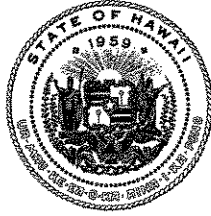


LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEN C. KAWAHARA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of Laura H. Thielen, Nominee  
Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Thursday, October 25, 2007  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

---

**I. Introduction and Background**

Aloha Senators Hee, Kokubun, Fukunaga, Tokuda and Whalen. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today and provide information about my background, qualifications, vision and goals for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Given the compressed schedule due to the nature of the special session, I have taken the liberty of providing this information in the form of an outline, so it is easier for you to scan and raise questions during the hearing today. I hope you find this helpful.

I have provided my resume and other background information to you previously. Today I'll just touch upon four personal matters that I think are most important because they convey my character and how I will behave as Chairperson of the Department, if you confirm my nomination.

First, I was raised in Hawaii, and as a teenager I had the great fortune of visiting the island of Kahoolawe twice on access with the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana. I have a great appreciation and deep aloha for our state, for the beauty of our environment, and the essential role our host culture plays in our state character and our unique sense of place. Hawaii is, and always has been, my home.

Second, I am now raising two daughters of my own, and it is critically important to me that I pass to them a state which is more beautiful, environmentally and culturally rich than it is now, and which can sustain them here so I can spoil my grandchildren in my own backyard.

Third, I believe that no matter how much I know, I have much more to learn. After my first visit to Kahoolawe, Uncle Harry Mitchell gave me my Hawaiian name, which means the mist which hangs next to the side of the pali. He choose that name because every

time he turned around after telling a story, he saw me standing to the side listening, and he thought of that mist. I listen, I ask questions, I make the effort to reach out to different groups to hear different views. I want to learn and I enjoy learning.

Fourth, I am not afraid to make a decision. I do not make hasty or ill-informed decisions, but I won't avoid decisions. I will always make principled decisions based upon what I believe to be the best interest of the Department and the state.

## **II. Role of the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources**

If I were you, I'd want to know how the nominee views the role she is stepping into. In my opinion, the Chairperson of the Department is responsible for leading, ensuring and enabling the Department and its staff meets their public trust, statutory and administrative responsibilities. This entails managing a Department with a wide scope of responsibilities; multiple divisions and programs; and a large staff scattered across offices on multiple islands.

The Chairperson of the Department is responsible for the nuts and bolts management of an agency: making sure the divisions and program managers are operating effective programs and managing staff; recruiting and getting positions filled with qualified people; providing training and resources for staff to do their jobs; and, setting priorities for the resources allocated to the agency. The Chair is responsible for developing solutions to chronic problems that plague the department and interfere with the mission, and to work with staff to successfully implement those solutions.

The role also entails being a communicator and advocate for our state's natural and cultural resources. The Chairperson is responsible for communicating and advocating policy, management and legislative recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, Land Board and Water Commission, and, after final decision making, communicating those policies back through the Department for implementation. In addition, the Chairperson is responsible for communications between the agency and the general public, who are the beneficiaries of the state's natural resources; and between the Department and other federal, state and county agencies with shared jurisdiction over natural resources and public lands.

The Chairperson of DLNR should be guided at all times by serving the public trust responsibility over Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural, cultural and historic resources. The Chairperson is only a temporary steward of our most precious, fragile and finite resources. S/he is charged with ensuring these resources are passed to future generations.

### **III. Priorities and Goals**

If I were you, I'd want to know the nominee's priorities for the department. I would like to share with you the three areas which I believe are the highest priorities for DLNR.

#### **1. Transforming the DLNR from Resource Management to Resource Stewardship**

The ancient Hawaiians understood the interrelationship between land and sea. However, our current regulatory structure is very sector-specific and ignores these interrelationships, to the detriment of our natural resources. For example, the Division of Aquatic Resources may take heroic actions to preserve coral reefs. However, these actions will be doomed to failure unless the Division of Forestry and Wildlife is equally successful at controlling deforestation; and other state and county agencies control urbanized polluted runoff. We must work in concert to be successful stewards of resources. No one division in DLNR, or one agency can be successful unless we all are successful.

As Director of the Office of Planning I led the development of the 2006 Ocean Resources Management Plan. This Plan provides a blueprint for the Department to integrate the areas of common focus of the divisions responsible for managing natural resources, and to work in a more coordinated fashion with other agencies. Integration between the Department divisions is essential to transforming the Department into a steward, rather than a manager, of natural resources.

#### **2. Increase compliance with resource protection laws and rules through Education, Civil and Criminal Enforcement**

Our resource protection laws and administrative rules cover all our land and three miles out into our waters. Clearly our state cannot afford sufficient police to staff all these areas at all times. Accordingly, we must rely on our residents to police themselves, and our visitor industry to assist with educating tourists to similarly police their behavior. Improving behavior will require a combination of constant education, strategic enforcement such as civil penalties and high-profile cases that serve as deterrents.

Sustained and directed education efforts, such as those designed to reduce smoking, have been extremely successful at changing public behavior. Similarly, targeted civil penalty strategies, such as the "Click-it-or-Ticket" have also significantly improved compliance rates with specific laws. DLNR should engage in strategic planning around enforcement which considers specific education and civil penalty pilot projects directed to improving certain behaviors, and monitor the effectiveness of those efforts.

Enforcement should not be the kuleana of one division within DLNR. All subject matter divisions play a key role in developing and disseminating educational programs. All divisions should be working with DOCARE when developing the concepts for administrative rulemaking and legislation, to ensure we are developing policies and procedures we can be successful in enforcing.

### **3. Develop the full mission of State Historic Preservation Division**

Hawaii's rich history and culture define our state, and make us unique from every other place in the world. We have a rich host culture, lively and varied immigrant cultures, beautiful historic buildings, sites and landscapes, all of which provide a strong sense of character to our state. Given the accelerating pace of growth, we must be more proactive in identifying ways to preserve and enhance our cultural and historic sites.

DLNR is fortunate to have so many potential partners in this effort. We should join with this community to develop a shared, public database of regional surveys of cultural and historic sites; ways to enhance these sites, where appropriate, to preserve their beauty and educate our residents about our history. We must develop broader partnerships with our local landowners to meet our critical responsibility to re-inter the iwi kupuna. We must direct our attention to the types of projects that are most likely to impact cultural historic resources, and respond professional and expediently.

## **IV. Steps Taken During my 3 Months at DLNR (July 30 – October 25)**

Finally, if I were you, I'd want to know what a new Chairperson has actually done, not just what she talks about. I am providing an outline of actions below, and will fill in the details during the testimony and while responding to your questions:

### **1. Introducing self and meeting DLNR staff & site visits**

- a. Met with each Division at their Honolulu offices for overview briefing on programs, plans and budgets
- b. Brown Bag Mondays with any and all DLNR staff
- c. Weekly staff meetings
- d. Created DLNR Cabinet with division administrators to identify departmental priorities and increase collaboration
- e. Neighbor island site visits to meet DLNR staff and community (first Maui visit done; Kauai, Hilo, Kona scheduled)
- f. Scheduling Division Days: One day/week rotating through divisions to visit site/programs they want me to see

### **2. Historic Preservation Division**

- a. Filling Positions (assisted by DHRD Deputy Director)
- b. Seeking salary differential to fill archeologist and cultural specialist Branch Manager positions to supervise professional staff
- c. Developing programmatic agreements with Federal Highway Transportation, counties
- d. Cleaning the database to organize and prioritize requests for review
- e. Decreasing backlog
- f. Secured office space in Hilo; Kauai
- g. Revised minimum qualifications for specialists to match federal standards



- h. Progress in re-interring iwi on Oahu and Maui
- i. Reaching out for new partnerships
  - OHA and native Hawaiian community
  - Historic Preservation Community

### **3. Bureau of Conveyances**

- a. Met with all BOC employees twice: not taking sides; work with everyone moving forward
- b. Surveyed all BOC employees on preferences, ideas
- c. Management Training for all managers & supervisors
- d. Employee Assistance Program training for all Bureau staff
- e. Created RFP Working Group with representatives from Title, Escrow, Law, Banking, Real Estate, Land Court, Union to develop scope of contract to automate the paper filing process for the BOC
- f. Hired facilitator assigned to BOC to engage all staff in providing input and compiling questions regarding the automation of BOC process
- g. Creating BOC management team (Administrator and 2 Branch Managers) to develop joint plan to reduce backlog and remain within current budget pending automation
- h. Working to fill vacancies; create and fill new positions

### **4. Boating**

- a. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Safety Grant
  - 2006 data approved and funds received;
  - current with 2007 data and will receive funds;
  - eligible for 2008 grant; and
  - working with coast guard to have a semi-designated patrol (maritime patrol on Oahu) to recreational boating safety and on-water resource enforcement.
- b. Cruise Ship Security – Lahaina being transferred from DOCARE to DOBOR by January 1, 2008; transition Kona subsequently
- c. 2 security and 3 clerical positions being transferred from DOCARE to DOBOR for security
- d. DOCARE increasing on-water presence on Oahu through dedicated marine patrol focusing on resource protection and boating safety
- e. Developing Ala Wai improvements draft master plan, to be reviewed with boaters

## **V. Future Steps**

### **1. Implementation of Ocean Resource Management Plan**

- a. DLNR Cabinet developing inter-divisional, department-wide priorities around land and ocean based resource stewardship
- b. Active participant in statewide Ocean Resource Management Plan working groups

**2. Strategic Planning for Enforcement/Compliance**

- a. Initiating strategic planning within DOCARE this year (consultant contract finalized)
- b. Identifying specific administrative rules for civil enforcement strategies for pilot project
- c. Initiate department-wide enforcement/compliance strategic planning in subsequent year

**3. Increase resource stewardship efficiency and effectiveness through improved technology and “back office” support**

- a. SHPD – developing a searchable public access database and library of cultural sites, surveys and SHPD determinations
- b. Developing a centralized DLNR information database library to monitoring impacts on resources and measure program effectiveness

**Testimony**  
**In favor of Laura H. Thielen**  
**Chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources**

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Colleen Hanabusa, Senate President  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Senators Hee and Hanabusa,

The purpose of this testimony is to speak favorably of Laura H. Thielen in her confirmation as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural resources. As a charter school principal and in my roles of President of the Hawaii Charters Schools Network and Interim Director of the Charter School Administrative Office, I have appeared before the State Board of Education numerous times. I got to see first hand Laura's outstanding problem solving and critical thinking skills. She remained calm, focused, and committed in an atmosphere of extreme opposition. On many issues, especially charter school funding and facilities, she found herself in a lop-sided minority. But she could speak to the issues, because she was the only one on the board who made multiple visits to many charter schools in the State. Since the start of the Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science in 2001, we have been visited by only two board members, Carol Gabbard and Laura. They came to find out first hand what the issues were about. When Laura first visited our school, she was shocked to find our students being housed in tents. She then became a firm supporter of charter schools facilities funding because she felt that our children deserved better.

There are and will be many contentious issues in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Superferry, for one) and I am positive that a person of Laura's caliber will be able to mitigate the problems with research-based decision making. I look forward to her appointment as chairperson of this most important department of the State of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Hiramami, Director, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science



**DAPHNE E. BARBEE**

**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

**1188 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1909, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813**

**TELEPHONE (808) 533-0275**

October 18, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Water and Land Committee  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Fax: 586-7334

Re: Testimony in Support of Laura Thielan as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in Support of Laura Thielan to become Director of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii. I met Ms. Thielan when she previously served on the Board of Hawaii Women Lawyers and she was active in educating women about their legal rights. She is a former legal aid attorney and provides legal assistance to persons with limited income. She has experience in the government working with the Office of Planning. She is willing to listen to different view points and make her own decision. She is knowledgeable in environmental law. I am impressed with her openness towards different views, her hard work and dedication to make Hawaii a better place. She is an excellent choice. Her history is one who shares her legal expertise to assist others.

I urge your confirmation of her as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Sincerely,

Daphne Barbee-Wooten  
Attorney at Law

cc. Senator Colleen Hanabusa  
Fax: 586-7797



KSD HAWAII  
8 KIOPA'A STREET, SUITE 201 • PUKALANI, HI 96768  
PHONE: (808) 572-3011 • FAX: (808) 572-8378  
WWW.KSDHAWAII.COM

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Honolulu, HI

Via Fax (808) 586-7334

Re: Confirmation Hearing for Laura Thielen

Aloha Senator Hee:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Laura Thielen to head the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I have gotten to know Ms. Thielen while serving together on the Sustainability 2050 Task Force. She is keenly aware of the issues facing the State, as well as the opportunities, in the areas serviced by DLNR now and into the future. Additionally, she has a wonderful ability to listen to others, to understand their position, and articulate clearly where she stands on issues. I would think that trait will lend itself well to working with staff.

She is a great candidate for the position and I fully support her nomination.

Mahalo for the consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Goode', written over a horizontal line.

David Goode  
President

Cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa  
Senator J. Kalani English  
Laura Thielen

Via Fax (808) 586-7797 ✓  
Via Fax (808) 587-7230  
Via Fax (808) 587-0390

**Kathleen M. Douglas, Esq.**

4175 Round Top Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone (808) 792-4816

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Fax. 586-7334

Re: Confirmation of Laura H. Thielen

Dear Senator Hee,

I am writing to ask you to confirm **Laura H. Thielen** as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Laura since 1986 when we attended law school together in Cleveland, Ohio. When I moved to Hawaii in 1989 and Laura returned to her home roots, we renewed our friendship on both a social and professional level.

As a life long Hawaii resident with two children attending local schools, Laura is invested in the State of Hawaii and the goal of intelligently preserving the environment for future generations. Laura exemplifies a leader with the facility for capable, knowledgeable decision making with an appreciation of the many different interests of the people of Hawaii.

Laura's experience in civil service is a testament to her commitment to public service. Holding both elected and appointed positions within the State administration, Laura has exhibited her dedication to providing answers and resolutions to this State's most pressing problems in the areas of education and planning. Coupled with years of working in the private sector as an attorney and a nonprofit consultant, Laura brings a wealth of experience to the DLNR position.

In her short tenure with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Laura has already exhibited her ability to effectively manage a large State department. Successfully implementing much needed harbor improvements on both Oahu and Kauai, pursuing the automation of the Bureau of Conveyances, and addressing issues within the Historic Preservation Division and the Division of Aquatic Resources, Laura has demonstrated her skills as a communicator, a motivator, and an advocate for the people of Hawaii.

I wholeheartedly endorse Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and I sincerely hope that you will support her confirmation.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen M. Douglas, Esq.

Sandie Moss  
4303 Rice Street, Suite C4  
Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
Phone: (808) 246-8884

October 22, 2007

Via fax to:

Hon. Senator Hee (586-7334)  
Hon. Senator Hanabusa (586-7797)  
Hon. Senator Hooser (536-6031)

Dear Senators:

Please accept this as my testimony in support of Laura Thielen's nomination as the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have known her for over 18 years. I have seen her interact with many type of people in many situations. She is smart, capable, and capable. I believe Laura will do a good job of protecting the environment in Hawai'i and administering the DLNR. Please vote to confirm her nomination.

Sincerely,



Sandie Moss



# Title Guaranty of Hawaii, Inc.

235 QUEEN STREET, HONOLULU, HI 96813 • P.O. BOX 3084, HONOLULU, HI 96802  
TELEPHONE: (808) 533-6261

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

On behalf of Title Guaranty and its family of companies, I would like to voice our support for Laura Thielen's confirmation as Chairperson of the Department of Land & Natural Resources.

Ms. Thielen's background in land use, environmental matters and administration provide her with a strong base on which to organize and formulate needed change within the DLNR. In her brief tenure as temporary DLNR Chair, Laura has demonstrated her ability to quickly grasp the facts. She has taken the initial steps toward problem solving long standing chronic issues at the BOC and has demonstrated vision and leadership in working with various departments/personnel.

But perhaps, her strongest asset is that she is a "local girl" who is passionate about Hawaii! She understands our ethnic diversity, our fragile environment and the need to carefully and effectively manage our unique island resources in order to preserve them for future generations.

We believe that Ms. Thielen's qualifications coupled with her strong desire to initiate change, improvement and innovation within the Department of Land and Natural Resources make her the right person for this position. We humbly request and respectfully urge your support of Laura Thielen's nomination.

Sincerely yours,

Michael A. Pietsch  
President & C. E. O.

MAP: ym



1617 Quincy Place  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
October 22, 2007

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee

FROM: Susan M. Chandler *SMC*

Testimony: Support of Ms. Laura Thielen for Director, DLNR

Senator Hee and members of the Water and Land Committee:

This letter is in support of Ms. Laura Thielen to serve as the Director of DLNR.

I recently worked with Ms. Thielen on issues related to the Legislature's Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Task Force. While she was then serving in the Office of Planning, she demonstrated a strong understanding of the many and complex environmental and sustainability issues that I think would be helpful for a Director of DNLR. As a co-author of a chapter on the Quality of Life in the publication, Hawai'i 2050 Building a Shared Future, I found Ms. Thielen and her office helpful in providing statistics and approaches to finding needed information.

I believe she will continue this pattern of providing public access to departmental information in her new position. This will be crucial as DNLR plays an essential part in insuring environmental protection and a sustainable, and high quality future.

# Windward Eye Physicians and Surgeons

---

David J. Randell, M.D.  
Peter A. Roney, M.D.  
George F. Nardin, M.D., M.P.H.  
*Board Certified Ophthalmologists*

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chairman, Water & Land Committee  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

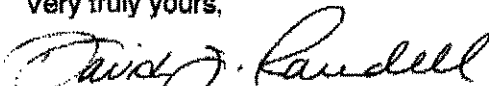
Via: Fax

Re: Letter in Support of Laura Thielen for Chairperson of Department of Land & Natural Resources

Dear Senator Hee:

I have known Laura Thielen for more than 25 years. She is an exceptionally intelligent individual of unquestionable integrity. I fully support her nomination to the position of Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Very truly yours,

  
David J. Randell, M.D.

DJR:lf

cc: Colleen Hanabusa, Senate President

---

Kaneohe Office: 46-001 Kamehameha Highway, Suite 405, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744 (808) 247-5456

Kailua Office: 407 Uluniu Street, Suite 214, Kailua, Hawaii 96734 (808) 262-2990

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# HACBED

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development  
677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 702 Honolulu, HI 96813  
Ph. 808.550.2661 Fax 808.534.1199  
Email [info@hacbed.org](mailto:info@hacbed.org) [www.hacbed.org](http://www.hacbed.org)

## **Board Members**

### *President*

Jason Okuhama (at large)  
Executive VP & Partner  
Hawai'i Lending Specialists

### *Vice President*

Akoni Akana (Maui)  
Executive Director  
Friends of Moku'ula

### *Treasurer*

Norm Baker (at large)  
VP, Community Building  
Aloha United Way

Darrlyn Bunda (at large)

Executive Director  
Waipahu Community Association

Stacy Crivello (Moloka'i)

President  
Ke Aupuni Lokahi

Puni Kekauoha &  
Adrienne Dillard (O'ahu)  
Papakolea CDC

Keikialoha Kekipi &  
Susie Osborne (Hawai'i)  
Ho'oulu Lahui/ Kua O Ka La Public  
Charter School

Kipukai Kuall'i (Kaua'i)  
Project Director  
Na Mahi'ai O Anahola - Anahola  
Kaua'i Agribusiness Microenterprise  
Project

Kukui & Gary Maunakea-Forth  
(O'ahu)  
WCRC/Mala Ai 'Opio

Wayne Tanna (at large)  
Asset Building Coalition &  
Chaminade University

## **HACBED Staff**

Robert Agres, Jr  
*Executive Director*

Brent Dillabaugh  
*Deputy Director*

Larissa Melnecke  
*Public Policy Associate*

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair  
Water and Land Committee

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED) I am submitting testimony in support of Laura Thielen's nomination to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

In the context of working with her as a board member of the Hawaii Rural Development Council she was committed to fulfilling her role as a fiduciary steward of this statewide nonprofit organization. She was able to contribute her expertise and perspectives in a very collaborative and productive manner. Laura was a quick study on key issues and helped to create an open environment where difficult subjects could be considered by a wide range of stakeholders.

The Hawaii Rural Development Council is a unique organization made up of a broad range of stakeholders concerned about rural issues. Many of the issues that DLNR has lead authority on are related to her experience with the issues addressed by the Council. It is without reservation that I support this nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,



Brent Dillabaugh  
Deputy Director

**Donald and Shirley Hasenyager  
235 Kuuhoa Place  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-2734  
Phone/fax: 262-5069**

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

We have known Laura Thielen for most of her life and have watched as she matured into an exceptional person, both in her public and private life.

Laura is intelligent, energetic and conscientious. In every public sector position she has held she has proved to be extremely capable. She is an outstanding communicator. With all of the various divisions she has to deal with in the Department of Land and Natural Resources, her clear thinking ability and communication skills will ensure increased efficiency and employee satisfaction.

Her lifetime interest in environmental issues, her devotion to Hawai'i, and her resolve to protect and preserve its natural and cultural resources make her a perfect choice for Director of DLNR.

We urge you to support Laura Thielen's appointment.

*Shirley Hasenyager*  
*Donald Hasenyager*

**LORI K. AQUINO  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
713 HALAULA PLACE  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96825**  
email: [laquino@unioncounsel.net](mailto:laquino@unioncounsel.net)

October 22, 2007

BY FACSIMILE TO 808.586.7334

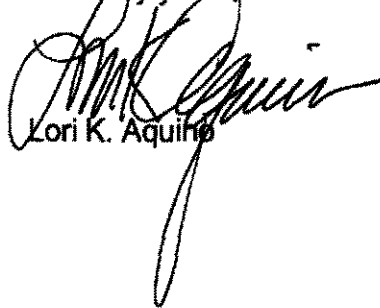
Mr. Clayton Hee  
Chair of the Water and Land Committee  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii

Re: Confirmation of Laura Thielen

Dear Mr. Hee:

This letter is submitted in support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Ms. Thielen for many years and can attest to her integrity and character. She demonstrates an unequivocal commitment to public service and will, without a doubt, if confirmed as chairperson, be unsurpassed in her devotion of time, effort and skills to DLNR.

Sincerely yours,



Lori K. Aquino

cc: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa (808. 586.7797)  
Laura Thielen (808. 587.0390)



October 22, 2007

THE SENATE  
24<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SPECIAL SESSION OF 2007

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Re: Laura H. Thielen  
Confirmation Hearing

Dear Chairman Hee,

I would like to offer my support for the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen, as the Chairperson for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DNLR).

As one who participates in and with, various organizations towards the preservation of land here in Hawaii, such as the Nature Conservancy, I believe Laura will be able to support those efforts in the future.

Her extensive background in this area, such as her work in various law firms in the area of land use & environmental issues, shows she has extensive experience that will help her in her position as Chairperson for the DLNR. I also believe her administrative skills will benefit not only the department, but also the whole state.

I urge your confirmation of Ms. Thielen to the Chairperson post and mahalo for taking the time to consider my letter.

Yours truly,

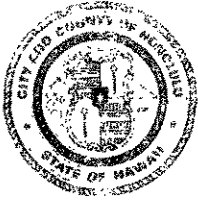
Jean E. Rolles  
Vice President  
Community Relations

JER/lk

OCT. 22. 2007 3:40PM

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

NO. 114 P. 1  
FROM: COUNCIL MARSHALL



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

**BARBARA MARSHALL – DISTRICT 3**  
(808)547-7003 [BMARSHALL@CO.HONOLULU.HI.US](mailto:BMARSHALL@CO.HONOLULU.HI.US)

October 22, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Senator  
District 23  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

Laura Thielen, with her background in law and the environment, seems the ideal candidate to serve as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. We look forward to working together with her as the Council moves forward on joint issues. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Marshall".

**Barbara Marshall**  
Council Chair  
Councilmember, District 3



October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee and Senator Colleen Hanabusa  
State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha mai

This letter is in strong support for Laura Thielen's confirmation as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)

I got to know Laura Thielen while she served on the Board of Education, where she impressed me tremendously with her ongoing efforts to find out what was happening in the educational community and how she could be of help to advance education in Hawai'i. While on the Board of Education (BOE), Laura did her utmost to assure that the voices of those, the system was trying to silence, were heard. As an unwavering, energetic campaigner of equity for all, she worked tirelessly to ensure fair treatment of all public school students, whether DOE or charters.

Laura brings with her many leadership qualities including being willing to listen, willing to learn and willing to make changes for the better even if it means making decisions that are not always popular. These particular qualities set Laura apart from other BOE members who simply wanted to maintain status quo, and demonstrated the kind of leadership necessary to be an effective Chairperson of DLNR.

There is no doubt that this job requires not just lots of energy, but also deep-seated values regarding the land, our native culture and traditions, our ancestral bones etc, all of which I know Laura possesses. As the Hāmākua representative of the Hawai'i Island Burial Council I can attest to the paramount need to tackle many serious issues that have faced the State Historic Preservation Department for quite some time. I strongly believe that Laura can and will provide the necessary leadership to assure that the shortcomings of this department will be timely addressed and that both short and long-range plans will be implemented to remedy the department's inadequacies.

