

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

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**  
Friday, April 4, 2025, 1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**GM 509**  
**NOMINATING JAY STONE TO THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **strongly supports** GM 509, nominating **Mr. Jay Stone** for a seat on the Environmental Advisory Council.

As mandated in HRS Chapter 341, the Environmental Advisory Council's mission is to determine an optimum balance between economic development and environmental quality by appointing members to represent education, business, and environmental professions including engineering.

Mr. Stone has over 30 years' experience in Hawaii's engineering industry, working on numerous large and small, public and private projects across the State. He brings a variety of management skills, specialized experiences, and achievements to the table. In his time as an interim member of the Environmental Advisory Council, he has already proved himself as a thoughtful representative of the construction sector of Hawaii's economy. Jay has offered to take on challenging projects.

We believe Jay Stone is eminently qualified to be confirmed as a member of the Environmental Advisory Council. OPSD urges your advice and consent to his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



April 3, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GM 509  
Testimony in Support of Mr. Jay Stone  
Confirmation to the Environmental Advisory Council

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

It is without hesitation that I support the nomination of Jay Stone for confirmation to the Environmental Advisory Council.

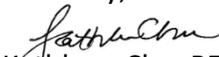
As an environmental engineer and reflected by his resume, Mr. Stone has dedicated his career to managing and designing projects that project our islands' water. Mr. Stone specializes in stormwater management, sanitary sewer, and water supply projects. He is currently working on the State's first desalination plant. As Mr. Stone's colleague, I know that he has an invaluable and rare combination of leadership, vision, and competence.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development needs the advice and input of professionals who have the ability to think and plan strategically. With the current environment at the federal level and the need for infrastructure improvements, combined with the need to protect our valuable natural resources, we need someone that has implemented projects and understands the challenges and balance necessary to design improvements while minimizing or avoiding natural and cultural impacts.

In addition, Mr. Stone is always willing to contribute to our island community. Extraordinary action and leadership are needed to protect our island's environment through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Mr. Stone will be an excellent addition to the Environmental Advisory Council, bringing his commitment to excellence, dedication, and hard work to continue to move Hawai'i forward and bring Hawai'i's communities together.

I respectfully request your support for the confirmation of Jay Stone to the Environmental Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

  
Kathleen Chu, PE  
Vice President



SENATOR MIKE GABBARD

21<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

KAPOLEI, MAKAKILO,  
KALAELOA, AND PORTIONS OF  
FERNANDEZ VILLAGE AND EWA



**The Senate**  
**Ka 'Aha Kenekoa**

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

CHAIRMAN  
AGR/CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER  
JUDICIARY

MEMBER  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

February 20, 2025

Jay Stone  
Gubernatorial Nominee  
Kakela25@icloud.com  
47-169 Hui Akepa Place, Apt A Kailua, HI 96744

Re: Nomination to the Environmental Advisory Council

Dear Mr. Stone:

Congratulations on being nominated by Governor Josh Green to the Environmental Advisory Council. To assist the Senate with its confirmation process, I am requesting that the following information be submitted to my office:

A written statement that addresses the following questions:

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Environmental Advisory Council?
  - I want to contribute to the environmental health and sustainability of our local communities.
  - I am a native Hawaiian and a civil and environmental engineer so responsible development that incorporates sustainable practices that also acknowledge our Hawaiian heritage is important for long-term health of the environment.
2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Environmental Advisory Council?
  - I believe the role and responsibilities of a member of the EAC is to advise on key environmental issues facing our local communities.
3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Environmental Advisory Council, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Environmental Advisory Council.
  - I have been a civil and environmental engineer since 1993 and a licensed professional engineer for over 25 years. My expertise is in water treatment and distribution, water resources, wastewater collection and treatment, stormwater management and treatment, and ecosystem restoration. I practice a One-Water Concept of design and development. I am familiar with county, state, and federal environmental permitting having worked on many large and small projects throughout

the state. My education, experience, and expertise will directly help me in making decisions as a member of the EAC.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
  - Educate the public about the importance of various environmental issues related to water resources and ecosystem restoration and responsible and sustainable development.
  - Contribute where I can on the EAC
5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Environmental Advisory Council?
  - Hardworking
  - Diligent
  - Discerning/Thoughtful
  - My job as an environmental engineer and manager requires me to put in a lot of hours to get my work done. I have to be diligent about the quality of my work for my client and community to ensure that the designs meets regulatory requirements as well as the requirements of my clients and the surrounding communities. Because my projects are complex and often require public input, I need to think carefully about the constraints and opportunities to ensure that the projects are executed successfully and address the concerns of multiple stakeholders.
6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Environmental Advisory Council?
  - I worked on the Kapalama Container Terminal Wharf and Dredging project. My role was to obtain the environmental permits for the project, which would impact many coral colonies. I worked closely with our client, regulatory agencies, and coral subject matter experts to craft mitigation measures to address permanent losses of corals and benthic substrate. This experience required that I look at the project from a larger perspective to address competing concerns from multiple stakeholders. This holistic perspective while understanding the nuances and details of regulations and statutes as well as design will help me to provide targeted advice or comment on issues brought up by the EAC or within EAC meetings.
7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Environmental Advisory Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?
  - The only conflict of interest that I can conceive of is if I am working on a project that may be presented to the EAC.
  - I would recuse myself if one of my projects was a topic of discussion within the EAC.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that any testimony submitted to Senate committees on your behalf will be posted on the Legislature's website as submitted. It might be helpful to remind individuals who intend to submit testimony on your nomination of the public nature of the testimony.

Your prompt response in providing the above information will ensure that the Senate confirmation process can proceed in a timely manner. Thank you.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Gabbard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Gabbard  
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

**GM-509**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 5:19:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/4/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Jay Stone to the Environmental Advisory Council.