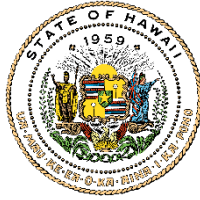


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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LAND
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**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, March 22, 2024
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 679
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
JOHN SINTON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2028**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 679 and the appointment of John Sinton to continue serving on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (Commission). Mr. Sinton resides in the City & County of Honolulu and possesses scientific qualifications (Emeritus Professor of Earth Sciences) as well as membership in an environmental organization (Sierra Club), thus fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of subsections 173A-2.4(a), -2.4(a)(1), and -2.4(a)(2), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

John Sinton's institutional knowledge of the Legacy Land Conservation Program (Program) goes back to 2013 when he began serving on the Commission as the Department's Natural Area Reserves Commission representative. He currently serves as Co-Chair of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. He consistently demonstrates and promotes the value of honesty, cooperation, and collegiality in group activities. When discussing the evaluation of grant applications, John carefully and cogently explains how his priority rankings relate to the Program's statutory requirements and administrative guidelines.

The Department recommends that the Senate confirm the appointment of Mr. Sinton. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this nominee.



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Dr. Rachel Sprague

Pūlama Lāna'i

Jan Sullivan

Oceanit

March 18, 2024

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 679 / Nomination of John Sinton to the
Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Hearing Date / Time: Friday, March 22, 2024, 1:00 pm, Rm. 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Trust for Public Land strongly supports the Governor's nomination of John Sinton to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (LLCC). We have worked with Mr. Sinton for over 10 years in his capacity as an LLCC Commissioner since 2013.

Mr. Sinton has an extensive background in Hawaiian geology, volcanology, and marine geology and was a professor of geology and geophysics at the University of Hawaii for 33 years. He is currently a Professor Emeritus at UH continuing his love of teaching and mentoring students.

Mr. Sinton is passionate about conservation and has a deep respect for and appreciation of Hawaiian culture and concerns and works well with Hawaiian and local communities. He is a great listener. We appreciate that he is always fair, honest, comprehensive, and caring in his evaluation of applications.

His 10 years of experience serving on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission provides him with a unique knowledge of the program's evolution, application requirements, and our local communities' land protection needs and priorities over time. He has institutional knowledge and is a tremendous asset on the Commission. We offer his nomination our full support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I regret that I cannot attend the hearing in person due to a prior commitment.

Mahalo,

Lea Hong, Associate Vice-President & Hawaii State Director
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow

LATE

March 7, 2024

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair of the Committee on Water and Land,
Senator Brandon J. C. Elefante, Vice Chair,
And Members of the Senate
Hawaii State Capitol

Dear Senators Inouye, Elefante, and Members of the Senate

I am submitting this testimony in support of Governor Green's nomination of John Sinton to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (LLCC).

Professor Emeritus John Sinton of the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, served the University in teaching, research, and service for 37 years. He is a world expert in Hawaiian Geology, is co-author of the State Geologic Map, served as our Department Chair for several years, and has been a well-respected leader within the University. Dr Sinton is very knowledgeable and cares deeply about Hawaiian land and culture. He has worked collaboratively with other commissioners, including serving on the LLCC for four years already.

I strongly support this nomination to serve another term on the LLC.

Sincerely,

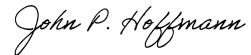


Garrett Apuzen-Ito
Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences
1680 East-West Rd, POST 810
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

To: Legacy Land Conservation Commission

This testimony is in support of Dr. John Sinton (John) for Commissioner on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. I support John's nomination for Commissioner because for the past nearly 5 decades he has dedicated himself to the understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources of the Hawaiian islands. As a geologist that understands the physical environment of the islands, while having a respect and understanding of the interplay between environment and Hawaiian culture, he will continue to serve in the best interest of the Commission and the state of Hawaii.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Hoffmann".

John P. Hoffmann



Dr. Charles “Chip” Fletcher

Director, Climate Resilience Collaborative
Interim Dean, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
fletcher@soest.hawaii.edu

March 22, 2024

Aloha, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Charles “Chip” Fletcher, and I serve as the Interim Dean of the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa and the Director of the Climate Resilience Collaborative.¹

I am pleased to provide personal testimony in support of Governor’s Message 679 being heard by your Committees on Water and Land on March 22, 2024. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai‘i. I strongly support GM679 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University’s Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget.

This measure submits for consideration and confirmation to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, John Sinton, for a term to expire on June 30, 2028.

As a former member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission myself, I strongly support John Sinton’s nomination and confirmation to the Commission because he is an experienced Commission member and past Chair of the Commission, and he is dedicated to the effective and perpetual preservation of open land in Hawai‘i for future generations.

I sincerely appreciate your time and effort to consider my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

C. Fletcher

Charles Fletcher

¹ CRC is a multi-investigator research project at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa focused on sea level rise adaptation and climate resilience. CRC is updating coastal models that project the impacts of sea level rise. More information about my research group can be found at <https://www.soest.hawaii.edu/crc/>.

GM-679

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 7:51:28 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Kai Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, Committee Members Chang, McKelvey, and Favella;

It has been my honor to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission with Prof. John Sinton for the last few years. Not only is his scientific background as a geologist who has spent a great deal of time in the field all across Hawai'i of great value, but his deep experience as an educator, and organized approach to the process have been invaluable. I hope you will confirm his nomination.

me ka ha'a ha'a,

Kai Lucas

GM-679

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 6:51:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beryl Blaich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

It gives me great pleasure to very strongly endorse John Sinton for an additional term on the State Legacy Lands Commission. As a current Commissioner who serves with John, I constantly learn from him how to thoroughly assess applications, elicit and give applicants helpful information on site visits and to respectfully welcome, listen to and weigh public testimony. He is a UH Professor of Geology - retired but still teaching and writing - , and he brings and shares foundational geologic knowledge with Commissioners and the public. He is also a native plant lover and grower. I feel and admire John's deep sensitivity and aloha for Hawai'i and for our residents and stewarding communities whenever I get to be with him at a place or in a meeting. John also willingly and capably takes on important tasks such as tabulation of Commission rankings of grant applications.

Thank you so much for your attention and work.

Beryl Blaich

PO Box 1434

Kilauea, Hi 96754