Laura Thielen is an advocate for all who value and aim to protect Hawai'i human and natural resources. Her leadership will assure that the diversity of our natural, cultural and ethnic environments will be honored and our precious island resources protected for future generations. Please confirm her as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kū Kahakalau, Ph.D.  
Director



*Bernard M. Scherman, M. D.*

October 21, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee

Chair, Water and Land Committee

Dear Senator Hee,

I have known Laura Thielen for over 20 years.

During that period of time Laura has performed her legal work (for me) in an admirable fashion.

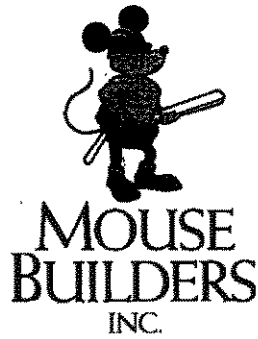
I heartily recommend Ms. Thielen be confirmed as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources since I know her to be competent, reliable, honest, and a person of the highest integrity.

Ms. Thielen will be an asset to our state as we proceed through the difficult decisions facing this state as our population increases and we must provide both locations for housing and at the same time preserve our land and natural resources for future generations.

Respectfully,



cc: Collen Hanabusa, senate President



October 22, 2007

Via Fax Transmission

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Fax: 586-7334

Re: Confirmation of Laura Thielen for Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senator Hee,

I am a small businessman raised and educated here in Kailua.

I have known Laura Thielen personally for more than 30 years. She is an intelligent, educated, and open-minded, clear thinker. She has always been a leader amongst her peers. Laura is driven and gives 100 percent into whatever she is involved, whether it be her family, volunteer work, or her career. Her integrity is unquestionable. The State of Hawaii will be well served to have Laura Thielen as its Chairperson for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



Ron Robinson

Cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa, via fax: 586-7797



October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Senate

AMERON HAWAII  
2344 Pahounui Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
P.O. Box 29968  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820  
Telephone: 808/832-9200  
Fax: 808/266-2669

via facsimile 586-7334

Regarding: **Confirmation of Laura Thielen  
as Chair of the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources**

Dear Senator Hee:

This letter is in support of confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chair of the DLNR.

Since becoming Chair she has shown to be competent and wise in charting the department's course. She is clearly capable and will do an excellent job protecting Hawaii's environment and precious resources, while meeting the diverse needs of Hawaii's people.

Thank you for considering my input. I especially appreciate your efforts on this important task as you are also my State Senator and it is gratifying to see a neighbor working hard to represent my family and me.

Sincerely,

Linda F. Goldstein  
Manager, Environmental & Community Relations

c: Senator Hanabusa @ 586-7797  
Laura Thielen @ 587-0390

## JOE P. MOSS

---

Attorney at law  
4303 Rice Street, Suite C4  
Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
Phone: (808) 246-8884  
FAX: (808) 246-8882  
E-Mail: [mosslawyer@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:mosslawyer@hawaiiantel.net)

October 22, 2007

Via fax to:

Hon. Senator Hee (586-7334)  
Hon. Senator Hanabusa (586-7797)  
Hon. Senator Hooser (586-6031)

Dear Senators:

Please accept this as my testimony in support of Laura Thielen's nomination as the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have known her for over 18 years. She is smart, capable, and well educated. I have been a member of pro-environmental organizations including the Sierra Club for many years and I believe Laura will do a good job of protecting the environment in Hawai'i and administering the DLNR. Please vote to confirm her nomination.

Sincerely,



Joe P. Moss

**Lawrence Chaffin Jr, FAIA-E  
Architect & Planner  
PO Box 1165, Koloa, HI 96756  
Tel: 808 / 742-4787 Fax: 808 / 742-1788  
Cell: 808 / 652-3156 E-mail: larrychaffin@hotmail.com**

October 22, 2007

**TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE: (808) 586-7334**

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Commission  
State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter of Support  
Laura H. Thielen  
Selection of DNLR Director

Dear Senator Hee,

I strongly recommend that Laura H. Thielen be confirmed as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and humbly ask for your support for the following reasons.

I have personally experienced Ms. Thielen conduct meetings and hearings with utmost professional care for all concerned while maintaining fairness to all parties. She truly expresses a true spirit of innovation.

Because of her advanced legal and public policy education degrees, (J.D., Magna Cum Laude plus Order of the Coif from Case Western Reserve Law School and her Master's Degree in Public Policy from Georgetown) I feel she is well suited to guide the DLNR into the twenty first century.

Laura is truly a local; having been born on Oahu and educated at Punahou High School. Her local experience includes DLNR, State Office and Planning, LHT Services, Legal Aid Society plus private law firms.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have and welcome your phone calls or E-mails.

Sincerely,



Lawrence Chaffin Jr. FAIA-E  
Hawaii Architect No. 8459 & Planner

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA**

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology  
Department of Geology and Geophysics

1680 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-7640, Facsimile: (808) 956-5512  
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

October 22, 2007

[586-7334, 586-7797, 587-0390]

Dear Senator Hee and Senator Hanabusa,

I write to express my personal support for the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. This letter is not intended to articulate the position of the University of Hawaii.

I first became aware of Laura's work in environmental and resource management when she took over as Director of the State Office of Planning in 2005. Her primary concerns lay with maximizing the potential of that agency to implement policies managing Hawaii's sensitive environments and limited natural resources. Her goals included establishing a management plan to guide decision-making at the state and county level. In that capacity she assisted and then led the implementation of the Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council which has re-emerged today as the Ocean Resources Management Plan Policy Group and Working Group.

Establishing the new ORMP required balancing numerous sector-related issues, with multiple agency and public concerns. The ORMP that emerged is innovative, balanced among many potentially competing interests and issues, and comprehensive in scope. The current process of implementing the ORMP is taking its first steps forward and holds promise for future advances in managing our fragile resources. To her credit, Laura has made full integration of the ORMP into DLNR activities a primary goal of her directorship.

Laura's work on HOCC and ORMP reveals that she is cognizant of all resource sectors, she embraces native Hawaiian management practices as vital tools in today's resource crisis, and she is dedicated to a broad, multi-disciplinary and interagency approach to conservation. Directing Hawaii's lead agency responsible for natural resources requires a quick grasp of dozens of complex issues. Laura has made strong early progress and should prove to be an excellent director.

I strongly support the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

*Chip Fletcher*

Charles "Chip" Fletcher, Professor and Chair  
Department of Geology and Geophysics  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

**PATRICIA HAMAMOTO**  
SUPERINTENDENT



**Myron B. Thompson Academy**  
629 Pohukaina St., Sta. 3, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
808-586-3636  
808-586-3640 (fax)  
[www.ethompson.org](http://www.ethompson.org)

October 20, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

To the Honorable Senator Hee:

I write my most enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Laura Thielen to the position of Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have come to know Ms. Thielen as a highly valued colleague over the last five years. She has a rare combination of abilities. She is highly intelligent, passionate about Hawaii, its people and the education of its children. She is an attentive and perceptive listener; she is also able to accommodate and synthesize a variety of viewpoints, and she conveys her own valuable ideas in a convincing and appealing manner. Her opinions are universally sound and well considered. She possesses strong interpersonal skills and practices firm leadership strategies.

She has a clear understanding of educational issues and the need for innovative solutions to meet the challenges facing public traditional and charter schools. She has been willing to actively participate in the reform efforts throughout the state and has always been a strong advocate for individual and collective school populations. Ms. Thielen is the ideal colleague who generates enthusiasm in all with who she interacts.

Hawaii is a multi-cultural/multi-lingual state with unique challenges that demand non-traditional, innovative teaching strategies. Laura Thielen and I share a vision about children and the need for transformation in our schools. We have worked together on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Education and shared hours in informal "think tanks" about educational reform. As principal of Myron B. Thompson Academy (Hawaii's only online public charter school) and as the former Assistant Superintendent of two major Hawaii Department Of Education offices (technology and curriculum/instruction), I am well aware of the

*Equity & Excellence in Education*.....

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

PATRICIA HAMAMOTO  
SUPERINTENDENT

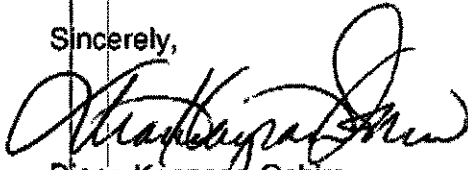
responsibilities of those selected to lead high level departments. I am convinced that the Chairperson of DLNR must possess skills in leadership, management, and supervision of the programs conducted by the department to protect the natural and cultural resources of the State. It is my opinion that Ms. Thielen has demonstrated mastery in all these areas and has done so with compassion, firmness, and elegance.

Ms. Thielen is comfortable working with high officials at all government levels as well as with the second grader in a rural elementary school. She is well liked and respected by educators in Hawai'i. She never says "no we cannot do it" rather "how can we help support you." She has helped Hawai'i charter schools and has worked very hard as a former Board of Education member.

In our business of education, it is always difficult to find individuals with the raw talent to creatively develop innovative ways to work with school communities to achieve their goals. Ms. Thielen is that individual. She is a superb administrator, instructor, and human being who will prove to be an exceptional Chairperson. She brings a wealth of experience, sincere devotion to her passions and dedication to task.

It is without hesitation that I submit my letter of support for Laura Thielen and believe that she will be a valuable asset to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at [diana@hawaii.edu](mailto:diana@hawaii.edu) or [msoshiro@ethompson.org](mailto:msoshiro@ethompson.org).

Sincerely,



Diana Kaapana Oshiro



Robert A. Gould  
44-365 Kaneohe Bay Drive  
Kaneohe, HI 96744-2664  
October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Fax: 586-7334

Dear Senator Hee:

This letter is in **support of the confirmation** of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of DLNR.

Laura Thielen's background as a lawyer in a respected firm, her education, and her work as Chairperson of DLNR along with her work as Director of the State Office of Planning all give her a unique perspective and excellent experience to lead DLNR in a new and innovative direction. Her concepts of integration of efforts and practices has long been needed to make DLNR truly responsive and responsible.

Her background in non-profit work and Legal Aid, and her background in environmental work in Ohio also give her a perspective that is often lacking in bureaucratic appointments, and such a perspective is greatly needed in DLNR.

Ms. Thielen has already accomplished much in her two months at DLNR, such as creating a working group to automate the processing of the Bureau of Conveyances and shift the Bureau into a 21st Century on-line application system. This automation is badly needed.

In my work on the Kaneohe Bay Task Force and on the Regional Council I became aware of the need for a more coordinated approach to land and water management, and Laura Thielen's ideas on those subjects are well received by those of us in the private sector who must live with the decisions of the DLNR. Her cooperative and pragmatic approach is exactly what is needed. There is a great need to make *everything* the DLNR does more straightforward, reasonable, and logical while still providing the stewardship, care and protection that is DLNR's job. All too often in the past things have gotten mired down in bureaucracy when the decision making should have been straightforward. Good ideas and necessary projects should be approved quickly, and bad ideas and projects should be similarly rejected quickly so people and their projects don't languish in the system awaiting approval or rejection. Laura Thielen understands this need and wants to address it.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Gould  
(808) 254-5242  
[bob.gould@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:bob.gould@stanfordalumni.org)

cc: Senator Hanabusa Fax: 586-7797



October 22, 2007

VIA TELECOPIER (586-7334) and  
E-MAIL ([senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov))

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Department of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senator Hee:

I understand that, during the upcoming special legislative session, your committee will be asked to consider the confirmation of Ms. Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I am writing this letter to respectfully urge that confirmation.

I have known Ms. Thielen in both personal and professional capacities for many, many years. It is probably too soon to make a valid assessment of Ms. Thielen's performance as acting chair of the department. In my view, however, it is not too early to recognize that she has brought a high degree of energy and enthusiasm to this position, as she has in all things since I have known her.

If Ms. Thielen is confirmed, I have no doubt that she will continue to fulfill her duties with this energy and enthusiasm. Such energy and enthusiasm is usually infectious and will, I believe, result in the overall vastly improved performance of this department to the benefit of our state and all residents.

Very truly yours,

  
Paul Maki

PM:jc

ALAKEA CORPORATE TOWER  
1100 ALAKEA STREET, 23<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR © HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TEL (808) 545-1122 © FAX (808) 545-1711  
[pmaki@makilaw.com](mailto:pmaki@makilaw.com)

**LEEWARD INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**

94-239 Depot Street \*\*\* Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

Phone: (808) 677-5645 FAX: (808) 671-8850

E-Mail: Nezumi@MutualUnderwriters.Com

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing to recommend confirmation of the appointment of Laura Thielen as the Chairperson for the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have lived in Hawaii for 64 years, been in the insurance business since 1948, and in 1964, formed Leeward Insurance Agency, Inc, which I continue to manage together with my family.

Through my business, I became acquainted with the Thielen family in 1996 and have worked very closely with Laura's parents, Mickey and Cynthia, since then.

Like the parents, Laura is a very dedicated and hard working person and I am sure that she will prove to be a most valuable asset to the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely yours,



Dale R. Claggett, President

cc: Senate President, Colleen Hanabusa

cc: Laura Thielen

Date: October 21, 2007

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, Water and Land Committee, fax: 586-7334

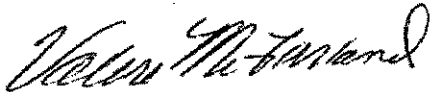
Re: Confirmation, Laura H. Thielen, Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i

Dear Senator Hee:

I strongly support the nomination of Laura H. Thielen for the position of Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i. I have known Laura Thielen from the time she served on the Hawai'i State Board of Education. Laura was elected to the Board at a critical time for education in the state of Hawai'i. Although she worked to accomplish mutual team goals under difficult conditions, her questions never went unanswered and she never compromised her high ethical standards. Among her most admirable qualities has been her dedication to furthering the democratic process in the state of Hawai'i. Her aim as an elected Board of Education member was to bring about innovation in education -- to make sure that all of Hawai'i's students would have a place in the state's workforce with the skills necessary to participate in helping the state succeed in a global economy. Throughout her tenure as a Board member, she worked to provide the citizens of Hawai'i with the understanding and tools necessary for making informed decisions on education issues that impacted their own children, as well as all public school children in the state.

Laura seeks truth in every aspect of her life, whether in learning, discussing education policy with her colleagues, dialoging with fellow citizens -- or relating to her fellow board members and project support personnel. As an educator, I observed her talents and abilities, not only within the activities of the Board of Education, but also outside its parameters. One of her notable strengths has been her ability to interact with all types of people. Because of her positive disposition, her reflective way of operating, her high intelligence, and all of the exemplary character traits that make her so outstanding, Laura's leadership is an asset to the government of the state of Hawai'i. I endorse her appointment and urge you to confirm her.

Sincerely,



Valere McFarland, Ph.D.  
3055 Pualei Circle, Apt. 206  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
808-285-3239 (telephone)  
808-924-1852 (fax)

cc: The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, Senate President, fax: 586-7997  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Senate District 9, fax: 586-6251

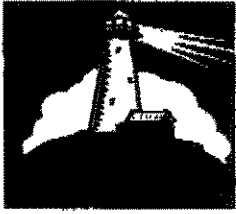
To: Clayton Hee, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
From: Professor Randall W. Roth *R. Randall Roth*  
Date: October 20, 2007  
Subject: Confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DNLR)

ALOHA Chairman Hee and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee.

I enthusiastically support the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I first met Laura in December of 2002 shortly after agreeing to take a one-year leave of absence from the law school to serve in the governor's office. Because education was a high priority area and Laura was at that time serving on the state Board of Education, it was inevitable that our paths would soon cross. I was immediately and enormously impressed not only by Laura's intelligence and many other God-given talents, but also by her genuine concern for the people of this state and her can-do approach to problem-solving. Over time I came to recognize many other, equally impressive qualities. Her work ethic, personal integrity, and leadership ability, for example, are of the highest order. She has the rare ability to frame and explain complex issues in ways that not only promote understanding but also inspire others to commit themselves to worthwhile causes. She is equally good at making sure that things actually get done – i.e., she knows how to prioritize, organize, and execute, and she is one of the most determined individuals I have ever known. When Laura decides that a task is worth doing you can rest assured that she will not lose interest or run out of energy. She also has excellent judgment, strong people skills, and a long-time personal commitment to protecting the environment. For all these reasons I believe that Laura is especially well-suited to the Directorship of the DLNR and that if her appointment is confirmed, she will serve the people of Hawaii with energy, integrity, and honor.

As a citizen who cares deeply about the importance of protecting our finite natural resources and fragile environment, I respectfully ask that you confirm Laura Thielen as Director of the DLNR. Aloha.



**Ocean Tourism Coalition, (O.T.C.)**  
***Shining Light on Ocean Tourism Concerns***

P.O. Box 546  
Lahaina, Hawaii 96767  
(808) 205-1745 Phone (808) 661-0654 Fax  
[office@oceantourism.org](mailto:office@oceantourism.org)

October 19, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chairman, Water & Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Fax 808-586-7334  
e-mail [senhee@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senhee@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

RE: Positive Confirmation of Laura Thielen as DLNR Chair

Dear Chairman Hee:

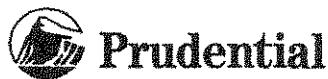
The Ocean Tourism Coalition--representing over 300 small businesses across the State--wishes to give a **strong endorsement** to confirm Laura Thielen as DLNR Chair. We have worked with Ms. Thielen when she was in the Office of State Planning especially as she was leading the comprehensive Ocean Resources Management Plan update. We believe that her educational background and her work experience are an ideal match for the demands of this very important position. More importantly, we believe that Ms. Thielen has the vision and a very realistic grasp of the many issues and challenges involved in effectively managing our States natural resources. We think her leadership and vision will focus DLNR to meet these challenges.

We humbly ask that you confirm Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President  
Ocean Tourism Coalition

Cc: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa



**Prudential Locations LLC**  
Real Estate Sales and Research  
Kailua Office  
116 Hekili Street, Suite B, Kaitua, HI 96734  
Ph.: 808 262-2727 Fax: 808 262-3780  
E-mail: homes@pruhawaii.com

October 18, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee,  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa  
Senate President

Dear Senator Hee,

I would like to submit testimony for support of confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Laura Thielen, both personally and professionally, for over 10 years, and believe her to be ethical, professional, and extremely well qualified for this position. Laura Thielen is motivated to make logical and reasonable decisions regarding our land and natural resources and is dedicated to do so.

Laura researches issues thoroughly, keeps an open mind, and is quite capable of providing the guidance and recommendations needed for this important position in our State Government.

I appreciate you taking the time to review my comments pertaining to this nomination. Please do not hesitate to contract me if you have any questions or concerns.

I hope you will support the nomination of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. She will fulfill this responsibility with honor and respect.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Robb (R)  
Partner / Fine Homes Specialist  
(808) 262-1520 (bus)  
(808) 225-2013 (cellular)

363 Lapa Pl.  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Water and Land Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Confirmation Hearing  
Laura Thielen as Chair of the  
Department of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senator Hee:

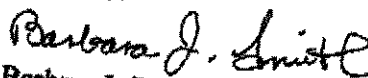
I have known Laura Thielen since she was a child. She has always impressed me as a person who is kind, considerate, intelligent, dedicated, hard working, and honest. She is not afraid to tackle hard issues, or jobs, and does her best to resolve them equitably.

Laura's career has certainly prepared her well for the position of Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). I am sure you received her resume so I will not repeat what it said. However, I will state that she has experience in environmental law and environmental issues; administration and managing skills; development of programs, policies, and procedures, all of which are qualities I feel are necessary for an appointee to the position of Chair of the DLNR. In addition, her service in many organizations taught her how to work with people with varying interests, agendas, and opinions. Again, a valuable asset for a person appointed to chair the DLNR.

I feel Laura, because of her wide range of interests and work experience, will bring to the DLNR the ability to streamline the areas that need streamlining, the vision to build on the successes of the DLNR, the capacity to encourage staff to perform to the best of their ability, the resources to get knowledgeable people to work together to improve the DLNR, and a graciousness to the position. She is highly qualified to serve in this position and I urge you and your committee to recommend to the entire Senate that she be appointed to the position of Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

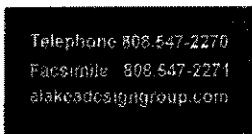
  
Barbara J. Smith





ARCHITECTURE  
PLANNING  
INTERIORS

1100 Alakea Street  
Suite 1500  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
23rd Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Laura Thielen  
DLNR Confirmation

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

This letter provides the opportunity to endorse Laura Thielen as the new DLNR Director. Laura's honesty and integrity, and her willingness to address and resolve difficult issues as evidenced in her previous position as a member of the Board of Education is sorely needed in government. Her communication skills and her ability to work with various agencies and community groups oftentimes with differing viewpoints will serve her well as the new DLNR director.

It is clear to me that Laura is an exceptional candidate and will contribute greatly in her new position.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Kujubu'.

Michael Kujubu, Managing Partner  
Alakea Design Group, LLC

MK:lm





# LABORERS-EMPLOYERS COOPERATION AND EDUCATION TRUST

VIA FACSIMILE CARE OF THE SENATE SGT-AT-ARMS 586-6659

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND:

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Members: Senator Carol I'ukunaga, Senator Jill Tokuda, Senator Paul Whalen.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF MS LAURA H. THIELEN:

Hearing Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2007  
Time: 10:30 AM  
Place: Auditorium  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Copies: 25

Subject: Supporting **MS LAURA H. THIELEN** for Consideration and Confirmation as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii.


Chair Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun and members of the Committee on Water and Land:

The Hawaii Laborers'-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (HI LECET) submits testimony in strong support of Ms Laura H. Thielen for the appointment as the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii.

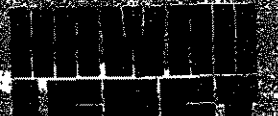
We believe Ms Laura Thielen will be an asset to the State of Hawaii serving as the Director based on her achievements, experience, and involvement with Hawaii's challenges in land and natural resource issues. She will bring a positive perspective and leadership to the Department as I have experienced debating with her our ideas and dreams for Hawaii's public education.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our support for Ms Laura H. Thielen and we ask for your affirmative advice and consent on his nomination.

Sincerely,

  
James I. Kuroiwa, Jr.  
Director

JAMES I. KUROIWA, JR.  
Director  
LABORERS' EMPLOYERS COOPERATION AND EDUCATION TRUST  
ROCCO DAVIS  
Trustee  
GEN CASAREZ  
Co-Chairman  
ROBERT TREMKLE  
Trustee  
MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES  
LARRY K. LEUNG  
(BILA)  
THOMAS TOM  
(BILA)  
Sergeant  
LANGEINOUE  
(GCLA)  
KENNETH KOBATAKE  
(GCLA)  
MICHAEL M. KASHIMA  
(GCLA)  
PETER FORD  
(GCLA)  
Hawaii LECET is a  
Labor Management  
partnership between the  
Laborers' International Union  
of North America,  
Local 308, and its  
400 Signatory employers.  
Our primary objective is  
to generate business  
opportunities for union  
contractors and  
opportunities for the Laborers'  
600 union members.



Senate Water and Land Committee  
Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair

Testimony  
In Favor of the Confirmation of Laura H.Thielen  
as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
October 25, 2007

I am testifying in support of Laura H.Thielen as the next chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. What a great leader she is. She makes me proud just to know that she has the ability to lead the most complex department in state government. She certainly is not a shrinking violet but nevertheless has great kindness. That endears her to being fair with her employees and being inclusive rather than exclusive. That also means that she works well with environmentalists and those in our Hawaiian community. She does not expect more from her staff that she does not expect from herself.

*As a member of the Board of Education she was not hesitant to state her concerns and work to correct the failures of the Department of Education. When she felt that she could be effective within the Office of Planning she rose to the occasion. She did an outstanding job while she was there.*

She is not afraid to take a position and can always justify her positions. Laura has a wonderful, supportive family. She is well educated and is always willing to learn more.

I whole heartedly support her confirmation.

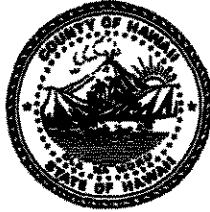
Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Laura H.Thielen.



Faith P. Evans

cc. Senator Colleen Hanabusa, President of the Senate  
Senator Jill Tokuda  
Senator Fred Hemmings, Minority Leader

**Harry Kim**  
*Mayor*



**Dixie Kaetsu**  
*Managing Director*

**Barbara J. Kossow**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## County of Hawai'i

891 Ululani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3982 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Suite 103 • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 329-5226 • Fax (808) 326-5663

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

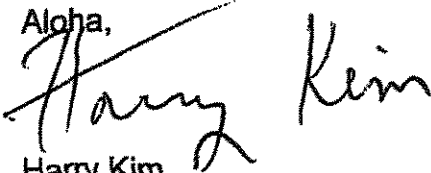
Dear Chairman Hee and Committee Members:

Please accept this testimony in support of the nomination of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Laura is being asked to take on an enormous challenge, a department that is huge and diverse. There are very few people who have the administrative experience, and knowledge of the subject area, who could step in and make a positive contribution from the start. I believe that Laura is such a person.

