

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

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

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 582
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
JAY PENNIMAN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2028**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 582 and Mr. Penniman's appointment to continue serving on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (Commission). Mr. Penniman possesses scientific qualifications, as evidenced by an academic degree, thus fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of Chapter 195-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Mr. Penniman currently serves as Chair of the Commission. In this governor-appointed role, he also serves as an ex-officio to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, making valuable contributions to that commission's review and recommendation of grant applications for land acquisitions that would protect resources for public benefit.

Mr. Penniman is a research biologist, an accomplished field scientist, and a skilled communicator. Mr. Penniman has done a lot of work with the Natural Area Reserves System, including surveys for nēnē, research and surveys for Blackburn's sphinx moth, seabird work on O'ahu, Kaho'olawe, Moloka'i, Maui and Lāna'i, and Hawaiian Petrel work. Mr. Penniman is considered an expert on several scientific topics and is an articulate, science-based, respected, knowledgeable, and committed communicator on conservation, Hawaiian biota, and management needs in Hawai'i. He holds a B.S. from Portland State University in Natural Sciences, emphasizing Wildlife Biology and Native American Studies, thus

fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of Section 195-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, as an expert in a relevant field.

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



LATE

March 12 2025

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

Re: GM 582 Support

I am writing to support consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JAY PENNIMAN, for a term to expire 06-30-2028. As the Executive Director of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Penniman for many years on conservation issues of significant importance to the recovery of Hawai'i's native wildlife, particularly seabirds. His decades of experience and knowledge of Hawai'i ecosystems and scientific expertise are exactly what the members of the NARS Commission need to fully inform their decisions and advisory actions. Further, his tireless efforts to help protect our native seabirds through education, scientific research and recovery efforts have resulted in increasing populations and increased public awareness of native seabirds.

On behalf of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, I wholeheartedly endorse the confirmation of Mr. Penniman to the NARS Commission.

Mahalo for your consideration and continued progress in protecting our environment,

Hannah Bernard
Executive Director
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

GM-582

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 10:12:13 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary santa maria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jay Penniman has effectively acted on behalf of NARS commission these last years. Because Dr. Fern Duvall II (my deceased spouse) so believed in Jay that he supported his time on the NARS commission, and because it is more urgent than ever to have effective people that are not afraid to stand up for the Natural Area Reserves, I STRONGLY SUPPORT Jay Penniman's appointment to the NARS commission. If you have any concerns about his appointment you can contact me at mfsm819@gmail.com

Mahalo

Mary Santa Maria, a concerned citizen

GM-582

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 2:21:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/12/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Senators,

Because of his dedication to conservation of Hawai'i's natural environment, his dedicated expertise to seabird recovery and his reflective, astute, laways prepared and inclusive character, Jay Penniman must be confirmed to the State Natural Area Reserves Systems Commission. Being on that commission also places Mr. Penniman as representative of NARS onthe Legacy Lands Conservation Commission. He t brings so much knowledge and aloha to the LLCC.

Respectfully,