



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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Friday, April 11, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

in consideration of
GM 735
NOMINATING MARY BEGIER 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 735.

Mary Begier currently serves as the Vice-Chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Council. She also is the Principal Broker, Owner and Realtor of Mary Begier Realty. With an education and professional training in Real Estate, she has extensive experience in community service. She has also actively served in the United States Navy with an honorable discharge. Since 2017, her experience on the Environmental Advisory Council has included chairing its Information and Outreach Committee, responsible for presenting and conducting various public informational meetings on various environmental topics such as watershed protection.

We believe that Ms. Begier is eminently qualified for service on the Environmental Advisory Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

April 11, 2022

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Via Videoconference

RE: GM 735 – Submitting for considering and confirmation to the Environmental Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARY BEGIER, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

HEARING: Monday, April 11, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee,

I am Kelly Liberatore, HAR President, submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR,") the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its over 11,000 members. HAR **strongly supports** G.M. 735, which considers and confirms Mary Begier to serve on the Environmental Advisory Council.

Ms. Mary Begier has a passion for volunteerism and we are extremely fortunate to have her experience and knowledge throughout the years in serving at the local, state and national levels of the REALTOR® organization. Some highlights, include serving and chairing numerous Committees, serving on the Board of Directors, including as President of the Hawai'i Island REALTORS® ("HIR") and Honolulu Board of REALTORS® ("HBR.") She is also a recipient of the HIR, HBR, and HAR REALTOR® of the Year award, which is our organizations highest honor recognizing her exemplary work to better the real estate industry and the community.

Ms. Begier is the owner of her own real estate brokerage, Mary Begier Realty. As a small business owner, she has been a coalition builder between other businesses and throughout the community. She has been President of the Big Island Business Council, Rotary Club of Hilo Bay, and Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce ("HICC.") She was also recognized for her work in the community by being awarded the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Community Hero Award jointly received with HICC for Mauna Kea stewardship and Athena Award, which recognizes leaders who demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their profession.

Ms. Begier also has in-depth experience with State Advisory groups and councils, such as serving as Chair of the Hawai'i State Foundation of Culture & the Arts and returning to serve on the Environmental Advisory Council. For the above reasons, HAR respectfully requests your favorable consideration and confirmation of Ms. Mary Begier's nomination to the Environmental Advisory Council.

GM-735

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 3:02:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/11/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!