I hope that you will give her your favorable consideration.

Aloha,

  
Harry Kim  
MAYOR

STANFORD CARR DEVELOPMENT, LLC

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
23rd Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

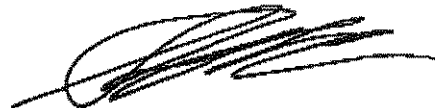
Subject: Laura Thielen  
DLNR Confirmation

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

It gives me great satisfaction to recommend Laura Thielen for the position of the DLNR Director. Laura has shown her commitment for public service in her role as the State Office of Planning Director and as a Board of Education member. She has always been honest and forthright in expressing her views and has shown a level of compassion that is sorely needed in governmental service. Laura's background in land use and environmental law makes her an excellent candidate for this position and her ability to work with differing factions will help bring stability to this department.

As a local developer with projects throughout the State, I am directly affected by the actions and policies of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. It's critical that we have a director with a vision and a resolve to provide strong leadership in this department and I am certain that Laura if given this opportunity will provide this.

Very truly yours,



Stanford Carr, President  
Stanford Carr Development, LLC

cc: Laura Thielen

# F. T. OPPERMAN CONSTRUCTION, LLC

*Commercial and Industrial Developers*

700 BISHOP STREET • SUITE 1000 • BISHOP STREET TOWER  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • PHONE (808) 523-2431 • FAX (808) 599-5818

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Water and Land Committee

Re: Confirmation Testimony on behalf of Laura H. Thielen for  
Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Senator Hee:

*Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit this letter of support wholeheartedly endorsing the appointment of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.*

I am a kamaaina haole, born in Honolulu and lived on Alewa Heights. I attended Kapalama, Roosevelt and Iolani Schools, joined the Navy in 1943 and became a small business owner in Hawaii in 1946. I commercial fished with Hawaiian Tuna Packers at Kewalo Basin, and operated Kewalo Fishing Co. & Offshore, fishing in the Hawaiian Islands and Alaska. I finally settled into construction and industrial development here in Hawaii as a general engineering contractor to the present time.

I have been a business owner in the State of Hawaii for over 50 years. My company, F. T. Opperman Co., and later F. T. Opperman Construction, LLC, was initially established in Honolulu in 1953. I first met Cynthia Thielen in the late 1960's during a landlord/tenant negotiation, and while Cynthia represented the opposing side, I was so impressed with her integrity, her honesty, and her negotiation and communication skills that I decided I wanted her on my side. Thus began a relationship with the Thielen family that has lasted more than 40 years. During this time, I have come to know Laura Thielen as well as her mother, and have seen that she posses many of the same qualities that I first admired in Cynthia – honesty, integrity, commitment to service and excellent communication and general business skills.

What also impresses me about Laura is her genuine concern for all the people of the State of Hawaii, as evidenced in her record of service over the years, and I think this would translate to a bi-partisan approach to the issues at hand and their solutions, rather than a single purpose vision that would include only one political party's agenda.

We in the State of Hawaii would greatly benefit from the appointment of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and I fully endorse and support this.

Sincerely,



F. T. Opperman, Owner  
F. T. Opperman Construction, LLC, General Engineering  
General Partner, Warehousing Co.

CC: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Jerry Edlao [edlaoj001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2007 7:13 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Russell Kokubun  
**Cc:** Sen. Colleen Hanabusa; Sen. J. Kalani English; Sen. Shan Tsutsui; Sen. Roz Baker  
**Subject:** Laura Thielen's Confirmation Hearing

Senator Hee,

As a **current member** of the Board Of Land and Natural Resources, I would like you to **support and confirmation** Laura Thielen as the New Chairperson for DLNR. During her time spent in recent meetings, she has run the meetings very well. There are a lot of issues that needs to be taken care of and we are in need of a Chairperson that will lead the board into the new year and years to come. Ms. Thielen has shown me that she will be sensitive to issues that affect not only our environment but to all concerns before the board and department. I feel that with a leader such as Laura, the board and DLNR can move forward to deal with issues affecting our Culture and Resources of Hawaii. I ask that you will confirm **Ms. Laura Thielen as DLNR's New Chair**. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, you can email me or call me on my cell (808) 281.7680. I would like to, "Thank You", in advance and your support will be greatly app[reciated].

Mahalo,

Jerry Edlao  
Maui Land Board Member

10/23/2007

Ron Terry  
10 Hina Street  
Hilo HI 96770  
rterry@hawaii.rr.com

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Via e-mail: [senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov);  
Cc: [senhanabusa@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senhanabusa@capitol.hawaii.gov); [senkokubun@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkokubun@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Senator Hee:

I would like to support the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). I have been working with Ms. Thielen in my capacity as a volunteer member of the Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC) and during her tenure as head of Office of Planning.


Her work kick-starting and building consensus on the long-stalled *Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan* (ORMP) was one of the most competent and dedicated actions I have seen a government official perform. This involved uniting a very diverse group of stakeholders behind a far-reaching and ambitious plan. If Ms. Thielen can continue as Chair of DLNR we can get to the important business of implementing the plan. The rural design guidelines workshops that she brought to the Big Island (and, I understand, the rest of the State) were very well received and informative. They were more evidence of the kind of forward-thinking planning our state needs to adopt to achieve sustainable resource use. As a member of the Mauna Kea Management Board, appointed by the Board of Regents in 2005, I would also look forward to her leadership on the very important decisions regarding Mauna Kea that will be made over the next two years, in which DLNR will be thrust into a central role.

I urge the Senate to confirm this very worthy individual in the interests of the lands and waters of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Terry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the name, there is a small, simple horizontal line that serves as a decorative flourish or underline.





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**From:** Berton Hamamoto [Berton@pixi.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2007 7:20 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Cc:** Sen. Colleen Hanabusa; Laura.Thielen@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Laura Thielen confirmation

Honorable Senators Hee and Hanabusa,

I urge you to confirm Laura Thielen as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I was fortunate to be a member of the Governor's selection committee, one of approximately 30 members each representing different groups, organizations, and industries that come in contact with DLNR. As you may know, some of these groups and industries, by nature are on opposing sides of issues. Some of the organizations are constantly at odds with DLNR and almost exist to watch over what DLNR does.

One of the traits that was of utmost importance in selecting a candidate was someone who could get the consensus of these groups, and who would be able to work with, not against these organizations. The Chairperson has to be someone who can see all sides of an issue, be able to bring the interested parties to the table for discussion and input, then be able to make the tough call on how the decision was going to play out, and still have the backing and respect of all parties involved. This is a tough job and a tough position to be in, thus the person we looked for had to have the innate leadership skills and the right personality to handle the players involved.

Laura has that ability and personality and that's why she got the overwhelming vote of approval from the selection committee. To approve her would be a step in the right direction since she is starting off with the backing of the selection committee members, many of whom represented or led those organizations. She was the number one draft choice.

Another issue that you must consider is that the State is looking for someone to run a large organization, with over a \$10 million dollar budget, but is not even close in their compensation scale in comparison to the private sector. You should be lucky that you have the quality and caliber of such an applicant willing to take on this job when she could be getting higher compensation anywhere else. My advice at the confirmation would be to ask her a couple of questions, thank her, and sign her up as quickly as you can before she realizes that she is worth a lot

10/23/2007

more than the job is offering her...then pray that she stays as long as possible.


Mahalo and Aloha,

*Berton Hamamoto-ABR, CRB, CRS, CFP - Honolulu Board of Realtors - President*

**Property Profiles Inc.**, 98-030 Hekaha St. #26 Aiea, HI 96701

Ph: (808) 487-9500 x 207 Fax: (808) 484-4051 web  
site: [www.pprofiles.com](http://www.pprofiles.com) *We are now building information-rich individual  
websites for each of our listings! To learn more about our Platinum Program for  
Sellers, [click here](#).*

Disclaimer: This e-mail is confidential and may be privileged. It may be read, copied and used only by the intended recipient. If you received it in error, please contact the sender immediately by return e-mail or by telephone at (808) 487-9500 x 207, and delete the e-mail and do not disclose its contents to anyone. Although we have taken reasonable precautions to ensure no viruses are present in this e-mail, we cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this e-mail or attachments. If you prefer not to receive promotional email messages from us, please reply to this message with "remove" in the subject line. Your name will be removed from our email list.

Parker  Ranch  
est. 1847

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Laura H. Thielen to serve as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have worked with Ms. Thielen during her tenure with the Office of Planning and find her to be well informed, articulate and balanced in her approach to issues. I believe that she is an excellent choice to serve as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and urge you to support her nomination.

Respectfully,



John B. Ray  
Trustee, Parker Ranch Foundation Trust  
Director, Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference

cc: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa

**From:** Charles Ying [cying22@gmail.com] on behalf of Charles Ying [charles@ying.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2007 12:37 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Cc:** Sen. Colleen Hanabusa  
**Subject:** Laura Thielen's testimonial

Hello Senator Hee and Senator Hanabusa,

I have known Laura Thielen and her family for decades and can think of no better candidate for the position in DLNR with her energy and dedication to environment and her sensitivity to the Hawaiian Heritage.

*Charles Ying*  
Chairman, Bitstream Inc.  
Kailua

# TOWNSCAPE, INC.

Environmental and Community Planning

900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1160, Honolulu, HI 96813  
Telephone (808) 536-6999 Facsimile (808) 524-4998  
email address: [mail@townscapeinc.com](mailto:mail@townscapeinc.com)

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Committee on Land and Water  
Hawai'i State Senate  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Dear Senators Hee and Kokubun:

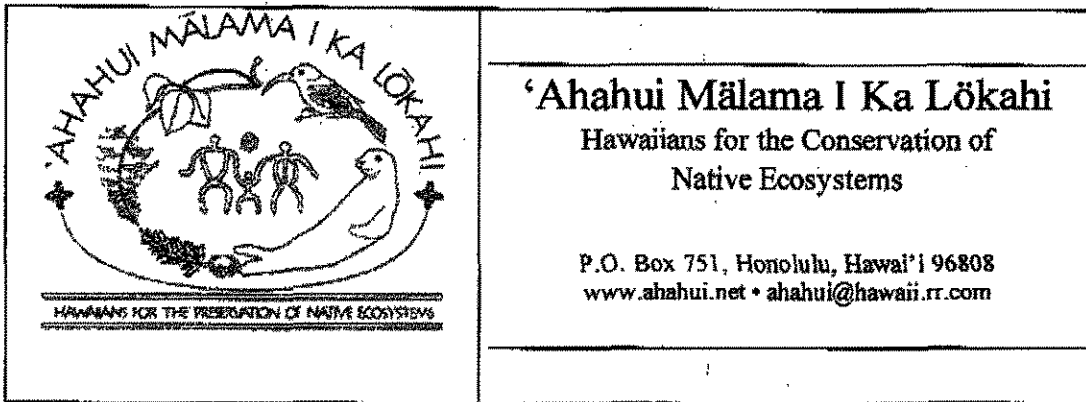
I am writing to you in support of the nomination of Laura Thielen for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I believe that Ms. Thielen is a highly intelligent and capable person, and that she has a strong commitment our community.

Ms. Thielen is an excellent choice for this very challenging position.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Tsuchida  
President



Senate Committee on Water and Land  
October 23, 2007

Relating to Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

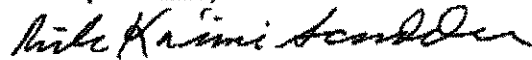
I am Rick Scudder, administrator of Ahahui Malama i ka Lokahi, a native Hawaiian conservation organization of 2000 members. We strongly urge your committee to favorably consider the confirmation of Laura Thielen as chairperson for the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Since her interim appointment as chairperson for the BLNR, we have had the pleasure of working with Laura on various issues pertaining to the protection, conservation and restoration of Hawaiian cultural and natural resources. We have personally found her to be receptive and open to the community concerns and to exert his leadership in solving the problems that are germane to her agency.

Laura Thielen has impressed us with her assistance on Kawai Nui Marsh issues with her attempts to forward the progress of its restoration. Ms. Thielen has also demonstrated leadership in seeking innovation solutions to complex resource issues, such as marine resources management and the promotion of sustainable food production in Hawaii.

We believe that Laura Thielen will make an excellent Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and strongly support her confirmation.

Aloha pumehana,



Rick "Kaimi" Scudder  
Administrator

Testimony of Rosemary T. Fazio  
In support of Laura Thielen

Hawaii State Legislature  
October 25, 2007 at 2:45 p.m. in Conference Room 225

TO: Chairperson Clayton Hee,  
Water and Land Committee

FROM: Rosemary T. Fazio  
2150 Mauna Place  
Honolulu, HI 96822

DATE: October 23, 2007

RE: Laura Thielen Confirmation Hearing (DLNR Chairperson)

*I write in strong and unequivocal support of Laura Thielen in her confirmation hearing for Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.*

Over the years, I have worked with Ms. Thielen in her capacity as an attorney. I am also an attorney. Ms. Thielen and I had several cases in which our respective clients had opposing interests. We were always able to resolve our clients' differences in a civil and expeditious manner. Ms. Thielen always worked hard to find creative ways to bring the parties together and reach fair compromises. She is extremely intelligent. Without fail, I could count on her for being prepared and working hard. Ms. Thielen will bring these qualities to bear, in addressing the many difficult problems facing the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of her confirmation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mollie Foti  
1343 Mokulua Drive  
Kailua, HI 96734

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee

Senator Colleen Hanabusa  
Senate President

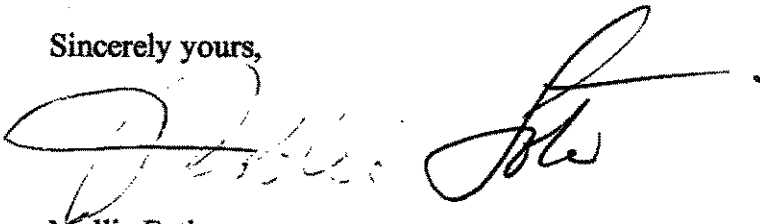
I am writing you in support of Laura Thielen, who has been nominated to be Chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I whole-heartedly support this nomination.

My involvement with DLNR goes back dozens of years to the time of Bill Paty. I have testified often before the Board on many environmental issues. My knowledge of Laura Thielen goes back even farther, to her elementary school days at the same public school my children were attending.

A DLNR Chair needs to be fair, willing to listen, have great administrative skills and vision. Based on her character, education and performance in many differing capacities over the years, I believe Laura Thielen exhibits all these qualities. She is an ideal candidate and deserves to be confirmed.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Mollie Foti



Philip H. Kinnicutt  
341 Iliaina Street  
Kailua, Oahu, HI 96734-1807  
808-254-4534  
[LEAFISHING@AOL.COM](mailto:LEAFISHING@AOL.COM)

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair  
Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Senate

Via Fax#: 808-586-7334

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Ms. Thielen for many years and have a sincere respect for her talents, dedication to public service and commitment to do what's right for Hawai'i.

If she is confirmed, she has said she will focus on three priorities: Initiating innovation, developing a common vision and mission within DLNR's departments and addressing systemic and chronic issues in the department. These are daunting challenges but I firmly believe she is capable of successfully taking them on.

I urge you and your colleagues to confirm her appointment.

Aloha,

/sig/

Philip H. Kinnicutt

cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa via Fax #: 808-586-7797

*Cindy Turner*

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1460 Kiukee Place, Kailua, Hawaii 96734 • Phone: 808-261-2179 • Fax: 808-261-2697 • e-mail: cindy@hotpixels.com

October 22, 2007

To: Senator Hee  
Fax: 586-7334  
RE: Laura Thielen's confirmation as Chairperson of DLNR

Dear Senator Hee,

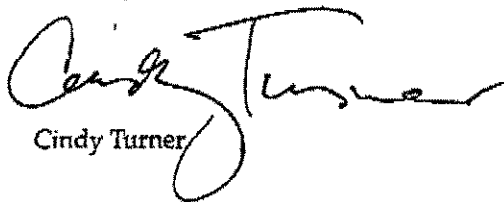
I am writing to urge you to confirm Laura Thielen as Chairperson of DLNR.

As a committed environmentalist and an owner of conservation-zoned land, I know how important this position is to the State of Hawaii and the future of our 'āina. It is vital that we properly manage and care for our forests, beaches and conservation areas for this generation and many generations to come.

I first met Laura about 8 years ago when our daughters attended the same public school. Since then we have worked together on many community-oriented projects. I know she is intelligent, compassionate and a problem-solver. She is the right person to head DLNR.

Please support Laura Thielen's confirmation.

Sincerely,

  
Cindy Turner

CC: Senator Hanabusa  
Fax: 586-7797

Senator Tokuda  
Fax: 587-7220

October 22, 2007

Dear Senators Hanabusa and Hee:

I write to commend for your approval as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Laura Thielen, who is already demonstrating her capabilities on the job.

Several Saturday's ago I watched Ms. Thielen deliver a short speech to a group of water experts from the state, the counties, and the legal community, outlining what she saw as the essential water issues facing Hawaii. That she was earlier there learning from others, and willing to articulate clearly and thoughtfully her observations on Hawaii's water circumstances left me delighted that she has been appointed to direct the DLNR. After her presentation, she made it a point to circulate in the room and listen carefully to others, demonstrating the kind of fair-minded openness we need in a Director of the DLNR.

As she has shown in her work with the State School Board and as Director of State the Office of Planning, Ms. Thielen brings to this appointment a willingness to investigate, an absence of political partisanship, candor, and substantial integrity. Her exceptional intelligence, superb education, and experience as a public servant have already been visible in her thoughtful approach to the vexed issues facing the Historic Preservation Division and the Bureau of Conveyances. Ms Thielen is a practical problem solver who keeps the long term in view, yet she has the imagination to consider the cost/benefits of new alternatives.

Having known Ms. Thielen for a generation and observed her progress as a highly effective leader and public servant, I strongly urge you to approve her appointment as Director of Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources. She will serve with distinction in one of the state's more demanding positions.

Thank you for considering my testimony.



Paul Berry  
46-158 Kiowai St. #2411  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
247-4090  
docberry@aol.com

To Whom it may Concern:

As a member of the Hawaii Conservation Voters I have watched Laura Thielen's career for the past decade. HCV has support Ms. Thielen on numerous occasions.

I have been impressed with her integrity and environmental awareness.

As an attorney for Legal Aide, she developed a nationally recognized management network that brought that decentralized organization together for organized cooperation. As a small business owner and consultant to non-profit organizations she helped these groups improve their management functions. As the Director of the Dept of Planning she was responsible for an important statewide organization.

Her background and personal values make her uniquely qualified to manage the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I urge you to support her nomination to Chair of DLNR.

William H. Sager

Kaneohe, HI 96744

## **Ira and Karen Rohter**

1684 Halekoa Drive Honolulu, Hawai`i 98621  
732-5497

### **Senators Should Confirm Laura Thielen as Director of Department of Land and Natural Resources**

***Hawai`i needs a dynamic leader to head the Department of Land and Natural Resources into the Era of Sustainability.***

**Oct 21, 2007**

Today's Superferry controversy demonstrates that Hawai`i's booming development since the 1960s has created overwhelming environmental and social problems not adequately addressed by our present fragmented and cumbersome governmental system. While the State and Counties have all kinds of planning processes on the books, too often they exist more as vague guidelines that are not followed through in any meaningful way in practice.

Issues of environmental limits and sustainability will become even more critical as the Islands begin to be impacted by Global Climate Change, and rising costs of food, energy, and transportation, due to Peak Oil driving the costs of fuel skyhigh.

Fortunately the Legislature has begun to seriously recognize the magnitude of these issues. They passed **The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2007** (Act 234 — which sets an enforceable limit on Hawaii's greenhouse gas emissions) — and established the **Hawai`i 2050 Sustainability Task Force**.

Laura Thielen, now Acting Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), represent exactly the kind of dynamic new government leadership we desperately need to take Hawai`i into the 21st Century. DLNR's main responsibilities include managing: aquatic resources, boating and ocean recreation; the Division of conservation, resource and land; and Hawai`i's forests, wildlife and state parks land, historic sites, and coastal lands. This is a daunting task by itself, but many other governmental bureaucracies have overlapping responsibilities, and too often we see agonizing slow responses (if not gridlock) from all the agencies involved.

Though I have advocated Hawai`i needs a streamlined Department of Sustainability to coordinate all these agencies, I am impressed that Laura Thielen is initiating several innovative programs within DLNR. She is working with three Departments — Agriculture; Health; and Business, Economic Development & Tourism — to proactively identify locations for environmentally and culturally responsible renewable energy and aquaculture facilities. She is developing a "common vision and mission" between the various Divisions within DLNR itself.

Thielen is unusually qualified to take on this fresh-for-government set of initiatives. She served as the Director of the State Office of Planning, which is tasked with developing comprehensive, long range and strategic planning. She administered the State's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. The Office of Planning is taking the lead in a multi-agency effort to establish, promote, and coordinate the use of geographic information systems (GIS) technology. Other projects under her guidance include reclaiming former industrial sites ("brownfields redevelopment"); "Wai`anae Ecological Characterization"; Urban Lands studies; a "Summary of Financial and Technical Assistance Programs for the Conservation of Natural Resources"; various maps; the "Leeward Coast Initiative"; the "Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan"; and the Hawaii Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Holding a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University, and a law degree, Thielen worked with LHT Services which provided project development, research and technical writing services to non-profit and governmental agencies. Thielen's forté is environmental and land-use issues. Earlier in her career, she served as the Managing Attorney of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai`i's legal hotline.

In sum, Laura Thielen is exceptionally qualified to lead the Department of Land and Natural Resources into these challenging times. Besides practicing an integrative approach to the multiplicity of environmental and land use and water use issues involved, she is firm in her commitment to expanding public participation in resolving these often contentious issues.

I hope our Senators, who have recently shown strong support of sustainability, will quickly confirm her Directorship of DLNR, and give Thielen all the assistance she needs to revitalize this important Department of Hawai`i's State government.

Ira Rohter  
Honolulu

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Ira Rohter is a professor of Political Science at the University of Hawaii --- Manoa, who teaches courses in environmental politics, and the author of *A Green Hawai`i: Sourcebook for Development Alternatives*

**Tom Dinell, FAICP  
3694 Kawelolani Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-3304**

Phone: 808-734-8102 Fax: 808-735-7686 e-mail: [dinell@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:dinell@hawaii.rr.com)

October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Hawai'i State Senate  
4125 South Beretania Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

FAX: 586-7334

Dear Senator Hee:

It is a real pleasure to urge you to confirm Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. She is a gem of a public servant and a natural for this important position.

I had the invaluable and enjoyable experience of working closely with Laura on the Office of Planning Rural Lands Project. I have been around the State for a long time and have had the opportunity to work with many state and county officials. Laura ranks among the very best of them.

- She has a keen sense of the public interest.
- She knows how to identify and reach out to the various stakeholders concerned with a specific issue.
- She recognizes the importance of relationships in implementing programs.
- She is an amazingly fast learner.
- She is as articulate as a person can be and a skilled listener.
- She understands the larger picture.
- She knows how to delegate and to provide staff members with new opportunities to contribute to accomplishing an agency's mission.
- She has an uncanny ability to cut to the heart of a problem.
- She knows what matters are open to compromise and on what issues it is important to hold the line.
- She has a deep appreciation for the richness of our natural environment and what it will take to preserve it for future generations.
- She has the demonstrated ability to work with a wide diversity of people, a diversity that is the hallmark of Hawai'i.

Letter of Endorsement for Laura H. Thielen

10/22/07

2

A couple of examples will help to illustrate what I am talking about. Laura imbued the Office of Planning, which had been treading water for quite a while, with a sense of mission and with new energy. In a number of instances, she was able to unleash staff talents that had lain underutilized for too long. I watched her engage in dialogue with staff members who desired to move planning in the State of Hawai'i to a new and higher level, not as the boss to the employee, but rather as a co-equal seeking to find a solution to a knotty problem.

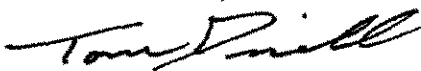
I accompanied Laura as she met with county official and legislators during her first year as State Planning Director. In these sessions, Laura demonstrated her respect for the people at the county level with whom she was working. She listened well. She asked penetrating questions. She was quick to pick-up new ideas.

I served as facilitator for a series of meetings of the state and county planning directors on rural land issues about which there was a fair degree of disagreement. As we moved toward partial consensus, Laura never once tried to use her influence to shape how I facilitated the work of the group. The respect for another professional executing his facilitative role was both clear and impressive.

Directing the Department of Land and Natural Resources is a complex and challenging assignment. Laura has the background, the experience, the talent, the vision, and the dedication to do a job as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources in which all of us can take pride.

