And Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Hawaiʻi State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM603: Confirmation of Dr. Rachel Sprague to the Environmental Advisory Council

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

I respectfully submit testimony in support of Dr. Rachel Sprague becoming a member of the Environmental Advisory Council.

I've worked alongside Dr. Sprague for several years at Pūlama Lānaʻi and have found her extremely knowledgeable about Hawaiʻi's environment and in particular Lānaʻi's flora and fauna. Dr. Sprague's extensive resume illustrates her competency and her experience in the conservation realm is quite admirable.

Her leadership role at Pūlama Lānaʻi extends into our Lānaʻi community as evidenced by her work with students at Lānaʻi High and Elementary School. She and her Pūlama Lānaʻi team will often bring students out onto the land, providing hands-on experiences in dealing with environmental issues we currently face.

I feel that Dr. Sprague will be a definite asset to the Environmental Advisory Council.

Respectfully,

Diane Preza
Director of Community Affairs
Pūlama Lānaʻi



April 6, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President
And Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Hawaiʻi State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM603, Dr. Rachel Sprague, Environmental Advisory Council (Expiration Date:
6/30/2026)

Dear President Kouchi and Members:

It is my pleasure to share this letter of support for Dr. Rachel Sprague's nomination to the state Environmental Advisory Council for the June 2022 and June 2026 terms.

Dr. Sprague has an outstanding reputation in both her professional and personal associations. As Pūlama Lānaʻi's Director of Conservation, she oversees and leads the company's conservation strategy development and execution. Some of her recent work includes improving endangered seabird fledging rate, tree snail predator proof fencing, invasive predator control, and native habitat restoration.

She is also an active and respected Lānaʻi community member. Dr. Sprague volunteers at various community events, and provides educational opportunities for students of Lānaʻi. She is an effective communicator and is always excited to share her knowledge.

Dr. Sprague has been working with island and coastal wildlife for over two decades and has served on a number of boards including the Pacific Seabird Group, National Wildlife Federation, Conservation Council for Hawaiʻi and The Wildlife Society (Hawaiʻi Chapter).

With her vast experience and strong leadership, I believe she will be an asset to the state Environmental Advisory Council and fully has my support.

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

Kurt Matsumoto
President



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

April 8, 2022

1:00 PM

CCR224

In **SUPPORT** of **GM602** and **GM603**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Advisory Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RACHEL SPRAGUE, for a term to expire 06-30-2022
and

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Environmental Advisory Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RACHEL SPRAGUE, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

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

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i offers the following testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Rachel Sprague to the Environmental Advisory Council ("EAC").

The EAC plays a critical role in guiding and facilitating the meaningful implementation of our environmental laws and policies. Accordingly, it is critical that the council possesses members who understand the critical importance of our native Hawaiian species and ecosystems, which not only define our islands' ecological and cultural identity, but that also may be critical to our socioeconomic stability and environmental resiliency in the era of climate destabilization. In addition, council members should also demonstrate the community connections and insight necessary to facilitate a broader public understanding of, and engagement in, the development and implementation of our environmental laws, policies, and processes.

Dr. Sprague's lifetime of education, experience, and expertise in the protection and preservation endangered native wildlife and plants, both in Hawai'i and abroad, will greatly serve the EAC in the execution of its roles. Her clear dedication and breadth of experience will no doubt enable the EAC to make carefully considered decisions and provide nuanced advice and recommendations to government agencies and policymakers regarding the protection of our native species and their habitats. In addition, Dr. Sprague's long record of community service also demonstrates a commitment to and understanding of the need for community engagement as an integral part of environmental policy and decision making – another key function of the EAC.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club respectfully urges the Committee to recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to the nomination of Rachel Sprague to the EAC.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.