If I can provide further comments, please let me know.

aloha nui loa,



Tom Dinell  
Emeritus Professor of Urban and Regional Planning  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Cc: Senate President Colleen Hanbusa



TESTIMONY OF ELIZABETH HAWS CONNALLY  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON WATER AND LAND  
OCTOBER 25, 2007  
2:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 225

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, LAURA H. THIELEN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-10

Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Haws Connally. I strongly support the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I am an attorney, in private practice, but I formally worked for state government where I had an opportunity to work with and observe Ms. Thielen's superior work. She is dedicated to Hawai'i's natural resources. She has proven leadership and management abilities. Ms. Thielen is an intelligent and decisive leader. Her abilities were displayed when she lead the Office of Planning to develop a long range plan for the State of Hawai'i which balances growth with responsible management of our precious natural resources.

Ms. Thielen is committed to responsible use of Hawai'i's natural resources. As a manager of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Ms. Thielen will be a steady rudder to guide the department to meet its challenges. She will lead by educating and motivating her people to achieve her far-reaching visions and goals, even when faced with limited resources.

Ms. Thielen is an asset to Hawai'i. I am honored to be able to submit testimony to this Committee to support her.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for the confirmation of Ms. Laura H. Thielen as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I support the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I am a Planning Program Administrator in the Office of Planning where Laura Thielen served as Director prior to her interim appointment at DLNR. Laura Thielen is committed to the implementation of the Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP). Laura Thielen spearheaded the preparation of the plan while director of the Office of Planning. This plan provides a new perspective to the management of ocean resources. It supports community, place-based and integrated approaches to ocean resources management. The majority of the actions in the ORMP require implementation by DLNR. Because of her commitment to the ORMP, Laura Thielen would assure that the many programs within DLNR work on and complete the actions assigned to these programs in the ORMP. She would work to be sure that the ORMP does not become just another document that sits on the shelf.

Due to her work on the ORMP, Laura Thielen is also very familiar with DLNR programs.

While at the Office of Planning, Laura Thielen led a strategic planning process for the Office which helped focus OP's efforts so as to more effectively use personnel and budgetary resources and to provide identifiable benchmarks for performance. Laura Thielen can provide the same leadership to DLNR.

Also at the Office of Planning, Laura Thielen was highly supportive of the Statewide Geographic Information System (GIS). DLNR is the largest user of GIS. This is a critical time because the GIS Program is trying to execute a state Enterprise License Agreement (ELA). DLNR's participation is essential to the execution of the ELA. With Laura Thielen at DLNR, we can be assured of a supportive partner in this important initiative.

Laura Thielen is hard-working, intelligent and articulate. These qualities plus the above listed reasons and her knowledge of DLNR's programs make her well-suited to serve as the Chairperson of DLNR.

*Mary Lou Kobayashi*

Mary Lou Kobayashi  
3325C Maunaloa Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Cc: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa

256 Opihikao Way  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825  
October 22, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. My experience with Laura was as chair and member of the Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC). MACZAC serves in an advisory capacity to the State's Coastal Zone Management Program in the Office of Planning. We are volunteers representing all islands, advocating on behalf of the public on coastal and marine issues.

When Laura first came on board as director of the Office of Planning, MACZAC had recently disagreed with the administration on two issues. One was the cancellation of a conference on the Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP), to be co-sponsored with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. The other was the role of the DLNR Chair in overseeing the Office of Planning, including the CZM Program. MACZAC had earlier testified at the Legislature against a bill that would have transferred the CZM Program to DLNR.

Given this context, our group took a "wait and see" attitude toward Laura. We first got to know her at one of our quarterly meetings. This one was held on Lanai, including an evening public meeting, so we had more than just a few hours to get to know her. My initial impression was positive. I think what impressed me most was Laura's willingness to listen and learn. The other thing that impressed me was that she learned so quickly and soon had a solid grasp of the issues we dealt with.

I got to know Laura better as a member of the Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council (HOCC), established by executive order to guide development of the Hawaii ORMP. The Office of Planning was responsible for updating the ORMP, which was long overdue. Laura took a strong leadership role in this process—reaching out to a wide range of stakeholders, convening a public workshop, and personally shepherding preparation of the plan document. I think I speak for all MACZAC members who were involved with the ORMP that without Laura's commitment, professionalism, and openness, the State of Hawaii would not have an Ocean Resources Management Plan distinguished by its holistic, integrated approach.

With Laura at the helm of DLNR, I'm confident that the ORMP stands a good chance of being implemented—perhaps not as quickly as some would wish, given budget

constraints, but it would be a live document driving decisions "from the mountains to the sea." Lest some people think that the scope of the ORMP is relatively narrow, it is worth remembering that *all* of Hawaii is within the coastal zone. The ahupua'a concept is an overarching theme of the ORMP, in recognition of our irreplaceable natural and cultural resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Laura Thielen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan A. Sakai", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan A. Sakai

cc: Senator Sam Slom  
Laura Thielen  
Arnold Lum

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

Subject: Senate Committee on Water and Land, October 25, 2007, 2:45 p.m.  
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as Chairperson of the Board  
of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, Laura H. Thielen,  
for a Term to Expire 12-31-2010

I am writing to support the appointment and confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Ms. Thielen did a great job while Director of the Office of Planning and helped to develop long-range and strategic plans for the State that balanced growth with management of our precious natural resources. For example, she was instrumental in overseeing the development of a strong ocean plan, *The Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan*, which will reshape the way our State manages our ocean and coastal resources.

As part of her clerical staff for two years, I found that she was very pleasant, organized, efficient, and passionate about everything she undertook. Her enthusiasm was infectious, and she challenged staff to bring out their best abilities.

I am confident that she is the right person to lead the Department of Land and Natural Resources and has the dedication to achieve improvements in the management, preservation, and protection of our Island's natural resources.

I hope you will support and confirm her appointment as Director of DLNR.

Sincerely,



Fay Nishimoto

c: The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
The Honorable Sam Slom



*'A'ole pau ka 'ike i ka hualau hā'ohāhi*

## **Connections Public Charter School**

*A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana*

October 23, 2007

Senator Hee:

I am the principal of Connections Public Charter School and I strongly support Laura Thielen's confirmation as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. As a member of the State Board of Education, she was a tireless advocate for reform. Laura took the time to delve into the serious issues and speak with an informed voice. She withstood petty political attacks on her character while maintaining her dignity. Her greatest strength was her ability to truly listen to community concerns and advocate for positive solutions. She is the only member of the BOE that has visited our school in the Kress Building in Hilo more than once. She found the time to talk to parents, students and members of our Local School Board and staff about our concerns, hopes and vision. Laura knew about the serious issues surrounding facilities, funding and equity at charter schools. She understood these challenges because she took her place as an active member of our community. Her vision for the development of partnerships created opportunities for the charter school community to mature with a commitment to form effective models of reform. She honored our diversity and never sought simple solutions to our complex issues.

Jeff Mikulina called the job of DLNR director "an increasingly challenging role." Laura sees the opportunities in challenges. She knows that "DLNR is plagued with problems that need to be fixed" and she has the vision and fortitude to move strategically through these difficult times. One of her goals for DLNR is to have "government work proactively to implement positive policies." Too often we see government agencies moving from crisis to crisis; putting out the fires. Laura has a vision for changing how government works. She is committed to working with communities to coordinate efforts and form partnerships to solve serious problems. Her extensive background and proven abilities as a community advocate will ensure effective solutions that protect, preserve and enhance Hawai'i's resources.

The charter school community in Hawai'i lost our most effective proponent on the BOE when Laura resigned to become director of the State Office of Planning. But the entire state now has an opportunity to gain through the compassionate services of a highly effective leader. Many are saying that the issues surrounding the Superferry are creating tremendous rifts in communities throughout the state. There are no easy solutions. Laura Thielen can find solutions to heal these rifts if appointed Chairperson of DLNR. Our state motto cries for righteousness in determining the actions of this department. Laura Thielen is the right person for the job. Please support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

John Thatcher

174 Kamehameha Ave., Hilo, Hawai'i - Phone 1-866-961-3664 FAX 1-808-961-2665  
Email: [cpcs@aloha.net](mailto:cpcs@aloha.net)

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land,  
Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee:

**Subject: Senate Committee on Water and Land Hearing  
Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2:45 PM**

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the appointment and confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

As secretary for Ms. Thielen while she was the Director at the Office of Planning (OP), I've found her dedication to understand our office and the support she has given to be admirable. She is a good leader, hard worker and highly motivated in making a difference in State government. OP now has a Strategic Plan as well as Operational Plans that are being implemented thanks to her guidance and direction.

I am very grateful for all Ms. Thielen has done to bring out the best in OP. I am really amazed at how much she accomplished in such a short time and I know, without a doubt, that she will be a great asset at DLNR and hope you will support and confirm her appointment as Director.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Teri Hee  
909 Ala Nanala Street, #1704  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

cc: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa  
Senator Norman Sakamoto

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



ROBERT G. F. LEE  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

GARY M. ISHIKAWA  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee and Committee Members  
Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing to support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. She has served as the Interim Chair since July 30, 2007.

Ms. Thielen legal focus on land use and environmental issues began as a lawyer in Ohio. Her focus strengthened in Hawaii with the law firm of Gerson Grekin Wynhoff & Thielen. She has been a consultant to state agencies including the Attorney General's office, University of Hawai'i Foundation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Department of Health. She has served as a managing attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i. She has worked with nonprofit groups including the Hawai'i Justice Foundation, and Hawai'i Foster Parent Association.

Ms. Laura Thielen will serve with distinction as the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Her broad experience base only adds to her leadership capabilities. I ask you and the Committee on Water and Land confirm her as the Chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary M. Ishikawa".

GARY M. ISHIKAWA  
Brigadier General  
Hawaii National Guard  
Deputy Adjutant General

cc: Senator Hanabusa



WILLIAM W. PATY

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee  
Chairperson  
Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of DLNR

Mr. Chairman, members:

My name is Bill Paty and I am in support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as chairperson of DLNR.

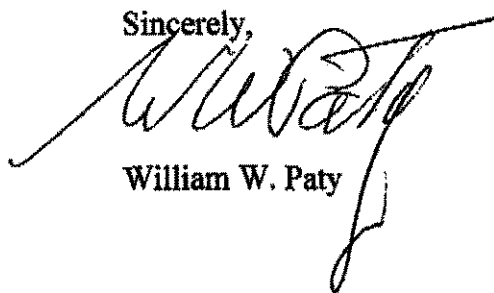
Having spent some time in that position, I'm not sure why I would want to endorse anyone for the job. Shortly after I was confirmed, I ran into Rod McFee and he said, "Congratulations on a great no-win opportunity." He wasn't far from wrong.

I was recently a member of the governor's 30 person search committee for the DLNR position. It was quite a diverse group, representing a wide range of interests and experience. The committee was all but unanimous in recommending her name to the governor.

I believe she has made a good start in addressing some of the must-fix issues. She has a short time frame and a rocky road ahead. Any delay at this time would be counter-productive.

I would strongly recommend that the interests of the department and the state would best be served by confirming her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Paty", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then loops back down.

William W. Paty

October 22, 2007

The Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land  
Hawai'i State Senate

Supporting Confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson, Department of Land and  
Natural Resources

As a professional land use planner practicing in Hawai'i for the past 30 years, I have taken a sustained interest in State planning. My professional experience includes consultant work for the State on the "Administrative Guidelines" for the Hawai'i State Plan (1970's) and the Conservation District Management Plan (1990's). Previously as President of the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Planning Association and in other roles, I have advocated before the Legislature to improve planning and management of "Rural" and "Agricultural" lands. I also served on the 2003-'04 Agriculture Working Group, which drafted an LAL bill.

I strongly support the nomination of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I know Ms. Thielen through professional contacts, and she strikes me as a person of intelligence and integrity. She has provided capable leadership and gained valuable experience as Director of the State Office of Planning – an important sister agency to DLNR. In particular, I credit the Office under Ms. Thielen's direction with undertaking the "Rural Policy and Best Practices" project.

With two workshops in each county, the "Rural Policy and Best Practices" project engaged the county planning departments and other key stakeholders in assessing state-of-the-art practices in rural planning. Through publication of the "Practitioners' Guide to Low-Impact Development," the project documented and publicized alternative environmental and public works standards for rural areas (existing State and county standards are based on urban models). Over the past 10 years, the Legislature, Administration and counties have been engaged in an extended discussion of policies to deal with "gentleman estate" subdivisions being developed on lands zoned for agricultural use. The "Rural Policy and Best Practices" project contributed practical, "how-to" information and land management tools to what has too often been a theoretical debate.

I believe that Ms. Thielen's broad professional and administrative experience makes her well-qualified for the position of DLNR Chairperson. Her commitment to cross-agency collaboration promises good results in the vital area of resource conservation.

*Robin Foster*  
Robin Foster • Member, American Institute of Certified Planners  
426 Ii'aina Street • Kailua, Hawai'i • 96734

c Hon. Colleen Hanabusa, Senate President

Ann Ogata-Deal  
368 Elelupe Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

October 23, 2007

Honorable Clayton Hee  
Senator and Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawaii. I am a Planning and Policy Analyst at the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, Office of Planning (OP), since November 2000. My support for Ms. Thielen is based on my personal knowledge of her tenure as Director of the Office of Planning.

Laura Thielen is eminently qualified to head the Department of Land and Natural Resources. At OP, she demonstrated her ability to enter into a new, complex working environment, do the necessary research and fact-finding to understand the organization, its people, strengths, and needs, and through consensus, to efficiently move the organization towards its goals.

Under her tenure, the Office of Planning developed and began implementation of a comprehensive strategic plan. This was critical to understanding the ideal interrelationships between the Hawaii CZM Program and other programs of OP and in setting a coordinated context for CZM policy and management activities. Also under Ms. Thielen's tenure, the Hawaii CZM Program developed its Operational Plan, based on the OP Strategic Plan. This Operational Plan guides the work of the Hawaii CZM Program and continues to improve our effectiveness and efficiency.

With an eye on the big picture, Ms. Thielen was also able to simultaneously zero in on the details of specific projects and to provide guidance and support as necessary. In the areas under my responsibility, I found that Ms. Thielen made the time to learn the area, to listen to her staff, to ask good questions, and to offer ideas based on a synthesis her broad-based experience. Ms. Thielen did this consistently. The specific program areas referred to here include the coastal hazards and performance measures projects of the Office of Planning.

Laura Thielen has the energy, vision, determination, and experience to very ably serve as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Please confirm her nomination.

Sincerely,



Ann Ogata-Deal

c: Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, Senate President

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and  
Hawaiian Affairs  
State Capitol

Dear Senator Hee:

My name is Douglas Tom, and I am the Planning Program Manager in the Office of Planning responsible for the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. I am endorsing Laura Thielen's confirmation for Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I worked directly with and was accountable to her from April, 2005, to July, 2007, when she was Director of the Office of Planning. She was a capable leader and administrator, and I believe she would be an effective chairperson for the board and department.

Ms. Thielen has good conceptual and analytical skills. At the Office of Planning, she directed operations effectively and efficiently under an open and agreed upon context so that discussion and implementation of policies, directives, and tasks were reasonable and acceptable. We collaborated on various substantive, administrative, and personnel matters to enhance the CZM Program and improve its efficiency. We also collaborated on planning and program concepts to provide the Office of Planning context for project management and staff activities. The result was a defined office operation with clear purposes and expectations.

She provided me valuable and welcome support. At the state and county policy level, she helped communicate and secure state and county policy level support for CZM matters, most notably the Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP). Her willing leadership and support in the plan development process made a positive impact on our work effort and contributed much to the public's acceptance of the ORMP.

She is also remarkably dedicated to public service. Her open acknowledgement of public opinion that sustainability of natural and cultural resources required a new planning and management perspective was refreshing from a planning perspective. Together, we met with various public groups to educate them about CZM in general and the ORMP in particular. As a result of the public dialogue, our development of the ORMP based on three perspectives rather than a description of ocean resources and uses as sectors or functions in the traditional fashion was well received. Many individuals and organizations are expressing interest in participating in this exciting plan's implementation and further development. I am also delighted to report that the ORMP is receiving national and international attention. In fact, we have been requested to do a presentation on the plan at the national CZM program managers' meeting in Washington,

D.C. in March, 2008. As the manager responsible for the ORMP, I am grateful for her interest, leadership, and active support.

At the broader office level, Ms. Thielen advocated broad office goals and worked with the management team to determine how the parts of the office might better *interrelate to improve the office system and achieve its goals*. We now have an office-wide strategic plan in effect that outlines program and inter-program activities to achieve goals through optimal use of human and fiscal resources. This essence of planning and administration is desirable, or even essential, to the success of a large organization, public or private, especially one with numerous and varied functions and responsibilities.

These and other experiences demonstrate her ability to lead. I am confident she will work with the management team in the Department of Land and Natural Resources in the same way she worked with us in the Office of Planning toward developing unity in departmental goals and efficient and effective collaboration among the programs.

In my view, she has the ability and dedication to be an effective leader at the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I encourage your confirmation of her appointment to that position.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my assessment of Ms. Laura Thielen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas S.Y. Tom". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Douglas S.Y. Tom

cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa  
Senate President

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I wish to express my support for the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Laura Thielen is definitely the right person to lead and organize DLNR into an effective agency. As a planner with the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program within the Office of Planning, I had the opportunity to work with Laura Thielen when she was Director from April 2005 through July 2007. There are two characteristics of Laura Thielen that stand out as being exceptional, her leadership and her organizational skills. These attributes enable her to be a very effective director.

Laura Thielen has strong leadership because she has the ability to see the big picture, such as the mission of a State agency, as well as understand the details. She assesses situations quickly and accurately, identifies the optimum outcome, then sets goals necessary to achieve results. Laura Thielen's ability to make expedient and informed decisions combined with her efficient and direct approach contributes to her strong leadership. She communicates clearly what needs to be done and is very results oriented. The Hawaii Ocean Resources Plan (ORMP), which was published by the Office of Planning in December 2006, is a direct result of Laura's guidance and leadership. The ORMP is a document that not only serves as the State's ocean policy, but it is a plan that can and is being implemented. Under her direction the ORMP developed into a plan that coordinates and sets policy direction for the vast breadth and diversity of uses and resources that ocean resource management entails.

Laura Thielen's organizational skills are outstanding. Her organizational skills are reflected in the development of the Office of Planning's strategic plan and operational plan. The Office of Planning did not previously have a strategic plan or operational plan. Laura saw the need for a strategic plan to optimize the functions of OP and set the direction for achieving results in the areas that OP is responsible for. She literally rolled-up her sleeves and personally guided and worked on the in-house development of the operational plan. Not only was she able to assess what was needed and what needed to be done, but she was also open and willing to make the necessary changes to both the operation and organization of OP.

Laura Thielen is an effective leader who achieves results.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you and your committee.

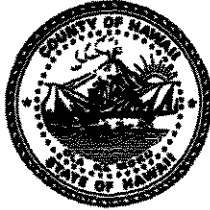
Sincerely,



John Nakagawa  
284 Iliaina Street  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa

**Harry Kim**  
*Mayor*



**Dixie Kaetsu**  
*Managing Director*

**Barbara J. Kossow**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## County of Hawai'i

891 Ululani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3982 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Suite 103 • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 329-5226 • Fax (808) 326-5663

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Hee and Committee Members:

I am pleased to support the nomination of Laura Thielen for Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Ms. Thielen is not taking on an easy task, but she has an energetic perspective that makes her particularly well-suited to the challenges. She knows the department, she is an experienced administrator, and she has shown a lifetime commitment to the people of Hawaii. I believe she will be a good guardian of the state's natural resources, and I hope she will have your support.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Very truly yours,

Andrew Levin  
Executive Director

Senator Clayton Hee.

Fax – 586-7334

Senator Colleen Hanabusa

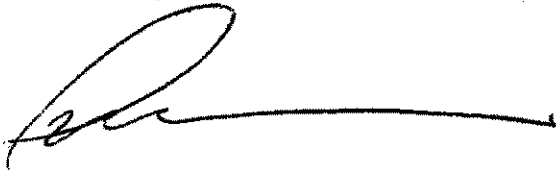
Fax – 586-7797

October 23, 2007

As a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation boat owner in this state, who has owned his own boat for over 35 years, and a Kaneohe resident. I want to urge you to confirm Laura Theilen to the office of Director of the DLNR.

I am confident she will do a great job in this sadly needed area

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gib Black', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gib Black

44-531 Kaneohe bay drive

Kaneohe, HI 96744

Ph. 531-4277



4389 Malia St. #463

Honolulu, HI 96821-1173

(808)955-1783

Email: sharonmcphee@yahoo.com

Oct. 23 - 2007

Sex Harassment 586 - ~~7797~~ 7797  
Sex Nee 586 - 7334

Laura Thielaw's credentials truly qualify her for this very important position as Director of the D.N.L.R.


Believed that, her vision for going forward and that change is necessary for our state with so much at stake for our future. She represents the generation inheriting the land and policies we citizens want to have incorporated.

Laura is a wonderful person, dedicated, caring, honest, and a loyal citizen. My late husband Rod McPhee and I have followed her excellent and commitment to community service to benefit all of us.

It is an honor to write this letter.

With aloha and thanks,

Sharon S. McPhee



---

**From:** john crouch [hydrogen@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2007 12:38 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Subject:** Laura Thielen confirmation

Aloha Senator Hee,

I am enthusiastic about the possible confirmation of Laura Thielen. We need to have people in government with the well rounded background which she represents.

We need to move our state forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with Power supplied by renewable energy – and we need the energy to renew our government thinking.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, John

John J. Crouch  
Senior Consultant Pacific Region  
Project Manager - Lanai  
**SunPower Corporation**  
P.O. Box 38-4299  
Waikoloa, HI 96738  
[www.sunpowercorp.com](http://www.sunpowercorp.com)  
[jcrouch@sunpowercorp.com](mailto:jcrouch@sunpowercorp.com)  
[hydrogen@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hydrogen@hawaii.rr.com)  
direct 808.883.9411  
fax 808.883.9119  
cell 808.989.1637

10/23/2007

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land,  
Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee:

I am writing to strongly support the appointment and confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I am an Information Technology Specialist with the State Geographic Information System (GIS) Program in the State Office of Planning (OP), and served in that capacity while Ms. Thielen was the Director of OP.

When she began as the OP Director, Laura quickly learned about GIS technology and its uses, and became an advocate and a champion of GIS overall and especially in State government. She understood and advocated the use of GIS maps and data to help in decision making and to convey complex relationships and ideas. She also understood the necessity of sharing data between State agencies and with other entities, and helped to improve the relationships and coordination that make those exchanges happen. The State GIS users were especially excited to have Laura appointed as our Director, since they could sense an increased level of support and momentum for the program. She encouraged our program to pursue the goals listed in our GIS Strategic Plan, namely: increase accessibility of GIS data and software; improve data sharing between agencies; begin integrating non-geospatial data with the GIS system; and institutionalize training to existing and potential users of the system. Thanks to Laura's leadership and support, we have made progress on our goals.

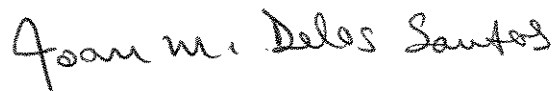
One thing that I especially appreciated during her tenure as the OP Director was Laura's "open door policy" with staff. If our program was struggling with how to approach a certain aspect of our strategic plan, we could go to Laura for ideas and suggestions. We were also always free to express our opinion to Laura in relation to various GIS activities and initiatives – she didn't always agree with us, but she was always willing to listen and to seriously consider our point of view. In addition, she came to respect and rely upon the professional expertise and opinions of the GIS staff in applying the technology to various issues facing the State and in carrying out our mission.

Laura demonstrated many attributes of a good manager. One such attribute that I was particularly impressed with was her concern for the professional development of OP staff. In my own case, knowing that I had a fear of public speaking, Laura encouraged me to find opportunities to take steps to challenge myself to overcome the fear, such as participating in and conducting meetings, doing presentations, and enrolling in classes that might help to develop confidence in this area. She encouraged all of us in the program to stretch beyond our comfort levels to attain our goals and the goals of the program and the office.

In summary, I believe that Laura Thielen was an asset to the Office of Planning, and particularly the State GIS Program while she was our Director. I sincerely believe that she would be just as great an asset to the State if confirmed as the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support.

Sincerely,



Joan M. Delos Santos  
47-152 Lile Pl.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

cc: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa



# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

The William S. Richardson School of Law  
2515 Dole Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-6550 • Facsimile: (808) 956-6402  
(808) 956-5569

David L. Callies  
*Benjamin A. Kudo Professor of Law*

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination of Laura Thielen for Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senator Hee,


It is with considerable pleasure and enthusiasm that I write to support the nomination of Laura H. Thielen for Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department). I have been professionally acquainted with Ms. Thielen for about six years, primarily through her work as head of the state Office of Planning. I write and teach about land and natural resources, and served for many years on the state's advisory committee for conservation lands during the formulation of both drafts of the State Conservation Lands Functional Plan. These experiences lead me to conclude that the Department's vast responsibilities are land and water intensive, and success in chairing its governing Land Board depends on working with the legislature and the public.

With her years of service as head of the state Office of Planning, Ms. Thielen brings to the Department a wealth of experience in land and water planning and plan implementation, together with considerable participation in, and knowledge of, the politics of state government. She is bright, articulate, and hard-working. Her credentials for the position of Chairperson are impeccable. I am pleased to support her nomination without reservation.

Respectfully yours,

David L. Callies  
Kudo Professor of Law

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



---

**From:** Peter Chessen [PeterC@cbpacific.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2007 2:09 PM  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients  
**Subject:** You have my support of Laura Thielen's nomination as Chairperson of DLNR.

**Aloha**

**I am writing to you in my support of Laura Thielen's nomination as Chairperson of DLNR.**

**As the member of the BOC Working Group representing all the Realtors' in Hawaii, I was very impressed by the professional way Laura conducted your first meeting and her knowledge was amazing.**

**The BOC is so far behind and out dated it is to Ms. Thielen's credit that she has moved so fast in setting up the BOC Working Group to help get the BOC up to date.**

*Peter Chessen, Realtor*  
**Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties**  
**International President's Elite**

*1314 King St. 2nd Floor*

*Honolulu Hawaii 96814*

*593-6429 office*

*To discontinue receiving commercial e-mail from me:*

- 1. Press the Reply button,*
- 2. Change the subject line to read "Discontinue commercial e-mails",*
- 3. Press the Send button.*



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, HONOLULU  
FORT SHAFTER, HAWAII 96858-5440

October 23, 2007

Civil and Public Works Branch  
Programs and Project Management Division

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Hee:

I believe that Ms. Laura Thielen, current Interim Chairperson and Director, should be confirmed as the Chairperson and Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). As a government partner representative on the DLNR Director Search Committee, I can attest that the search process was done in an open manner and provided fair opportunities to all persons interested in the position.

The purpose of the Search Committee was to encourage and solicit qualified persons to apply for the vacant Chairperson position, develop a short-list of those applicants most qualified, and recommend the 3 most qualified applicants to the Governor for selection. It was my understanding that the Governor was not bound to select from those applicants recommended by the Committee. The Committee consisted of various persons representing DLNR staff, native Hawaiian organizations, environmental organizations, hunting and fishing groups, and other agencies that have a stake in DLNR business.

Advertisements of the position were run in major local newspapers across the State. A total of 34 applicants submitted resumes and were considered by the Search Committee. Using various methods, including a weighted criteria method, 6 applicants were identified as most interesting to the Committee and worthy of an interview. Interviews were conducted on June 18, 2007. All interviewees were asked the same questions in the presence of the full Committee. Upon conclusion of the interviews, the Committee voted on the candidates to recommend to the Governor. Due to the disparity of votes between the top two candidates and the third candidate, the Committee elected not to submit the name of a third candidate for the Governor's consideration.

Given the diversity of the Search Committee members, that is the wide range of personalities and interest, you can imagine that the process of deciding upon the most qualified candidates was not easy to reach. Members debated each candidate's merits and shortcomings. However, in the end, the top two candidates received nearly unanimous endorsement from all members. One of the two recommended candidates is Ms. Laura Thielen. For these reasons, I believe that Ms. Thielen should be confirmed as the Chairperson and Director of the DLNR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek J. Chow', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DEREK J. CHOW  
Chief, Civil and Public Works Branch

CF:

Senator Colleen Hanabusa  
Senator Russell Kokubun  
Senator Carol Fukunaga  
Senator Jill Tokuda  
Senator Paul Whalen



Richard A. Wheelock  
1607 Mokulua Drive  
Kailua, HI 96734

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairperson  
State of Hawaii Senate  
Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Via email

RE: Confirmation of Laura Thielen to head the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senator Hee,

I write this letter to urge you and the other Committee and Senate members to confirm Laura Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Laura for decades through my friendship with her dad Mickey Thielen and her mom Cynthia Thielen. Laura is from a large ohana and was raised on Windward Oahu, and has a special feeling for the a'ina and it's people in my opinion. She is even keeled and able to deal with a multitude of related issues, and seems to get a clear vision of the big picture pretty rapidly, at the same time being able to grasp the finer points and aspects of differing viewpoints and issues. I think these skills will be very helpful in her position at the DLNR.

She is well educated and has a strong background in land use and management. Her people skills are excellent, she is a "get it done" type person that brings out the best in most people, and she shares the credit for accomplishments the same way she seeks input for decision making, no grandstanding or self-congratulations in her management style. At the same time, when she feels committed to a course, she is not one to be steamrolled either. I think these skills will also be handy at the DLNR.

In summary, Laura is an "island girl" with very good educational and management skills, interested in getting all stakeholders' input before making decisions. She works well with others but does not have a problem implementing decisions and taking actions once committed. She has a special sensitivity to the environment and the keiki o ka a'ina.

You would be hard pressed to find a better suited person for this position at this time, in my humble opinion.

Me ke aloha,

Richard A. Wheelock

RAW: raw

CC: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa via email  
Senator Fred Hemmings via email

October 22, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
The Honorable Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water & Land  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **LAURA THIELEN**

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Kokubun:

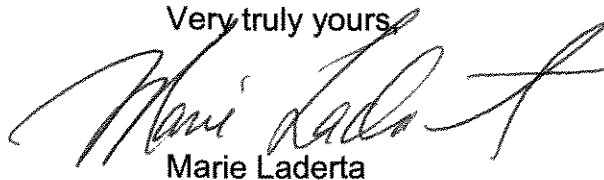
I am writing in **STRONG** support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Laura to be a sincere person who will truly do the right thing to lead the Department of Land and Natural Resources in fulfilling its mission. She has extensive experience in land use and environmental issues.

She has already made progress in the multitude of problems facing the Bureau of Conveyance. Her fair-mindedness and tenacity in approaching a problem makes her the ideal leader to deal with long-standing tough issues facing DLNR.

Laura's training as a lawyer also adds to her strength. I have seen her take an issue or problem, chart a clear strategic path and go at it with all her will. I firmly believe Laura Thielen to be the best person to take on the challenges at DLNR.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Laderta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "L".

Marie Laderta



**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT  
OF THE CONFIRMATION OF LAURA H. THIELEN AS  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2:45 p.m., Room 225  
(25 Copies Needed) Fax to 586-6659**

Dear Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) supports the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

As the former Director of the Office of Planning, TPL worked with Ms. Thielen in accessing federal Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program funds for the preservation of 1,129 acres at Pūpūkea-Paumalū on O'ahu's North Shore, and 225 acres at Honu'apo Fishpond and Estuary along the Ka'ū coast of Hawai'i Island. Ms. Thielen was supportive, responsive, and fostered the often complex public-private partnerships that made these projects successful.

Given the importance and complexity of the Chair's position, a thorough but timely confirmation process would assist the Department in moving forward to face its many acknowledged challenges. We look forward to working with Ms. Thielen in the future and urge you to confirm her nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lea Hong", is written over the typed name.

Lea Hong  
Hawaiian Islands Program Director  
(808) 524-8563  
lea.hong@tpl.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE: Thursday, October 25, 2007

TIME: 2:45 P.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225

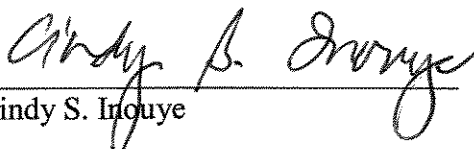
Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Kokubun and Members of the Committee:


I am the deputy director of the Department of Human Resources Development. I am writing in strong support of Laura Thielen's confirmation as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have had an opportunity to work directly with Ms. Thielen for the past several months in connection with my department's efforts to assist the State Historic Preservation Division ("SHPD") fill its vacant positions.

I have found Ms. Thielen to be very intelligent, articulate and decisive. She clearly has a good grasp on the challenges being faced by SHPD and has taken a very proactive approach toward finding solutions. I believe that she is guiding SHPD in a very positive direction, and that she deserves and opportunity to "see things through." Ms. Thielen's management skills, breadth of experience, and determination make her precisely the type of person that can effectively lead a complex department such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I am confident that she will do an excellent job.

I respectfully request that you support Ms. Thielen's confirmation. Thank you for your consideration.

  
Cindy S. Inouye

  
Date

**October 24,2007**

**Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair  
Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Senate**

**via Fax#: 808-586-7334**

**Dear Senator Hee,**

**I am writing to enthusiastically support the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.**

**I have known Laura since she was in my 1st and 2nd grade classroom for two years as my student. I have had an ongoing relationship with her ever since and have been very impressed with her commitment to public service and to our environment in Hawaii. I have talked with her about various concerns when she was on the Kailua Neighborhood Board and the Board of Education. I know her to be highly intelligent, a fast learner, a creative problem solver, very articulate, and a very dilligent worker. She listens carefully and gives quite thoughtful answers to problems.**

**I was on the Kailua Neighborhood board for many years as the chairman of the Environment Committee so I am very familiar with the purposes of the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources. I know that Laura is totally committed to protecting and preserving Hawaii and will work deligently to that end. I feel she is the perfect person for this job.**

**Aloha,**

**Annetta Kinnicutt  
341 Iliaina St.  
Kailua, Oahu, Hi 96734  
808-254-4534**

**cc:Senator Colleen Hanabusa via Fax #808-586-7797**

To: Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair of Water and Land Committee

Dear Senator Hee,

My name is Manuel Santos and I'd like to say a few words on behalf of Laura Theilan who will appear before you for conformation as Chairperson for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I've had a plumbing business in Kailua for many years and I come from the old school. I did vote for Franklin Roosevelt so that tells you a sense of my age.

I am sure you have all the information on Laura regarding her qualifications, education etc. What you may not know is about the person she is and that's where I can help.

As a young girl going to Lanikai Elementary School I could see her ability to get along with her classmates and having so many friends told me that she would have a very bright future.

As I expected Laura Theilan grew up to my expectations and beyond. She is easy to get along with, a very good listener but also very determined in solving a problem.

In my estimation Laura is the type of person we need as a Chair Person. She is able to weigh information from opposing view points and find a common ground.

I am confident that her strong views on preserving our island environment will serve the people of Hawaii well.

Sincerely,




Manuel B. Santos  
59-642 Pupukea Road  
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712

CC: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa



October 24, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chairperson,  
Judiciary and Labor  
Hawaii State Legislature

Dear Senator Hee: 

This letter is in support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I worked with Laura Thielen when she was executive director of the Office of State Planning and before that in various capacities. She is a good communicator, someone who looks for consensus, and is an effective advocate for whatever issues she is dealing with at the time. Her experience as a lawyer should also be very valuable in dealing with land use and environmental issues.

After serving as Director of the State Department of Health and Deputy Director for Environmental Health for 12 years before that, I am very familiar with the chronic problems at the Bureau of Conveyances and many of the other challenges that need to be resolved at DLNR. I believe Laura has the energy, willingness, and commitment to effectively deal with these and other challenges of the position.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Laura's confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.  
President

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** mike burke [burkem008@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2007 9:35 AM  
**To:** senanabusa@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Cc:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Subject:** SUPPORTING LAURA THIELEN'S CONFIRMATION

DEAR COLLEEN,

I WRITE TO URGE YOUR APPROVAL OF LAURA THIELEN'S NOMINATION.

AS I HAVE MENTIONED TO YOU IN PERSON, I HAVE KNOWN LAURA FOR MANY YEARS NOW. WE HAVE SPENT HOURS TALKING ABOUT HER INTEREST IN PUBLIC SERVICE--AND HER VIEW OF HAWAII'S GOALS AND NEEDS.

WHILE LAURA AND I DO NOT NECESSARILY AGREE ON EVERY POINT, SHE IS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN THE VIEWPOINT OF OTHERS. SHE LISTENS FAR MORE OFTEN THAN TALKS, AND SHOWS GREAT RESPECT FOR DIFFERING OPINIONS AND IDEAS. HER OPENNESS TO THE THOUGHTS OF OTHERS IS JUST WHAT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES NEEDS TO PROTECT HAWAII'S FUTURE.

ONE OF LAURA'S STRONGEST ASSETS SHE BRINGS TO PUBLIC SERVICE IS A KEEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF HER APPOINTMENT. YOU CAN TRUST HER TO MAKE DECISIONS AND ACT UPON THEM SOLELY FOR HAWAII'S GOOD. HER TRACK RECORD HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THIS UNDERSTANDING AND THE BRAVERY IT TAKES TO ACT UPON IT WHEN EXPEDIENCY SUGGESTS OTHERWISE FOR SELF-PROMOTION.

LAURA KNOWS HAWAII'S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AND IS SENSITIVE TO THE MYRIAD POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PRESSURES WHICH ARE ALWAYS PRESENT IN PUBLIC INTEREST DECISION-MAKING. SHE KNOWS THAT WORKING WITH OTHERS TO ACHIEVE A REASONABLE AND WORTHWHILE CONSENSUS IS AT THE HEART OF FURTHERING HAWAII'S FUTURE. WHILE HARDLY A "YES-WOMAN" TO ANY PARTICULAR INTEREST, POLITICAL OR OTHERWISE, LAURA IS QUITE PRAGMATIC AND GOAL-ORIENTED. THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES NEEDS JUST THIS APPROACH.

LAURA IS A SUCCESSFUL EXECUTIVE MANAGER. FROM OUR TALKS, I KNOW SHE ENJOYS THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY MANAGEMENT OF A LARGE OFFICE AND IS UNAFRAID TO ROLE UP HER SLEEVES AND SOLVE

10/24/2007



ROAD BLOCKS, BE THEY PERSONNEL ISSUES OR SYSTEM FLAWS. AGAIN, THE DEPARTMENT NEEDS SUCH A HANDS-ON APPROACH. IT NEEDS LAURA TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND STEP UP WHEN NECESSARY. AGAIN, HER PRIOR HISTORY OF PUBLIC SERVICE DEMONSTRATES LAURA'S STRENGTH AS A DEPARTMENT MANAGER.

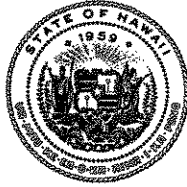
LAURA IS AN EXTREMELY HARD WORKER. SHE HAS VITALITY AND ENERGY. LAURA PUTS IN LONG HOURS BECAUSE SHE TAKES HER WORK AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE PLACE SHE LOVES.

IN LAURA THE SENATE HAS IN HAND A HARD-WORKING, SENSIBLE, OPEN, COURAGEOUS, CONSENSUS-BUILDING SERVANT OF THE DEPARTMENT. SUCH A NOMINEE DESERVES THESE SAME ATTRIBUTES IN THE SENATORS WHO DECIDE IF THE DEPARTMENT WILL GAIN HER LEADERSHIP. I AM HAPPY TO SAY, AT LEAST AS TO YOU COLLEEN, LAURA WILL FIND A SENATOR WITH SUCH STRENGTHS AND A CONCOMITANT DEDICATION TO THE SUCCESS THIS IMPORTANT STATE DEPARTMENT.

THOSE SENATORS WHO SUPPORT LAURA'S NOMINATION WILL BE PROUD OF THEIR CHOICE. THOSE SENATORS CHOOSING TO GIVE LAURA THE OPPORTUNITY SHE DESERVES WILL GIVE THE DEPARTMENT THE OPPORTUNITY IT DESERVES, WHICH AT THE END OF THE VOTING, SHOULD BE THE SOLE FOCUS OF THOSE IN POWER. PLEASE SUPPORT LAURA'S NOMINATION AND URGE OTHER SENATORS TO DO SO AS WELL.

MIKE BURKE  
47-646 MELEKULA RD.  
KANE OHE, HI 96744

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME L. FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Twenty Fourth State Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation of Laura Thielen, Chairperson, Board of Land and Natural Resources and Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senator Hee:

I support the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have worked with Ms. Thielen on water quality and other issues when she was head of the Office of Planning. That office and the Department of Health have complementary roles in reducing polluted runoff into state waters, and I have met with her, her staff, and spoken with her by phone a number of times over the last few years, and seen letters and memos of hers in relation to polluted runoff, coastal zone management, the Hawaii Ocean Resource Management Plan, and the state Geographic Information System.

Ms. Thielen is bright, hard working, and result oriented. She perceptively analyzes situations, and she strives to serve the public interest. She understands the importance of working with all stakeholders. I am also impressed by her insistence on meeting deadlines and requirements and being economical with our administrative resources. She has always been gracious in my view and hearing, and I have heard no disparaging words about her treatment of others. The DLNR is much larger than the Office of Planning, but the qualities she displayed at that office make me confident that she is a very strong candidate for confirmation as head of DLNR.

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
October 23, 2007  
Page 2

Please recommend her confirmation to and by the full Senate.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurence K. Lau  
Deputy Director for Environmental Health

- c: The Honorable Collen Hanabusa, Senator  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Senator  
The Honorable Laura Thielen, Interim Chairperson, DLNR

Arnold L. Lum  
2311 Bingham St.  
Honolulu, HI 96826  
(808) 955-8588

October 24, 2007

VIA E-MAIL

Honorable Clayton Hee  
Hawai'i State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chair of the DLNR

Aloha, Senator Hee:

I am the current chair of our state's Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC), and write in support of confirmation by the Senate of Laura H. Thielen, Esq., as chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

After Ms. Thielen was appointed by Governor Lingle to head the state's Office of Planning (OP), she acted quickly to fill voids and get the agency's programs up to speed. She also generously lent her time to MACZAC to assist our program, which is housed in OP's Coastal Zone Management office, in receiving funding and staff support.

Ms. Thielen has been instrumental in reviving the Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan and molding it into an integrated and community-interactive document. With Laura Thielen heading DLNR, I am confident that the ORMP will be implemented, and not just end up on a shelf.

Although I speak for myself, I am certain that MACZAC as a group supports Ms. Thielen's confirmation as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Very truly yours,

Arnold L. Lum

Cc: Hon. Colleen Hanabusa

**John L. Reppun**  
C/o 47-229 Miomio Loop  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Senate Committee on Water and Land  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Consideration/confirmation for Gubernatorial Nominee Laura H. Thielen as Chairman of the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, for a term to expire 12/31/2010**

Aloha Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun, Committee Members:


I am writing today, as a private citizen and long-time "activist" for sound planning as it relates to water, land-use, environmental and cultural protection and more - wanting to lend strong support for Ms. Laura H. Thielen's nomination as Chairperson of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources - a matter under consideration before your committee and this Interim Session of the State Legislature.

The Department in question, as you and your committee members know so well, handles an almost unbelievable array of issues, complex in nature, intersecting with all levels of government from the grassroots community level to County, Federal and Hawaiian jurisdiction. These are areas of critical importance that touch upon every citizen, from mauka to makai, in ways that are deeper than most of us realize. The chairperson of this department will also sit in on decision-making in a number of arenas, each of which has the potential for influencing long-term directions that we will take, as a state. The position requires a depth of passion and understanding that naturally narrows the field of those who might willingly accept such a challenge.

I believe that Ms. Thielen both "fits the bill" and that she will bring the calm consideration needed to lead such a large department, especially on the heels of a very challenging confirmation process in the last regular legislative session. She is qualified for the task at hand both in terms of her own exposure and training (private, public and educationally) *and* in terms of her personal up-bringing, here on the windward side of O'ahu. I have known her, primarily as an acquaintance of her whole family, since the mid-70's and have come to appreciate that the passion she shares for a better future for the State derives from her family "training". Like her mother - a respected advocate for sound environmental stewardship and innovation, Laura is tenacious, determined to make a positive difference, and focused on systemic change as opposed to personal achievement. The department she offers to lead needs exactly this kind of vision in order to meet the requirements we put upon both administration and staff.

I ask for your favorable consideration.

Mahalo,

  
John L. Reppun  
(Hm.) 239-4810 (Waiahole Valley)  
(Wk.) 239-5777

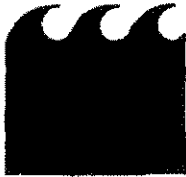
RUSSELL Y. TSUJI  
99-178 Kealakaha Drive  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL Y. TSUJI  
ON GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE LAURA H. THIELEN  
FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**October 25, 2007**

I would like to express my personal support for the consideration and confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Laura would be a strong leader for the Department, and is an excellent choice to serve as Chairperson. Thank you for allowing me to testify.



## **Rick Gaffney & Associates Inc.**

73-1062 Ahikawa Street, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740 (808) 325-5000 Fax: (808) 325-7023

October 24, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Water & Land Committee

**Re: Senate Confirmation of BLNR Chair Laura Thielen**

Dear Senator Hee and Committee members:

I would like to strongly urge that the Senate confirm Ms. Laura Thielen as Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

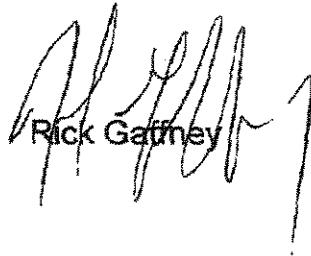
I had the honor to serve on the selection committee for the new BLNR Chair and reviewed all of the applications for the position. Based on that review, I feel quite certain that Laura Thielen was the most qualified applicant for the job, but more importantly, her credentials and experience are a nearly perfect match for the position.

The combination of a legal background, her extensive experience with environmental issues, and her recent experience as a State agency administrator give Ms. Thielen a vast reservoir of knowledge and expertise to draw from in the daily management of one of the State's most important and complex agencies.

Managing the Department of Land and Natural Resources is a daunting responsibility, especially considering the many and diverse divisions and some well documented problems. While there are no quick fixes to most of the Department's woes, I feel confident that given the opportunity and some time, Ms. Thielen can turn the DLNR around and manage the agency effectively.

Please vote to confirm Ms. Laura Thielen as Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Aloha,

  
Rick Gaffney

Project Management Services  
 P.O. Box 309  
 Kailua, HI. 96734  
 Vierling1@hawaiiantel.net  
 Phone 808-254-8484  
 Fax 808-254-8483  
 cellular 808-306-2878

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**Fax**

<b>To:</b>	The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee	<b>From:</b>	Paul Vierling
<b>Fax:</b>	808-586-7334	<b>Pages:</b>	2
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	10/24/07
<b>Re:</b>	Testimony in support of Laura Thielen	<b>CC:</b>	
Confirmation for DNLN Chairperson			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Urgent</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>For Review</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Please Comment</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Please Reply</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Please Recycle</b>			

● **Comments:**

Please provide this testimony:

To the Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman of Water and Land Committee.  
 The date and time for this hearing is the week of October 22, 2007 during a special session.

Dear Senator,

I respectfully request your favorable consideration for the appointment of Laura Thielen as chairperson for Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. My request is based upon working with Ms. Thielen during the past several years in various capacities.

I first began working with Ms. Thielen on Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) projects at Aikahi Elementary School, when both of our daughters were students at Aikahi. I later worked with Ms. Thielen while I was a board member for the Hawaii State PTSA. When I was appointed to the Hawaii State Board of Education, Ms. Thielen was very supportive and helpful by sharing information and providing educational insights as a prior board member.

What I have always appreciated about working with Ms. Thielen is her ability to remain focused upon facts and not become distracted by political agendas. She has the ability to present information in a non confrontational and pragmatic fashion that helps clarify a situation.

She has always demonstrated principled behaviors and high moral character in our dealings together. I consider her an excellent role model and am hopeful our 6 and 10 year old daughters lead the type of professional and personal life that Laura represents.

Please give her your serious consideration and appoint her as chairperson to the DNLN.

Thank you, respectfully submitted,

Paul Vierling.





October 24, 2007

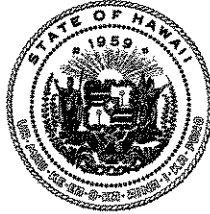
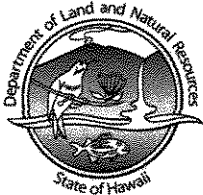
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to serve as a character witness and recommendation for Laura Thielen's confirmation as chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Laura in a professional setting for the last 7 years. I find her to be a responsible, intelligent, and compassionate individual. She listens well and asks pertinent questions. She has always been amicable and easy to work with and demonstrated plenty of common sense. I think she would serve the state of Hawaii quite well.

Sincerely,

Brian Walsh, DVM  
Feather and Fur Animal Clinic  
Kailua, HI

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEN C. KAWAHARA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**on Governor's Message No. 5 - CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
LAURA H THIELEN, FOR CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WATER AND LAND**

**October 25, 2007**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources recommends Senate confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, for a term to expire 12-06-2010.

Ms Thielen was raised and currently resides in Kailua, Oahu. Upon graduating from Punahou High School, Ms. Thielen attended college at the University of Colorado, attaining a bachelor of arts in political science. She furthered her education with a law degree from Case Western Reserve School of Law (Cleveland, Ohio) and a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University.

Ms. Thielen began her professional career as an attorney with the law firm of Squire Sanders and Dempsey in Cleveland, focusing on litigation and environmental law. Her interest in environmental law brought her back to Hawaii where she practiced at the firm of Gerson Grekin Wynhoff and Thielen. From there, Ms. Thielen went on to join the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, serving as the managing attorney for the Statewide Intake and Legal Hotline. And just prior to serving in state government, Ms. Thielen was the sole proprietor of LHT Services, which provided business consulting to non-profit organizations and state agencies. In April 2005, Ms. Thielen was appointed as the Director of the Office of Planning, where she was, among other things, instrumental in updating the Ocean Resource Management Plan and in formulating legislation related to important agricultural lands.

The Department finds that Ms. Thielen's extensive background in and understanding of land use and environmental law including knowledge in contested case and general administrative hearings, applications for Conservation District Use Permits and zoning changes would be an enormous asset to the Department. The Department would also note that it had a very good working relationship and interaction with Ms. Thielen during her watch at the Office of Planning. Her tenure on the Board of Education (2002-2005), demonstrates a passion for shaping and supporting education in Hawaii. In as much, the Department believes that education

can serve as a viable conduit in nurturing the youth of Hawaii on our rich natural heritage and the need to conserve and protect our natural resources.

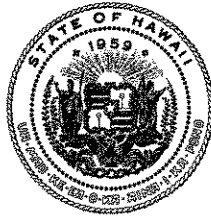
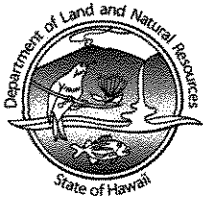
From the get-go, Ms. Thielen has allotted her time to get acquainted with staff. She continues the "brown bag" lunch sessions where department employees are welcome to share their thoughts and ideas, and is in the process of scheduling field days in an effort to learn hands-on the functions and programs of each division in the Department.

Ms. Thielen has also taken strides to address concerns within both the Bureau of Conveyances (Bureau) and the State Historic Preservation Division. Earlier this month, Ms. Thielen convened a working group for the Bureau with representation from the title, escrow, real estate, law, judiciary, and labor disciplines with the common goal to develop the scope of work needed for a request for proposal or contract to automate the Bureau (electronic filing of documents). Ms. Thielen was instrumental in attaining immediate assistance from the Department of Human Resources Development to expedite the filling of vacancies in the State Historic Preservation Division.

The Department is confident, given her background and experience that Ms. Thielen will take the necessary steps to ensure that the State's natural and cultural resources are managed responsibly and efficiently.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEN C. KAWAHARA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
LAND DIVISION**

**on Governor's Message No. 5 - CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
LAURA H THIELEN, FOR CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WATER AND LAND**

**October 25, 2007**

The Land Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources recommends Senate confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, for a term to expire 12-06-2010.

In the short time that Ms. Thielen chaired the Department of Land and Natural Resources, she has quickly grasped the complexity of the Department's key oversight areas and developed a smooth working relationship with staff. Land Division has benefitted particularly from Ms. Thielen's extensive background in land use and environmental law. That expertise has been extremely helpful to the division in carrying out our mission as managers of the State's public lands. Her thoughtful consideration and understanding of real property issues has provided the Division with clear guidance in disposing of land management and enforcement matters quickly and effectively. Ms. Thielen is also very familiar with coastal and shoreline issues from her tenure at the Office of Planning.

Ms. Thielen has demonstrated her ability to lead the Department through this period of transition and provide the vision, energy and tenacity necessary to stay the course on the department's mission to ensure that the State's natural and cultural resources are managed responsibly and efficiently.

The Land Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources supports the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Senator  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

It is my understanding that Laura H. Thielen's confirmation hearing as the new Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Director will be held during the Special Session of the Legislature on Thursday, October 25, 2007, at 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225, State Capitol.

I have worked with Laura from April 2005 when she was selected as the Office of Planning's (OP) Director, to July 2007 when she was asked to become the Interim Director at DLNR.

As the head of the Land Use Division at OP, I reported directly to her on all matters relating to State Land Use Commission Petitions, Special Permits, and such Motions relating to Orders to Show Cause and Declaratory Orders. I found her to be very thorough and meticulous in her reviews, with the "big picture" for State land use planning in mind. Her door was always open for lively discussions.

She was instrumental in proposing and implementing a strategic planning process for the Office of Planning. The process is being carried out even in her absence and will set the course of State planning in the years to come.

Laura has the education, work experience, legal background and temperament to lead the DLNR in its core missions and to make needed improvements for the future.

I strongly recommend her confirmation as Director of DLNR.

Sincerely,



Abe E. Mitsuda  
Planning Program Administrator  
Land Use Division  
Office of Planning

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007, 2:45 PM

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 5  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS CHAIRPERSON OF  
THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
LAURA H. THIELEN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2010

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for the consideration and confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Prior to Ms. Thielen's recent appointment as interim director of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, she has worked as a lawyer focusing on environmental and land use issues, managed a legal services referral system at the Legal Aid Society, and provided business consulting to state agencies and non-profit organizations through her LHT Services. These experiences have resulted in a strong management background and expertise in local environmental and land use issues, both of which will greatly enhance her ability to lead DLNR.

HDOA staff has had the pleasure of working collaboratively with her on critical agricultural issues in her role as executive director of the Office of Planning. Specifically, she enhanced efforts to implement Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) legislation, explore better uses of the rural district, and convert the Idaho OnePlan, an on-line conservation planning tool, to incorporate Hawaii-specific data for use by local



farmers to create conservation plans. In her few months as DLNR interim director, it has been a pleasure to work with her on matters impacting both our departments and as a fellow Board of Agriculture member.

Ms. Thielen is dedicated, innovative and strategic when facing challenges, and I look forward to continued collaboration with her. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in strong support for such a worthy candidate for Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

**From:** tjohns [tjohns@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2007 9:42 PM  
**To:** hee1 - Sesnita; Sen. Russell Kokubun; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Paul Whalen  
**Subject:** Nomination of LAURA H. THIELEN as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Kokubun and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

*Please accept this testimony IN SUPPORT of the nomination of LAURA H. THIELEN as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.*

I have only known Ms. Thielen for the short time that she has served as the Interim Chairperson, yet I have been favorably impressed by my interaction with her as a fellow member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. The Department faces many challenges, and Ms. Thielen is clearly motivated to face these challenges head-on. I am especially encouraged by her prioritizing the improvement of the Bureau of Conveyances and the Historic Preservation Division. Please give Ms. Thielen the chance to improve the Department and support her nomination.

Aloha,

Timothy E. Johns



# HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

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**To:** Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice-Chair  
Water and Land Committee

**From:** Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director  
Historic Hawai'i Foundation

**Hearing Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2007  
2:45 p.m.  
Room 225

**Subject:** Support of Confirmation of Laura Thielen  
as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports confirmation of Laura Thielen as  
Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF) has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability and economic viability of the state.

As Chair of BLNR, Ms. Thielen serves as the State Historic Preservation Officer and has oversight of the State Historic Preservation Division. Ms. Thielen has stated that improvements to this division are her highest priority and she has outlined a plan for addressing functional shortcomings. She has been accessible and responsive to Historic Hawai'i Foundation's management and board members in discussing recommendations for moving forward.

Ms. Thielen's commitment to pursuing public-private partnerships was evident in her attendance and participation in HHF's recent Preservation Roundtable of organizations that work to support Hawai'i's historic and cultural legacy. Ms. Thielen has been accessible and thoughtful on historic preservation issues, including not only improvements to the division, but also longer-term planning and public policy goals.

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**Lani Ma'a Lapilio**  
Ex Officio

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Kiersten Faulkner AICP

WL Committee, October 25, 2007, 2:45 p.m., Room 225

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Support of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of Board of Land and Natural Resources

Page 1 of 2



In addition to its role in permitting and regulations, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is also the responsible agency for most of the state-owned historic and cultural sites through the State Parks Division and the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Therefore, the Chair's role in protecting the State's historic legacy includes that of property owner and manager as well.

Given the complexity and significance of the Chair's position, HHF feels that it is important to move forward with a timely and thorough confirmation process. Historic Hawai'i Foundation urges the Senate to approve Ms. Thielen's appointment as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and we look forward to working with her in the future.

Very truly yours,



Kiersten Faulkner, AICP  
Executive Director

cc: Laura Thielen



**JOHN M. KNOX & ASSOCIATES, INC.**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LAURA THIELEN FOR CONFIRMATION  
AS CHAIR/DIRECTOR OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES**

October 25, 2007

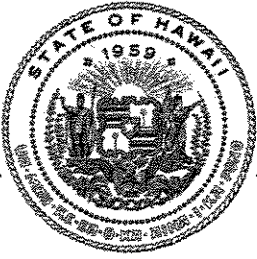
Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land –

My name is John M. Knox, and I am the operator of a socio-economic research consultancy, John M. Knox & Associates, Inc. Our company is providing some services to the Office of Planning's Coastal Zone Management Program, which is how I came to meet Laura Thielen two years ago.

During the course of our professional interactions, I have been impressed by Ms. Thielen's intelligence, dedication, and determination to make government planning and resource management an efficient and effective enterprise. At the Office of Planning, she established a track record in several areas that bode well for a term as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources:

- Application of current information technology to assist both in planning itself and in the communication of government policies and achievements to affected stakeholders; and
- Insistence on clarity in establishing objectives, priorities, and outcome measures, along with development of clearly-stated methods for achieving those objectives.

I urge you to give her the opportunity to apply these skills to DLNR as well! Thank you.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR  
**THEODORE E. LIU**  
DIRECTOR  
**MARK K. ANDERSON**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [www.hawaii.gov/dbedt](http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

**Statement of**

**THEODORE E. LIU**

**Director,**

**Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism**

**before the**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, October 25, 2007**

**2:45 PM**

**Room 225**

**in consideration of**

**GM 5**

**of**

**LAURA H. THIELEN**

**as**

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE**

**BOARD OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES**

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

I appear before you in strong support of Governor Linda Lingle's nomination of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

From April 5, 2005 to July 27, 2007, Ms. Thielen served the people of the State of Hawaii as the Director of the State Office of Planning, an agency attached to the Department of

Business, Economic Development & Tourism. In that capacity, Ms. Thielen reported to me and I had significant and substantive interaction with her, which is the basis of my testimony in strong support of her nomination

Based on my significant and substantive interactions with Ms. Thielen, I am of the strong view that she possesses the vision, passion, management and leadership skills necessary to be an effective and successful Director of a critically important State agency.

As I am sure you know, Ms. Thielen comes from a long lineage of public servants dedicated to preserving and advancing the unique natural resources that make Hawaii a special place. Indeed, these natural resources are the fundamental basis of Hawaii's economy and quality of life. Throughout her career, Ms. Thielen has demonstrated a passion for proper stewardship of Hawaii's land and natural resources.

In her capacity as Director of the State Office of Planning (OP), Ms. Thielen reported to me and I interacted with her on policy, legislative, budgetary, personnel, contracting and on projects and initiatives that OP undertook.

Ms. Thielen is a very effective, proactive and strong manager. At OP, she was able to very rapidly identify opportunities, some of which I elaborate below, and to lead, rally and manage OP staff to take capitalize on those opportunities.

As part of her leadership and management skills and style, Ms. Thielen was an active and effective advocate for her agency and the role it could play on important planning initiatives for the State. Her effective advocacy extended to seeking and obtaining increased funding from the Department of Budget & Finance, a necessary skill for an effective department director. I have

no doubt that Ms. Thielen will be an effective advocate for resources, for initiatives and for her staff at DLNR.

Also as part of her leadership and management style, Ms. Thielen was quick and consistent in recognizing the talent of her staff and in elevating them to fully deploy their talents. Ms. Thielen also worked hard to help her staff to succeed. I have no doubt that at DLNR, Ms. Thielen will continue to recognize, encourage and support her staff to deploy their talents to accomplish the mission of that agency.

Ms. Thielen is also a proactive problem solver. She is very adept at recognizing a problem, analyzing the root cause of that problem and in proactively devising collaborative solutions to the problem.

One example is the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program at OP. Upon her arrival at OP, Ms. Thielen discovered that this federally-funded program was at risk of losing one-half of its funding because it had not complied with federal EPA and NOAA requirements for final management measure to reduce non-point source pollution. Ms. Thielen quickly re-organized the program management and reached out to the State Department of Health and the counties to devise a plan to maintain the funding level of the program. She then actively worked with the EPA and NOAA to respond to their concerns and to successfully preserve the federal funding.

This collaboration with other departments and with stakeholders was repeated in many instances. For the federal "Brownfields" program, Ms. Thielen lead the outreach to the State Department of Health, the Counties and environmental groups, bringing a new higher level of activity to this program. In the hazards mitigation area, Ms. Thielen similarly led an outreach program with the stakeholders in this important area, leading to more collaboration. Finally, Ms.

Thielen led an interdepartmental effort that also included private sector stakeholders in rural development and economic development to apply for a federal grant. This was the first time that these stakeholders across sectors had worked together in such an effort.

I believe Ms. Thielen's collaborative attitude and leadership will well serve the DLNR, where stakeholder outreach, involvement and input will be critically important.

At OP, the results of Ms. Thielen's leadership speak for themselves. The number of planning documents produced by the office has been the highest in recent history. Under her leadership, OP drafted an Ocean Resource Management Plan, the first time such a plan was issued since the statute was written 1991. OP also issued an Urban Lands Report, also updated for the first time since 1991. Under Ms. Thielen's leadership, OP produced more policy reports to the Administration and Legislature. OP also led an inclusive public discussion on and provided planning information for rural communities.

A final example I will cite is Ms. Thielen leadership and work on the State's Geographic Information System (GIS), which is located at the Office of Planning. In thinking proactively about how to best utilize and deploy this important resource, Ms. Thielen discovered that thirty-four divisions within nine departments and the Governor's Policy Office utilize geospatial technology. In addition, she discovered that all nine of these State departments are planning to expand their geospatial system, and will need dramatically increased system support.

Ms. Thielen and the GIS Team identified two significant impediments to the state taking full advantage of the powerful statewide GIS system and database:

1. Agencies were utilizing outdated software licenses which were not able to download all the data and imagery.

2. The lack of coordination between agencies meant the state was duplicating contracts and efforts on developing databases, GIS applications, and purchasing imagery.

Under her leadership, OP initiated a survey of the approximately 144 GIS software users across the State to identify the highest priorities of the staff utilizing GIS. They discovered that the users supported greater coordination between GIS users to improve efficiencies, more training, a faster and more reliable network, and updated software.

As the result, OP initiated discussions with software vendors to discuss the advantages of a single, statewide software license and discovered that vendors were willing to provide the state with updated software licenses and additional benefits, for approximately the same cost the state was currently spending on the software, in exchange for combining the 144 licenses into a single license, known as an "Enterprise License."

A single, statewide Enterprise License has tremendous benefits for the State, in that it will permit all state agencies utilizing GIS to upgrade their software to current standards, maintain that software at no additional cost during the terms of the license, and access all imagery in the central geospatial database.

The GIS Team developed a strategic plan for building an integrated statewide GIS system, a proposal for the IT Governance Committee to support a single statewide GIS software license and obtained the support and endorsement of all GIS users state-wide. Ms. Thielen then proposed and obtained administrative approval to submit a bill establishing a special fund for the purpose of funding the GIS system, and \$200,000 to pay for the base amount of the Enterprise License. The legislature supported the special fund, although the appropriation dropped out literally at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.



I believe these and other examples highlight Ms. Thielen's management skills and abilities. In my limited experience in state government, I have come to recognize the critical importance of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. That department has responsibility for all that makes Hawaii special and unique and all that is the basis of the quality of life our residents desire and deserve. Laura H. Thielen is qualified, has the vision and passion and possesses the leadership and management skills to lead the department.

I respectfully urge your confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as the Chairperson of DLNR.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Curtis.D.Powers@hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2007 8:35 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Cc:** Sen. Colleen Hanabusa  
**Subject:** Confirmation

I have had the pleasure to meet and work with Laura and I believe she would be an asset to the DLNR. Please confirm her without delay because we need the stability and assurance that a leader can provide to the rank and file. I hope that the good of the land and the citizens will prevail over politics and ego in the process of confirmation.

10/24/2007

**From:** Ted Meeker [tgmeek@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2007 8:01 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Cc:** senhanabusa@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Laura Thielen

Ted & Gretchen Meeker  
47-441 Hui Nene Street  
Kanohe, Hawaii 96744

(808) 239-5876

October 25, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96744

Re: Strong Support of Laura Thielen

Dear Senator Hee:

While I hope to be able to testify in person tomorrow at the confirmation hearing for Laura Thielen, if I am unable to do so, I ask that you accept this written submission as my testimony. My wife and I, as well as my neighbors and friends on Hui Nene Street (whom I have canvassed) and elsewhere in our neighborhood strongly support the nomination of Laura Thielen as chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Laura Thielen for over 15 years and have enormous respect for her intelligence, ability, grace, perspective and ability to work with others. She is someone who gives respect to those around her and in turn gets it from her colleagues. She brings to any discussion and inquiring mind, open to all reasonable possibilities, but seeking, at the same time, a real answer to the question posed and not simply what might at first seem to satisfy the situation. This last is a critically important quality in a position such as the Chairman of DLNR, where there is an obvious need to approach a variety of different situations with not just a "first impression" answer but rather to seek a full evaluative process that will take into account all of the factors that apply to that complex and, at times, difficult department and position. In taking this approach, I should add, she listens extremely well, and really hears what is being offered by the respondent with a full and open mind, seeking to fully understand what is being conveyed.

Ms. Thielen brings to this position the strong ability deal with the variety of bumps and curves in the road that are to be encountered with this large and important department. She has the intelligence, grace, humor, caring and good sense to be the best possible administrator for the people of this State and she will work very well, not only with those in the Department and those who interact with it, but also with both the State House and Senate. Finally, she has the ability to look at her own positions and ideas with a critical eye, again, not content to settle for the first answer that comes to

10/24/2007

mind, understanding the need to take well meant input from all sides and add it into the equation of her decisions. I cannot think of a person better qualified for this position and I give her my strongest support and urge you and the Senate to rapidly confirm her.

Thank you.

Ted Meeker



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

Dear Senators,

I am writing to urge your full support for the candidacy of Laura Thielen for Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

I am a Senior Scientist with Environmental Defense Fund, a non-profit organization with approximately 3,000 members throughout the Islands. I am currently traveling and am unable to return to Hawai'i in time for the confirmation hearing. I apologize for not appearing in person before the Committee but would like very much to convey some thoughts to you.

To ensure a thorough and broadly-based selection process, Governor Lingle appointed an unusual 30 person BLNR Chair Search Committee, of which I was a member. The search committee consisted of Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, developers (including the President of Castle and Cook), a significant number of environmentalists, representatives of hunting and fishing communities, state employees, the finance and architecture sectors and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It was a group of individuals and interests which, under normal circumstances, would rarely see eye to eye on many issues.

All of us were united, however, in wanting to see a well-run, functional Department of Land and Natural Resources. I believe that most of us felt that the challenges inherent in managing DLNR are immense, and have been so for years.

Laura Thielen, in an impressively thoughtful and careful manner, described to the diverse search committee how she would work to make improvements at DLNR part of what she called "a continual effort to make our state a better place to live." As she put it, "I want us to raise the standards and expectations we set for ourselves, and then to surpass them."

In her brief time as Acting Chair, she has shown a welcome commitment to transparency and public process and appears to be making it increasingly difficult for the continuation of the culture of back-room deals and other unsavory practices which have long been the hallmark of the DLNR. Change at DLNR will not be easy or painless. It will take someone of immense integrity and fortitude at the helm to ensure that progress is made.

Having observed Laura Thielen at work during the first few months of her tenure, I can tell you that she fits the bill and that, indeed, Governor Lingle has made an excellent choice, one that I hope you will see fit to support.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Fried, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental Defense Fund  
P.O. Box 4533  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** Joedy Hu [joedyhu@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2007 7:06 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Colleen Hanabusa; Sen. Jill Tokuda  
**Cc:** cynthiat@aloha.net  
**Subject:** Laura Thielen's nomination to serve as Chair of the DLNR

To Senators Hee and Hanabusa,

I strongly support Laura Thielen's nomination to chair the DLNR. Laura brings a strong record of public service, particularly in challenging areas. She is level-headed, smart and shares a genuine passion for the environment. Knowing Laura as both a neighbor and a fellow parent of similarly aged kids, I have seen her jump wholeheartedly into service to support good education, valuable extra-curricular activities for children and community concerns. Bringing strong leadership to a department that has suffered from significant turmoil recently is a task she is more than qualified to handle. Laura Thielen should be confirmed to continue to lead the DLNR.

Sincerely,

Joedy Hu

**From:** John Kawamoto [jk1492@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2007 11:41 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Cc:** Sen. Colleen Hanabusa; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.; cynthia@aloha.net  
**Subject:** Laura Thielen

October 23, 2007  
1128-B Ninth Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96816

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land Hawaii State Senate State Capitol Honolulu, HI  
96813

Re: Supporting the confirmation of Laura Thielen

Dear Chair Hee:

I would like to express my strong support for the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have worked with Ms. Thielen on a public issue for the past several years, and during this time I have found her to be a hard worker, an effective leader, and a thoughtful, considerate individual who is committed to furthering the public good. Her past experiences have prepared her well for this position.

Hawaii would undoubtedly benefit from Ms. Thielen's leadership. I urge the Committee to confirm her nomination.

Sincerely,


John Kawamoto

**From:** Michael Hu [mhu@punahou.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2007 11:00 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Colleen Hanabusa; Sen. Jill Tokuda  
**Cc:** cynthiat@aloha.net  
**Subject:** Laura Thielen's nomination

I support Laura Thielen's nomination to the chair of the DLNR. She is very well qualified to head a state agency and has a passion for the environment. She will bring a legal mind, an education in public service and experience in challenging state positions. After so much turmoil in the DLNR, the state would be well served to have Laura continue to lead the agency. As a neighbor, I know that Laura is a loving mommy, a caring and good neighbor and a strong supporter of local concerns.

Aloha,  
Michael Hu, teacher





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**From:** Kathleen and John Douglas [roundtopdr@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 23, 2007 4:35 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Colleen Hanabusa; Sen. Carol Fukunaga  
**Subject:** Laura Thielen

Honorable Senators Hee, Hanabusa, and Fukunaga

I urge you to **support Laura Thielen's nomination** for the chair of DLNR. I have known Laura for 20 years, and I respect her immensely. She is an erudite and articulate individual who brings a thoughtful perseverance to this large department.

As an avid boater, I applaud her recognition of the multiple needs of the Ala Wai Marina, and the implementation of overdue improvements. Please let her continue these good works among the floating public.

I have camped and hiked with Laura and know she respects the wilderness environment. I am sure she would strive to maintain and protect the natural beauty our state enjoys.

Laura is an asset the DLNR can not afford to lose. Please support this remarkable person's nomination so she can continue her work for our state.

Sincerely,  
John Douglas MD

10/24/2007

**Stephen D. Shoultz, D.D.S., Ltd.**

**GENERAL AND COSMETIC DENTISTRY**

45-1144 Kam. Hwy., Ste. 304

Kaneohe, HI 96744

Telephone: (808) 235-0018

October 24, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee

Re: Laura Thielen

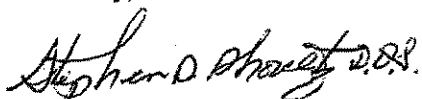
Senator Hee,

As a long time resident of Kaneohe-Kahaluu, I have followed Laura Thielen's career with much interest. I have been impressed with the work she has done in her other positions. Her ability to work with and manage people has been noteworthy.

Therefore, I would like to support her confirmation as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I feel confident that her abilities will be an asset to this department and to our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Shoultz, D.D.S.  
45-1144 Kamehameha Hwy.  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa  
Senate President

McCORRISTON MILLER MUKAI MACKINNON LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NANCY N. GREKIN

DIRECT #S:  
PHONE - (808) 529-7419  
FAX - (808) 535-8015  
E-MAIL - GREKIN@M4LAW.COM

October 24, 2007

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land

Re: Confirmation of Laura Thielen

Dear Sen. Hee:

I am writing in support of Laura Thielen's nomination to Chair the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Laura for many years and practiced with her when I was associated with a prior firm. I have always found her to be very knowledgeable about her areas of practice, skilled at the personal communication necessary to deal with clients, and willing to work hard and produce high quality legal work. In the short time she has served as interim Chair she has organized a committee which I am a member of, to digitize recordings by the Bureau of Conveyances, a sorely needed improvement in processing of recordings. In one meeting we explored all of the necessary steps to complete this project and formed a working group which has already made considerable progress in formulating a plan to complete this project. I know that Laura will be diligent in completing this very important task and I am impressed by her immediate recognition that this is important and necessary.

I highly recommend her confirmation and I am confident that she will serve with great distinction and accomplish a much for DLNR.

Very truly yours,

McCORRISTON MILLER MUKAI MacKINNON LLP



Nancy N. Grekin

cc: Sen. Colleen Hanabusa

**From:** Puananiburgess@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2007 10:58 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Cc:** laura.thielen@hawaii.gov; Puananiburgess@aol.com  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony in Support for Laura Thielen

Aloha, Senator Hee:

It has been a long time since we've talked and worked together. I have thought deeply writing this letter from a deep and true place. While I cannot judge whether Laura Thielen will be a good chair for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and this I have told her. What I am able to do is talk about my direct experiences with her as a girl growing up in Hawai'i and as the director of the Office of Planning and her work in developing the Leeward Coast Initiative.

I met Laura when she was a teen on the Island of Kaho'olawe; she went on access with her mother, Cynthia Thielen, who was then the attorney for the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana - this you know. Laura was a gangly, introspective, respectful, helpful girl. She helped to carry water, to plant, to learn how to respect the 'Aina and her elders. I was then in law school and clerking for Cynthia at the Legal Aid Society. I lost contact with Laura after that access, but saw her pop up in various places - BOE, then as E.D. of the Office of Planning.

It is in this position that I have had more contact with Laura. In response to the growing homelessness, especially of families, Gov. Lingle developed the Leeward Coast Initiative, which Laura had the responsibility of putting into motion. The LCI began in February, 2007 by the State developing an Outreach Team of State Employees from various departments who surveyed about 167 residents, mostly leaders, in the Wai'anae Coast Community, about the ideas and projects that we thought would best support economic and social development along this coast. A list of "32 Great Ideas," which was a compilation of ideas from these surveys, ideas from past plans for and about the Wai'anae Coast, and ideas from the Outreach Team, was generated.

Through two small grants, one from the Community Based Economic Development Program (CBED) in DBEDT and one from the CBED program in OHA, my organization took those ideas out to the community in two ways: first, we surveyed 150 residents, regular citizens, from throughout the coast and asked them for their responses to the 32 idea: what were their priorities, if any, what was missing? We also conducted a deeper discussion with members of the Empower Wai'anae Steering Committee on what they thought about the ideas and what was missing.

Throughout the initial development stage of the LCI, Laura has been responsive to my calls for information and has listened to my concerns about follow-up by the State in terms of commitment of resources: funds, time and policy changes. While she has been transitioning from OP to DLNR, and in the absence of an OP Director, she has helped to set up a meeting with Linda Smith of the Governor's Office to continue exploring the potential for community-government partnership. We have an exploratory meeting set with Ms. Smith and other State officials and a few members of the Wai'anae Coast Community on October 31st.

While my testimony does not speak to her qualifications as head of DLNR, I do believe that she listens well and follows through with her commitments and speaks to her willingness to communicate directly and respectfully with members of the community, which I believe is important to the issue of accountability to Hawai'i's people for the natural and historic resources of our beloved homeland.

Mahalo for considering my testimony in your deliberations.

Gassho (Be One),

Puanani Burgess  
Executive Director  
Wai'anae Coast Community Alternative Development Corporation

10/24/2007

and co-chair of Empower Wai'anae  
P. O. Box 630  
Wai'anae, Hawaii 96792  
Office: (808) 696-7241  
Cellular: (808) 630-7260

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**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA**

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

October 23, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

RE: Nomination of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of  
The Department of Land and Natural Resources

I am writing in support of Laura Thielen's nomination for Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I offer my support as an individual and not as a representative of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning or the University of Hawai'i.

I first met Ms. Thielen when she was appointed Director of the Office of Planning. In her first weeks in office, she made a point of introducing herself to a number of professional planners to ask us about our perceptions of the Office of Planning's activities and direction. We also discussed her desire to develop an internship program with students in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at UH.

I first worked with her on the development of the Ocean Resources Management Plan in the fall of 2005. The Office of Planning staff had been meeting with staff of DLNR and OHA staff and ocean and coastal resource users groups. I was selected to help organize and facilitate an Ocean Summit at which people could meet and recommend priorities for the proposed Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP). I subsequently assisted the planning firm that prepared the initial draft of the ORMP as well as working with another firm that helped developed coastal zone management performance indicators. Finally, I facilitated several meetings for the Office of Planning.

I am impressed by the leadership qualities demonstrated in these projects and other endeavors she initiated during her tenure as Director of the Office of Planning. First, I am struck both by her strategic vision and her attention to detail. It is rare to find a senior manager who seems as comfortable balancing "big picture" concerns and a focus on the tasks that need to be successfully implemented to achieve that vision. In the ORMP process, for example, she was attentive to the many voices calling for greater attention to the principles and practices of *ahupua'a* management as a vehicle for both for involving communities in improved ocean and coastal management and for incorporating traditional knowledge and practices. She insured that a focus on *ahupua'a* was central to the new ORMP. She also facilitated additional research and deliberation about how *ahupua'a* management might be more effectively

supported by the Office of Planning and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

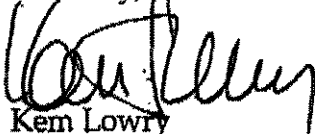
Ms. Thielen's commitment to action is another impressive manifestation of her leadership. The Office of Planning has so many mandates to implement, including the management of coastal zone management program, that the director can easily justify full-time attention to these endeavors. She recognized that there were additional issues that ought to be on the policy agenda. One such issue is the proliferation of development in the rural areas of the state. She initiated a rural lands project focusing on scattered, low-density development of first and second homes in the state Agriculture District on all the islands. One of the purposes was to document the extent of rural development and the attendant fiscal, infrastructure capacity and resource management issues. The study is part of a larger effort to develop principles expressing state interests in the location and design of rural communities. After conducting multiple workshops throughout the state, OP collaborated with the counties to design effective mechanisms for minimizing the fiscal impacts of rural development, protecting aquifer recharge areas and reducing other impacts of new settlements.

Another important manifestation of her leadership is her recognition of the need for the professional development of current and future planners and managers. We had several discussions about developing an internship program in the Office of Planning in which planning students could participate in projects. The first of these interns was in place when she left OP for DLNR. She also organized professional education workshops for staff. As a supervisor, she provides direct, constructive feedback to staff—and consultants.

I admire her energy and commitment to effective resource governance. As is the case with all the other effective leaders I know, she has strong opinions. What sets her apart, in my experience, is her willingness to listen to alternative points of view and keep an open mind. This is a rare quality in senior managers—and one much to be admired.

I think she will continue to provide excellent leadership to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. She has my enthusiastic support.

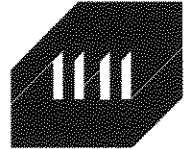
Sincerely,



Kem Lowry  
Professor

cc: Senate President Coleen Hanabusa

October 22, 2007



**ARCHITECTS-HAWAII**  
LIMITED

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
23rd Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I urge you to confirm Laura H. Theilen as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. She is a natural for the position. She has both valuable and relevant governmental and private sector experience. She is the one who revitalized the State Office of Planning. She is a talented lawyer with a Master's Degree in public policy. She has knowledge and understanding of public policy matters, especially those relating to the environment.

Ms. Theilen has a keen ability to identify the multiple stakeholders concerned with specific public policy matters. She grasps issues quickly and listens attentively. She knows both how to plan and to implement. She is just the kind of dedicated public servant we want in a position of leadership in the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

If I may provide further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

David A. Miller, AIA  
CEO

cc: The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President of Senate

1001 Bishop Street, Suite 200  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone (808) 523-9636  
FAX (808) 521-3280  
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Joseph Farrell AIA  
David A. Miller AIA  
Stanley T. Yasumoto AIA  
N. Robert Hale AIA  
Dennis Daniel AIA  
Walter H. Muraoka AIA ACHA  
Lloyd Arakaki AIA  
Arturo M. Lucio AIA  
Bettina Mehnert AIA  
Charles K.Y. Chan AIA  
William A. Brizee AIA  
W. Terry McFarland AIA

Alan Atkinson AIA CSI CCS  
Emile C. Alano AIA  
David S. Bylund AIA LEED-AP  
Karen M. Muraoka IIDA ASID AAHID  
Ernest S. Shimizu AIA  
Brian T. Takahashi AIA

Dean S. Uehara AIA  
Jean-Louis Loveridge  
Richard L. Sullivan AIA  
Francisco T. Cruzata AIA  
Garret S. Horimoto  
Lisa Y.T. Rapp AIA  
Ronald J. Dean AIA  
Brad K. Inovejas  
Lester H. Ng  
Glenn Y.H. Yokotake AIA  
Cynthia M. Work AIA

EMERITUS  
Francis S. Haines FAIA  
Alex Weinstein AIA



**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WATER AND LAND**

**October 25, 2007**

**2:45 p.m.**

**Conference Room 225**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

Subject: Testimony in Support for GM 5 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, LAURA H. THIELEN, for a term to expire 12-6-2010.

Dear Committee on Water and Land,

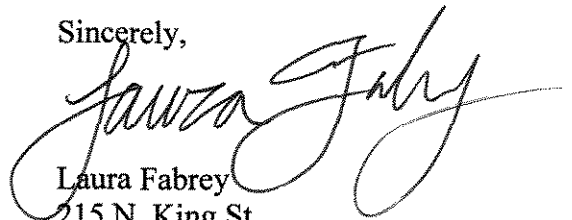
My name is Laura Fabrey. I work for the Department of Land and Natural Resources in the Chairperson's Office as Education and Outreach Coordinator. After working with Laura Thielen for her short time here she has already made great strides and I support the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Laura H. Thielen for Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Ms. Thielen was selected by a committee of various stakeholders and nominated to the Governor as a candidate for the Chairperson of Board of Land and Natural Resources. She has demonstrated her commitment to learn quickly and to make priority the divisions of the Bureau of Conveyances and the State Historic Preservation Division. Her education, background, past leadership roles, and forte in environmental law and land use issues qualify her to lead the Board of Land and Natural Resources for these next 3 in a half years.

In nearly 2 months in the position she had gathered a Bureau of Conveyances working group with stakeholders on board to develop the scope of work for a RFP or a contract to improve the services and automate the Bureau's functions. Ms. Thielen has also been overseeing the filling of vacancies within the State Historic Preservation Division and is dedicated to working with the State Historic Preservation Division to prioritize and focus on its main mission to preserve historic sites of Hawaii.

With her experience and strong start to move forward in all areas of the Department in coordinated efforts, I support the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson for the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



Laura Fabrey  
215 N. King St.  
Honolulu, HI 96817

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



ROBERT G. F. LEE  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

GARY M. ISHIKAWA  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing to express my support on the confirmation of Ms. Laura Thielen as the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Appointed by the Governor, Ms. Thielen has served as the Interim Chair since July 30, 2007.

Ms. Thielen has focused on land use and environmental issues as a lawyer in Ohio, and with the law firm of Gerson Grekin Wynhoff & Thielen in Honolulu. She has been a consultant to nonprofit groups and state agencies including the Attorney General's Office, University of Hawai'i Foundation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawai'i Justice Foundation, Department of Health, Hawai'i Commission on Access to Justice and Hawai'i Foster Parent Association. She also served as a Managing Attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i.

Ms. Laura Thielen's varied background will serve her well as the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I ask you and the Committee on Water and Land to confirm her as the Chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. F. Lee".

ROBERT G. F. LEE  
Major General  
Hawaii National Guard  
Adjutant General

c: Senator Colleen Hanabusa

24 October 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Support for Confirmation of Laura H. Thielen**  
as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

My name is Royce Jones and I work in the field of geographic information systems or GIS. I have taught classes at the University of Hawaii on quantitative geography as well as classes at Honolulu Community College on GIS, but mostly what I do is work with Federal, State and County government agencies and private businesses to help them harness the power of GIS.

Some of you may remember me from the Reapportionment Commission back in 2001. I was the lead GIS advisor to the Commission and worked closely with them using GIS to redraw the Congressional, Senate and House district boundaries following the 2000 census. I presented the maps and described the methods used for redistricting in many public hearings.

I bring up GIS because that is the context in which I first met Laura. I have worked on GIS projects with the DBEDT/State Office of Planning staff since 1990. At that time it was called the Office of State Planning (OSP) and they were using GIS even then. Over the years I have seen their staff levels shrink and expand, but through it all they have continued to foster the use of GIS in State government and assist other State agencies either directly by making maps for them, or indirectly by making data available so the agencies can make their own maps.

When Laura became Director of DBEDT/State Office of Planning in April 2005, I saw staff I had known for years suddenly become more energized, organized and enthusiastic about their ability to effect change and get GIS more widely used in State government. I attribute this change directly to Laura's leadership and support.

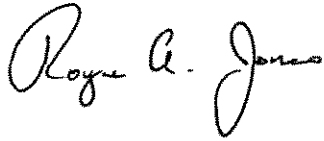
She showed the GIS staff a strong vision of what they could do and gave them the confidence to take more of a leadership role themselves and to go out and meet with staff from other State agencies to form a plan for expanding use of GIS.

I saw Laura's leadership exemplified more broadly when I was invited to participate in reviewing the draft strategic plan for the Office of Planning. After working internally to create a draft plan, Laura invited feedback from outside groups. To me, this willingness to listen to outside ideas, indicates a leader who knows how to work with diverse groups, solicit and accept criticism, integrate this information into a larger vision, and take action to realize that vision.

In summary, I strongly support the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I believe that Laura is just the type of dynamic leader that the Board and DLNR needs right now. I believe she will analyze what is and is not working within DLNR, solicit input from the many DLNR stakeholders, create a vision of how to improve DLNR, and take action to implement that vision.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Royce A. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail on the "J".

Royce A. Jones  
PO Box 25665  
Honolulu HI 96825  
808-947-0993

October 24, 2007

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
State Capitol, Room 225  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee,

**SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of Ms. Laura Thielen, Interim Chairperson, State Department of Land and Natural Resources**

This letter serves as my testimony in support of confirming the appointment of Ms. Laura Thielen as the Chairperson for the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I am the current District Land Agent for the Maui District whose duties include oversight of all public lands on Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe and Molokini as well as the submerged lands within this district. I have been employed as a Civil Servant with DLNR since May of 2005.

I have had the recent opportunity to spend an afternoon with Ms. Thielen in her current capacity as Interim Chairperson during her trip to Maui to attend a Governor's Advisory Committee meeting held on October 11, 2007. During our brief time together, I was able to explain many of the issues facing our community here on Maui and I have found her opinions to be both thoughtful and encouraging.

Given my short tenure working here with DLNR, Ms. Thielen is the second Chairperson under which I have worked with, however, she is the first Chairperson that has taken the time to visit with staff at our various work places to listen to many of our concerns. DLNR needs stable leadership for which I believe Ms. Thielen can provide.

Mahalo for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 264-0783 or by mail at the address listed below.

Aloha,



Daniel Ornellas  
P.O. Box 1461  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Cc: The Honorable Senator Collen Hanabusa, President  
Ms. Laura Thielen, DLNR Interim Chairperson

Kathleen Nullet  
308 Malunu Avenue  
Kailua , Hawaii 96734  
262-2108

October 23, 2007

Dear Senator Hee,

I have been a Hawaii resident for 20 years and a public school teacher in Kailua for over a decade. I am writing to ask you to please support Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have been following Ms. Thielen's career and find her to be intelligent, highly qualified and dedicated to public service. She is an advocate for the preservation of our delicate environment. I trust Ms. Thielen will make thoughtful and informed decisions concerning Hawaii's land and natural resources.

Please support Laura Thielen

Sincerely,



Kathleen Nullet

cc: Senator Hanabusa

**STANLEY LUKE**  
**LORRAINE LUNOW-LUKE**  
**218 Iihau Street, Kailua HI 96734**  
**(808) 254-3661 slluke@hawaiiantel.net**

---

October 24, 2007

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair  
Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Via Fax: 586-7334

Dear Senator Hee:

We strongly support the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

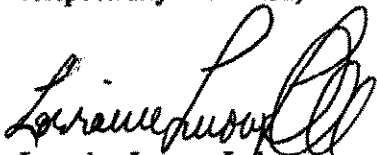
Ms. Thielen brings to the position:


- a great deal of knowledge and experience working on, environmental and land use issues,
- strong administrative and management skills to oversee this sizeable department and efficiently handle the breadth of issues requiring her oversight; and
- a demonstrated ability to work effectively and productively with community, business and government sectors on public issues.

Most importantly, she has a deep love for and commitment to this land and is a woman of principle who will be an articulate and effective advocate for our natural and cultural resources.

Ms. Thielen's confirmation to this important position will do much to ensure that Hawaii's precious natural, environmental, and cultural resources will be appropriately managed for the health and enjoyment of all our residents and future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lorraine Lunow-Luke

  
Stanley Luke

cc: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa  
Senator Jill Tokuda

To: Sargeant at Arms.

Re. Testimony for Thursday, Oct. 25, 2007, 2:45pm, conf. room 225.

To: Committee on Water and Land

Chair, Sen. Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair, Sen. Russell S. Kokubun

From: Darrell Tanaka, 3155 Ua Noe Pl., Haiku, Hi. 96708, 808-575-2557

Re: **Testimony in FAVOR** of confirmation of Laura Thielen for DLNR Director.  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, **LAURA H. THIELEN**, for a term to expire 12-31-2010.

Aloha Senators,

I'm not going to bore you with the usual sad story of our natural resources, instead, let's just tell it like it is. Laura Thielen has only 3 years to run and fix DLNR, and as we all know it is a big, complex department. DLNR is in turmoil, which is evidenced by the number of grievances filed with the HGEA. If those grievances are ever to be addressed and resolved, DLNR needs a qualified Director. If Laura Thielen is not confirmed, this will leave DLNR in a state of "limbo" and the grievances will not be resolved in a timely manner resulting in continued fatigue, stress, work place violence and vacancies. Please confirm Laura Thielen so these grievances atleast have a chance of being settled.

Sincerely,  
Darrell Tanaka





LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Water and Land**

**CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health  
October 25, 2007**

1 The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the nomination of Laura H. Thielen as  
2 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

3 As a former Director for the State Office of Planning (SOP) and through her multiple volunteer  
4 and public advocacy roles, Ms. Thielen has worked diligently and passionately with various state  
5 agencies and is exceedingly familiar with the governmental, regulatory, and political landscape.  
6 Specifically, the DOH, through the Environmental Health Administration, maintained a positive  
7 collaboration with Ms. Thielen, as she lead SOP in addressing polluted runoff, coastal zone  
8 management, the Hawaii Ocean Resource Management Plan, and the state Geographic Information  
9 System. Ms. Thielen's training in law and experience in environmental matters enables her to provide  
10 the leadership and guidance necessary to navigate the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
11 forward in its complex and varied challenges.

12 The Department of Health urges this committee to favorably consider the nomination of Ms.  
13 Laura H. Thielen.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Written Testimony  
of  
Mary Alice Evans  
to the  
**Senate Committee on Water and Land**  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell S. Kokobun, Vice Chair

Thursday, October 25, 2007  
2:45 pm, Room 225  
State Capitol

**Re: Consideration of Laura H. Thielen**  
for  
Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Senator Hee and Senator Kokobun and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I worked for Ms. Thielen when she was director of the State Office of Planning. Laura was an extremely quick study in learning complex land and water issues. She reached out to a diverse cross-section of the community to broaden her understanding of the statutory, environmental and cultural aspects of planning.

She was also skilled at presenting the Office's positions on land use reclassification petitions before the Land Use Commission. She responded to questions clearly and thoughtfully.

Laura believes in transparent accountability for government decision-making processes and took steps to provide more opportunities for public input into the goal-setting activities of the Office.

Laura is very hard-working and was often at the office late at night or on weekends completing a project. She appears to enjoy problem-solving and takes a systematic approach to analyzing the strengths and opportunities of challenging situations. She acts decisively when she has touched all the bases on an issue.

I urge you to recommend the confirmation Ms. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mary Alice Evans  
Planner  
Office of Planning

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



DARWIN L.D. CHING  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

COLLEEN Y. LACLAIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.hawaii.gov/labour](http://www.hawaii.gov/labour)  
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

October 24, 2007

**(Via Facsimile: 586-7334)**

Chairman Clayton Hee and Committee Members  
Water and Land Committee  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation of Laura H. Thielen, as Director  
Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I strongly support the appointment of Laura H. Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have known of Laura for about 5 years. I have found her to be a vigorous advocate for her causes. I also believe that she has learned to temper her approach and begin to seek common ground and a collaborative approach. I'm sure she'll be a positive influence.

Therefore, I strongly support her nomination. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darwin L.D. Ching".

DARWIN L.D. CHING

**FAX TRANSMITTAL****To:** COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice-Chair

**VIA:** Sgt. of Arms**From:** Lucy Gay **Date:** October 23, 2007**Re:** Testimony for Laura Thielen's Confirmation Hearing, Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2:45 p.m.

Gentlemen and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

I hope to persuade you of one thing: to confirm Laura Thielen for Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources because she is a good bet. Laura comes to this position with a history of community involvement as well as the requisite educational knowledge and professional skills to lead a complex organization like DLNR. Laura's courage and creativity allows her to focus on transforming and organizing services to be responsive to the technical and organizational needs of the department and the community at large.

She has demonstrated a personal and stunning compassion for lowly people like me and my friends. In my association with a group of concerned elders of Waianae and as Director for Waianae Educational Opportunities, I know Laura directly and specifically as one who respects and cares for Waianae, especially as it relates to social and economic justice, democratic ideals of participatory governance and inclusion. When Laura was a member of the Board of Education, she met numerous times with members of the Waianae Neighborhood Board's Education Committee to address our concerns about reforming DOE to support and improve educational opportunities for poorly resourced schools in Waianae. Later, as Director for the Office State Planning, Laura directed the Leeward Coast Initiative. This economic development initiative continues to promote broad community involvement by reaching deep into the neighborhoods to collect citizen input for "great ideas" for vitalizing economic and business development for Waianae communities. This process clearly demonstrated Laura's perspective that Waianae residents are neither "customers nor clients" of the state but they are truly citizens.

The question as I see it today is whether we let Hawaii's land and natural resources play out in ways that jeopardize our very survival or whether we embrace the deepening crisis as our time of opportunity. Laura has the depth and enormous human capacity for caring and cooperation. Imaging a state department guided by the deeply held values that most citizens share: a world that breeds hope and possibilities. Laura, I believe, can take us in that direction.



To: Senator Hee and the Confirmation Committee Members  
Date: October 25, 2007  
Re: Support for Laura Thielen Confirmation,  
Thursday, Oct. 25, 2007 at 2:45 in Room 225

*Protecting  
Native  
Hawaiian  
traditional and  
customary  
rights and  
our fragile  
environment*

Aloha Senators,

KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance strongly endorses the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. She has the education, experience, and commitment to protecting Native Hawaiian culture and our unique environment that are necessary to lead this crucial, complicated department.

We have met with Ms. Thielen and worked with her as the interim Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. We found her to be open and accessible to the public, extremely intelligent and quick to understand the complexity of issues, and faithful to the legal mandates of this important department.

While acting as interim director, Ms. Thielen has demonstrated her commitment to ensuring the strongest possible protections for the state's Northwestern Hawaiian Island Marine Refuge. We trust she will continue to work towards full enforcement of the Refuge rules and regulations, a transparent permitting process, and the proper integration of state and federal authority in the management of the NWHI Monument.

Likewise, she has also embraced a more open and inclusive process in the development of the comprehensive management plan for the sacred summit of Mauna Kea. She has committed to ensuring that the plan will address the needs of the entire summit, will manage the summit for conservation, not development, and will incorporate the public's input at every stage of development.

We look forward to working with her on these and many other issues in the future. We strongly encourage this committee to confirm Ms. Thielen as Director of DLNR.

Mahalo,

Miwa Tamanaha  
Executive Director

Marti Townsend  
Program Director

**BENDET, FIDELL, SAKAI & LEE**

EDWARD R. BENDET  
JAY M. FIDELL  
WESLEY H. SAKAI, JR.  
DENIS LEE  
YURIKO J. SUGIMURA  
KYLE T. SAKUMOTO  
THOMAS R. SYLVESTER\*  
LORI L. Y. HIJII  
LORA HAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
A LAW CORPORATION  
SUITE 1500  
DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER  
841 BISHOP STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AREA CODE 808  
TELEPHONE 524-0544  
TELEFAX 521-7739  
lawyers@bfsi.com  
WWW.LEXPACIFIC.COM

\*Also licensed in California

October 24, 2007

HAND DELIVER

Senator Clayton Hee  
Senator Russell Kokubun  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation of Appointment of LAURA THIELEN as Director of DLNR;  
Hearing of Senate Committee on Water and Land, Thursday, October 25,  
2007, 2:45 p.m. in Senate Conference Room 225

Dear Senators Hee and Kokubun:

I strongly support Laura Thielen's appointment as Director of DLNR.

I have known Laura in the practice of law and as Director of the State Planning Office and feel she is very professional, competent and fair-minded.

I have also had her on my radio show (ThinkTech Hawaii on Hawaii Public Radio, KIPO FM 89.3) and also feel she is well-informed, relatable and a sensitive and thoughtful manager.

I believe these qualities will make her an excellent Director of DLNR and, for the benefit of the land use community and DLNR itself, I urge you to confirm her at the earliest date.

Senator Clayton Hee  
Senator Russell Kokubun  
October 24, 2007  
Page 2

Thanks so much for your considerations of my views.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay M. Fidell".

Jay M. Fidell  
Of BENDET, FIDELL, SAKAI & LEE

JMF:dn

cc: Senate Sergeant-at-Arms (Telefax 586-6659)



The Nature Conservancy  
Hawaii Program  
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817

tel (808) 537-4508  
fax (808) 545-2019

[www.nature.org/hawaii](http://www.nature.org/hawaii)

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii  
Supporting the Confirmation of Laura H. Thielen  
As Chairperson of the Board of Land & Natural Resources  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2:45PM, Room 225

*The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for rare and endangered native species in Hawaii. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Moloka'i, Lanai, and Kaua'i and also work closely with government agencies and private landowners on cooperative land management projects.*

The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii supports the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land & Natural Resources. In our interactions with her to date, we have found her to be thoughtful and committed to the care and enhancement of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. She is a quick study, and is working hard to understand all of the complicated mandates of DLNR.

There are many significant challenges at the Department of Land & Natural Resources, in part, due to decades of budget shortfalls and conflicting mandates. However, in recent years we have been pleased with much of the progress being made in the DLNR's work on natural resource conservation, particularly in the Divisions of Forestry and Wildlife and Aquatic Resources. We look forward to working with Laura Thielen as Chair of DLNR to continue the important work of the Department, specifically with:

1. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife to care for Hawaii's forested watersheds through watershed partnership and invasive species programs;
2. The Division of Aquatic Resources to begin to reverse years of neglect of our ocean resources through improved management and regulation, particularly:
  - a. Community based management through programs like Makai Watch;
  - b. Support for responsible fishing through reasonable restrictions on destructive fishing gear like lay gill nets; and
  - c. Invasive algae control and removal
3. The Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement to increase financial and human resources and training for enhanced natural resource enforcement.

The Nature Conservancy also appreciates Ms. Thielen's work developing the State's Ocean Resource Management Plan during her tenure at the State Office of Planning. We support this comprehensive and holistic effort to plan for the care and management of Hawaii's coastal and marine resources, and recommend DLNR's role be revisited to ensure that:

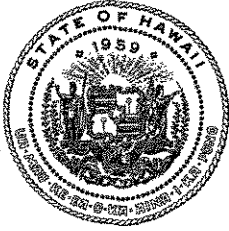
1. Key threats are addressed including land-based sources of pollution, over-fishing, and invasive species;
2. DLNR continues to improve fisheries management by implementing reasonable regulations such as improved size and bag limits, bottom fish restrictions, and limitations on destructive fishing methods like spear fishing on SCUBA gear; and
3. We enhance the capacity of the DLNR and the Judiciary to enforce compliance with existing and improved natural resource regulations.

We know that Ms. Thielen understands the critical role DLNR plays in protecting and sustainably managing our unique and fragile natural resources. And we look forward to working with her to ensure that they are available for this and future generations of Hawaii's people to use and enjoy.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Peter D. Baldwin Zador W. Brown, Jr. Carl A. Carlson, Jr. Meredith J. Ching David C. Cole Samuel A. Cooke  
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Duncan MacNaughton Bill D. Mills Wayne Minami Michael T. Pfeffer H. Monty Richards Jean E. Rolles Scott Rolles





## **ALOHA TOWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

600 Fort Street, Pier 10 Terminal, 2nd Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Website: [www.alohatower.org](http://www.alohatower.org)

**LINDA LINGLE**  
Governor  
**MELISSA PAVLICEK**  
Chairperson  
**SANDRA PFUND**  
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone: (808) 586-2530  
Fax: (808) 586-3046  
E-mail: [atdc@alohatower.org](mailto:atdc@alohatower.org)

Statement of  
**SANDRA PFUND**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Aloha Tower Development Corporation  
Before the  
**COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
Thursday, October 25, 2007  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
**GM 5**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LAURA H. THIELEN,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2010.**

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Kokubun, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water  
and Land.

The Aloha Tower Development Corporation (ATDC) offers its strong support for the  
appointment of Ms. Laura H. Thielen as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
Resources (DLNR).

The ATDC has worked collaboratively with Ms. Thielen in her role as the Director of  
the Office of Planning under DBEDT. She has been resourceful and responsive to our  
needs, and managed the Office of Planning in a positive efficient manner.

It has been a pleasure to work with Ms. Thielen. She is intelligent, articulate and a good manager. I believe that she will put her organizational skills to good use in guiding the DLNR to the improvements it needs. I have found that she is able to quickly assess a situation, identify a plan of action, and then execute it. She was a great asset for the Office of Planning, and I am sure she will likewise be an excellent leader for the DLNR.

I respectfully urge the Committee to vote favorably on the appointment of Ms. Laura H. Thielen as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Water and Land Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 586-7334 (fax)

I am writing in **strong support** of **Laura H. Thielen's** confirmation for the position of **Chair, Department of Land and Natural Resources**.

I have known Laura and the Thielen family since 1973. Laura grew up with three brothers, two older and one younger, and she developed the important skills necessary to navigate in a household with intelligent, opinionated, and headstrong members. I think these childhood lessons have provided her with a strong foundation and helped hone her negotiating skills.

Through the years, Laura has met each new chapter in her life (college, law school, marriage, law firm, parenthood, consultant, BOE, member, Office of Planning, Director, and DLNR, Chair) with passion, commitment, and integrity. Laura faces challenges by conducting thorough research, relying on the experience and insight of others, soliciting problem-solving ideas, and generating goals that are both practical and visionary. She is both a team-player and respected leader – both attributes essential in guiding a department.

In Laura's personal life, her daughters are an excellent example of Laura's success. She models the independence, courage, compassion, intelligence, and passion for life that her daughters consistently demonstrate as they grow into fine young women.

DLNR would be well served with Laura H. Thielen as its Chair.

 10/24/07

Désirée Poteet  
53-416-K Kamehameha Hwy.  
Hau'ula, HI 96717

cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa

October 24, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chairman Water and Land Committee

Cc: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa  
Laura Thielen, Acting Chairperson DLNR

Chairman Hee,

My testimony is being given today in support of the nomination of Laura Thielen for the appointment of Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

My introduction and subsequent association with Ms. Thielen began as a result of the Joint Senate and House investigation in the State of Hawaii Bureau of Conveyances. On behalf of my company, Hawaii Escrow and Title, Inc. and as the President of both the Hawaii Land Title Association and Hawaii Escrow Association I became involved with trying to further understand the problems that currently plague the BOC.

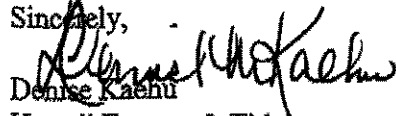
After making the initial contact with Ms. Thielen, she and I found that we both share the same concerns. We both are aware of the tremendous impact that this situation is having on the real estate related industries in the State of Hawaii. Ms. Thielen has already taken the initiative to form a Working Group to take to task the issues at hand. The group is made up of Representatives from the Real Estate industry which includes banking/lending financial institutions, Escrow and Title companies, Board of Realtors, BOC Associates, HGEA, Bar Association and Land Court.

The ultimate goal of the working group is to formulate a plan to put the BOC back on track so that the state of Hawaii will be able to provide State of the Art recording technology to automate the paper processes of our public records. This will provide consumers and our industries the most current public data record base with E Commence (Electronic filing) enhancements, Recovery & Disaster Plan reassurance, and a consumer friendly atmosphere in which to conduct business on a professional level. The working Group is dedicated to finding solutions.

Ms. Thielen is providing the leadership, time and effort along with the Working Group to take a positive proactive stance to ensure that the future of the Bureau of Conveyances has been secured. With the joint efforts of the State of Hawaii, Ms. Thielen's Working Group, and the employees of the BOC, we will work towards our common goal.

I hereby submit my testimony in support of Laura H. Thielen and her nomination as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



Denise Kaehu  
Hawaii Escrow & Title  
President



**Fidelity National Title**  
& ESCROW OF HAWAII, INC.

**October 24, 2007**

**Committee on Water and Land**  
**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**  
**Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair**

**Testimony for nomination of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of DNLR**

**As State President for Fidelity National Title & Escrow of Hawaii, I support the nomination of Laura Thielen to be the Chairperson of the DLNR for the following reasons:**

- **Since Laura's appointment as interim Chairperson she has hit the ground running to deal with the issues affecting the Bureau of Conveyances along with a lot of other issues under the DLNR. Laura did her research and brought together our Real Estate industry leaders, labor, and legal community to form a BOC working group to develop a plan to modernize the Bureau. Laura's sense of urgency to research and remedy the problems is well thought out and time-lined to get solutions in place to modernize the BOC. With confirmation of Ms. Thielen's appointment as Chairperson, the process of modernizing the BOC will keep moving forward.**
- **I would also like to point out that Laura has been fair and unbiased regarding the issues pertaining to the BOC.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Hastie", written in a cursive style.

**Dale Hastie**  
**State President**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Thursday, October 25, 2007

2:45 pm

GM 5 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, Laura H. Thielen, for a term to expire 12-31-2010


Testimony in Support of Laura Thielen

My name is Jennifer Bethel and I currently work at DLNR as the Department Project Coordinator.

I first met Laura in 2005, while she was the Director of the Office of Planning. I had the privilege of working with her and her staff on a variety of projects including the Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan. I found her to be very approachable, and well organized. I was especially impressed with her forward thinking vision and her willingness to work collaboratively with others.

Although I have only worked with her for a short time, in her capacity as Chairperson, I have been impressed with her determination to move the department forward, and tackle many of the department's long-standing issues.

In a Department as large and diverse as DLNR, her character and background is a welcomed asset. Thus, I urge you to support her confirmation as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, so that she may continue to lead the department for the next 3 years.

  
Jennifer Bethel  
221 Kuukama Street  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

October 25, 2007

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

BILL NUMBER: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 5

TITLE: SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LAURA H. THIELEN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2010.

DEPARTMENT'S  
POSITION:

We strongly support the nomination of Laura Thielen for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

COMMENTS:

Ms. Thielen has extensive knowledge and skill as a planner, having served as the head of the Office of State Planning. Her experience has also allowed her to address issues relating to environmental protection and ocean resources and she has demonstrated her ability to move the department forward during a period of challenge and change.

During her short tenure, Ms. Thielen has begun the process of improving the oversight of the State Office of Preservation through the filling of critically needed archeological staff positions and pursuit of programmatic agreements that will allow the observance of cultural sensitive monitoring of development activities while eliminating routine work in areas already examined and deemed clear of cultural sensitive conditions. This adjustment allows the continuing oversight of historic and cultural interests while eliminating the cause of added and unnecessary workload on the SHPD staff and greatly improves the ability of the Department of Transportation to expedite routine repair and maintenance projects.

Ms. Thielen has worked closely with the Department of Transportation on the planning for improvements on transportation infrastructure, assisting in the acquisition of lands necessary for the expansion of our state harbors while maintaining the interest on protection of public land assets and environmental matters under the jurisdiction and responsibility of her department. Her selection to be the nominee to lead the Board of Land and



Natural Resources came about through extensive interview and examination by a search committee of 30 representatives from various areas within the state, ranging from environmental, cultural, natural resource proponents and government officials. The process identified her as a superior candidate for the position as she received the overwhelming support of the evaluators as an individual who is well qualified and extremely capable of assuming this important position.

Given her experience, knowledge and ability to work well with a wide and varied constituency, her strong advocacy for the environment and preservation of historic and cultural interests, along with the ability to gain the confidence and support of the employees in her department, Ms. Thielen is an excellent choice for the position of chairperson to the department.

**Cherie Yamane**

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**From:** Deborah M. Chun [DChun@chunrair.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2007 2:41 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Cc:** Sen. Colleen Hanabusa  
**Subject:** Support for Confirmation of Laura Thielen

Please allow me this opportunity to register my support for Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and to urge that she be confirmed for that position. As she has demonstrated by her work in the other public service positions she has held, she is a leader that works well with others—a skill that is critical for that Department. Combined with her intelligence and demonstrated commitment to the environment, Laura will serve this State very well as Chairperson.

Thank you.

Deb Chun

Deborah Macer Chun, Esq. ([dchun@chunrair.com](mailto:dchun@chunrair.com))  
CHUN RAIR & YOSHIMOTO LLP  
1000 Bishop Street, Suite 1000  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 528-4200  
Direct Line: (808) 539-0619  
Facsimile: (808) 531-8466

October 24, 2007

Dear Senator Hee,

It is my understanding that a hearing to consider Laura Thielen's nomination to serve as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources will be held on October 25, 2007. While I am unable to attend and give testimony on her behalf, I would like to lend my support to her nomination for this position.

I have known Mrs. Thielen for many years and have closely followed her work in the DLNR as well as other government posts. She has worked tirelessly for the state and has performed a considerable service to the community through her leadership and initiatives. She has made an excellent start at DLNR and it would be highly detrimental to the department and the state to disrupt her work with another leadership change.

Since you are my Senator as well as the committee chair, I look to you to shepherd her nomination smoothly through your committee to approval. Thank you for your hard work through the years and for leadership on this specific subject. I hope you will agree with my *opinion on Mrs. Thielen's qualifications and leadership and do all you can to see he nomination approved.*

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen Korow  
48-499 Kamehameha Hwy.  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Cc: Colleen Hanabusa

To: the Honorable Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water & Land Committee  
CC: Senate President Colleen Hanabusa  
From: Richard Ziegler, Professor, HCC  
Re : Letter of Support for L. Thielen

Aloha! My name is Richard Ziegler, and I am a professor in history and American Studies at Honolulu Community College. I wish to add my voice in support for Laura Thielen for Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have been involved in environmental issues in Hawaii for some time. I was president of the Stop H-3 Association in the 1980's, and most recently the writer of "Earthquest Hawaii 2054, a short work on global warming ( a copy of which I passed on to every member of the State Legislature.)

I have been most impressed with Ms. Thielen's long and distinguished record in community and environmental issues. Also, her vision and leadership are revealed in her application for DLNR Director – the need for innovation and common vision, and leading organizational change.

I believe that in the coming decade, Hawaii will face an unprecedented number of environmental challenges, and the leadership of Ms. Thielen and the people she brings into government will be critical in dealing with them. I urge you to vote in favor of her confirmation as DLNR Director. Mahalo,

  
Richard Ziegler

46-160 Nahiku Street  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
October 24, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96744

Subject: Confirmation Hearing of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2:45 p.m.

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Kokubun:

I submit this letter in support of the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Ms. Thielen during her tenure as Executive Director of the Office of Planning and, most recently, in her term as interim Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. During 2006 and 2007, while in the position of policy analyst in the Office of the Governor, I was assigned to work with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. I was fortunate to work with Ms. Thielen regarding policy issues during this time.

Ms. Thielen was consistent with her management and focus for the Office of Planning. She led this office with professionalism and a direction of responsible planning for the future of Hawaii. Ms. Thielen has displayed strong character and integrity. She has shown herself to be a proven leader in the areas of land use and related development.

Currently, I am working with Ms. Thielen on the project relating to the automation of the paper processing at the Bureau of Conveyances. She has taken a proactive approach to this task by including input and guidance from the customers of the Bureau of Conveyances as well as the current employees at the Bureau. By including all partners involved with the process, a positive outcome will prevail. This is an example of the positive management style of Ms. Thielen.

Again, I respectfully request the confirmation of Laura h. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



Nicki Ann Thompson

October 23, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hee:

My name is Craig Tasaka. I am the Program Manager of the Statewide Geographic Information System (GIS), which is a multi-agency program that is coordinated and managed by the State Office of Planning (OP). I am writing to strongly support the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Laura Thielen as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Through my experiences in working with Ms. Thielen while she was the Director of OP, I found her to be a very quick study in grasping the issues associated with the wide range of topics that we constantly face as a statewide planning agency. Furthermore, from my perspective as the GIS Program Manager, I was very much impressed by her full comprehension of the value of using spatial data and high tech solutions to analyze and understand the data to make decisions on a wide range of topics, particularly in the areas of planning, land use and resource management. As a result, she enthusiastically promoted not only our program, but the other programs within OP at every possible opportunity. I can honestly say that her support of our program was unwavering and as a manager, I truly appreciated her confidence in our GIS team.

In the two plus years that she was Director of OP, Ms. Thielen also demonstrated that she is a strong proponent of improving government efficiency. She wholeheartedly supported our efforts to build a networked, multi-agency enterprise GIS with a centralized database to discourage the tendency among State agencies to develop stovepipe systems with redundant databases. She also advocated for the integration of programs within OP through improved horizontal communication and coordination among our branches. As a result, we continue to operate in an integrated manner, which has improved the efficiency in the allocation of our limited resources.

Finally, one thing that I have personally discovered about Ms. Thielen is that she is quite passionate about protecting and preserving our environment, our precious land and ocean resources and our unique cultural assets. Through her personal convictions and her experience as the Director of OP, I strongly believe that Ms. Thielen is very qualified,

deserving and would, in fact, consider it to be a privilege to be confirmed for the all important position of *Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources*.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on Ms. Thielen's confirmation.

Sincerely,



Craig Tasaka

GIS Program Manager  
Office of Planning

c: Hon. Russell Kokubun  
Hon. Carol Fukunaga  
Hon. Jill Tokuda  
Hon. Paul Whalen  
Hon. Colleen Hanabusa  
Ms. Laura Thielen

*Castle & Cooke*  
*Hawaii*

100 Kahala Avenue  
Mililani, Hawai'i 96789-3997  
P.O. Box 898900  
Mililani, Hawai'i 96789-8900  
O'ahu: (808) 548-4811 • Fax (808) 548-2980  
Lana'i: (808) 565-3000 • Fax (808) 565-3312

October 24, 2007

*Harry A. Saunders*  
President

**Via Fax: 808-586-7330**  
**Via Email: [hee1@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:hee1@capitol.hawaii.gov)**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Hee:

**Subject: *Support for Confirmation on the Appointment of Laura H. Thielen as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources***

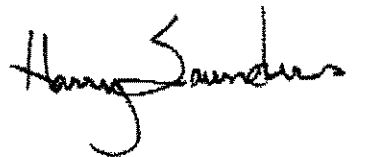
On behalf of Castle & Cooke Hawai'i, I am submitting this testimony in support of the appointment of Laura H. Thielen as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Leading such a large and diverse state agency presents a number of challenges as evidenced in recent years. Understanding perspectives, issues and policies while providing leadership, focus, commitment, balance, and practical resolutions continues to be a daunting task for DLNR.

We support the confirmation of Ms. Thielen as DLNR Chair, and we also urge your support to ensure DLNR is capably staffed to support the operations and purpose of the department.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your favorable consideration for the appointment of Laura Thielen to the position of DLNR Chair.

Sincerely,



c: Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land



**JIM ON & BEERMAN**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
A LAW CORPORATION  
PACIFIC GUARDIAN CENTER  
MAKAI TOWER  
733 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 2675  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE (808) 538-6418

FACSIMILE (808) 538-7615

Email Address: oahuav@cs.com

HENRY F. BEERMAN  
SHELTON G. W. JIM ON

OF COUNSEL  
REX T. MATSUMURA

October 24, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE (586-7334) and U.S. MAIL

Senator Clayton Hee and Committee Members  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
417 South Beretania Street, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Re: *Confirmation of Laura Thielen as Director  
Department of Land and Natural Resources*

Dear Senator Hee and Committee Members:

I am writing to support Laura Thielen as Director of DLNR, who I have the highest regard for. I have had both the pleasure and honor of working with her at the Board of Education between 2004 - 2005. She was always well prepared for every Board meeting. She attended every meeting without fail and in my personal opinion, was one of the smartest and hardest working Board members serving at that time. Although some of the Board members found her to be controversial, it was just because she believed in honesty and had a deep regard for the truth. I was particularly impressed with the way she conducted herself as a Board member in asking DOE administrators hard questions about the validity and structure of DOE programs. She is a strong supporter of the "weighted student average formula" in school funding and testified before the Legislature on those Bills as well as legislation seeking to reform the composition and character of the Board of Education. She has great integrity and was a

Senator Clayton Hee and Committee Members  
October 24, 2007  
Page 2

leader in the field of education. I believe that she will be a positive influence with DLNR.  
I hope that you will support her nomination to this position.

With warmest regards,

JIM ON & BEERMAN



SHELTON G. W. JIM ON

SJO:st  
cc: Ms. Laura Thielen  
I21231

Eric Kekoa Kingma  
3468 Kaimuki Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
808 276-2387

October 24, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee  
23rd Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Lands:

This letter is in support of Ms. Laura Thielen's confirmation by the Hawaii State Senate. I support Laura's confirmation because she believes in implementing traditional Hawaiian management principles involving an integrated ecosystem-based approach to natural and cultural resource management that recognizes the interrelationship between land and sea, and the importance of requiring greater collaboration between regulatory authorities and communities.

From my current employment (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council) within the natural resource management sector, and a born and raised resident of Hawaii, I believe mountain to sea or ahupuaa management is essential to effectively manage Hawaii's natural resources. I look forward to Laura's leadership as Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the material steps (regulations and enforceable policies) the BLNR takes to incorporate ecosystem-based and traditional Hawaiian resource management principles into contemporary life.

Please confirm Laura Thielen as Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mahalo for considering this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Eric K. Kingma

Sarah T. Casken  
84 White Sands Place  
Kailua, HI 96734  
808-261-4216

LATE TESTIMONY

October 24, 2007

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Water and Land Committee

Re: Confirmation Hearing for **Laura Thielen** as  
Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources

This testimony is in strong support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I had the pleasure of working with Laura in my former capacity as the executive director of a non-profit organization. Laura proved to be intelligent, thoughtful, thorough, efficient, and diligent. She is a good problem-solver, able to look at the big picture, and then, working well with others, determine an approach to achieve the goals necessary to solve the problem.

She helped our organization develop goals and objectives for projects to meet the needs of our clients. Then she guided us in creating the strategies to achieve those goals and objectives. In order to provide that level of meaningful guidance, she had to have great listening skills and the ability to put thought into action within the framework of our capabilities as an organization. She can think and plan concretely, yet within the bigger picture of where an organization wants and needs to go. In other words, she can dream with her feet planted firmly on the ground.

I believe Laura Thielen brings to the role of a public servant the very skills that our community wants and deserves. She is hard-working, ethical, and committed to the greater good. I believe her organizational skills, her clearheaded thought process, and her commitment to the community will be great assets in her role as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Laura Thielen's confirmation.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water and Land

## LATE TESTIMONY

Melody Heidel  
1341 Manu Mele St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

October 25, 2007

Re: In support of confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson, BLNR

Dear Chairperson Hee and members of the Senate Water and Land Committee:

I write in strong support of the confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Hawai'i State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). Ms. Thielen possesses the professional qualifications and personal integrity necessary to provide strong, effective leadership for this agency.

It is critical that we have chairperson of the BLNR who truly knows and understands land use issues, who has a track record of public advocacy, and who will represent and protect the best interests of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. Laura H. Thielen is that leader.

Ms. Thielen has demonstrated her ability to manage and lead in her roles as Director of the Office of Planning, Interim Director of the DLNR, and in the legal profession. Her education in public policy and her years of service on the Kailua Neighborhood Board and the Hawai'i State Board of Education have provided Ms. Thielen with the tools and experience to listen to and address the public's concerns and needs.

While working with and for the public and diverse organizations, businesses, and government agencies, Ms. Thielen has proven her capacity to work well with various people and groups in a collaborative manner. Most importantly, Ms. Thielen's extensive experience in environmental and land use law has enabled her with the knowledge and expertise critical to successfully manage the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

As a life-long Hawai'i resident who has followed Ms. Thielen's professional development, I am confident in her ability to provide thorough and competent leadership on the issues which are entrusted to the BLNR. As a former Hawai'i archaeologist and environmental advocate, I consider her the ideal candidate to entrust with the responsibilities of this important department. I trust Laura H. Thielen with the management and direction of our natural and cultural resources and urge you to do the same by confirming her as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo,



Melody Heidel

Cc: Senator Colleen Hanabusa, Senate President  
Senator Jill Tokuda

**hee1 - Sesnita**

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**From:** Sam Gon [sgon@TNC.ORG]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2007 8:53 AM  
**To:** hee1 - Sesnita; Sen. Russell Kokubun; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Paul Whalen  
**Subject:** Testimony SUPPORTING Laura H. Thielen as BLNR Chair

TO: Senate Committee on Water & Land  
Chair, Senator Clayton Hee  
Vice-Chair, Senator Russell Kokubun

DATE & TIME: Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225

SUBJECT: Testimony Supporting Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, LAURA H. THIELEN as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (GM 5)

I submit here testimony SUPPORTING Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the BLNR. I currently serve on the BLNR with Ms. Thielen since her interim appointment, and I have found her concerned, engaged with stakeholders, and committed to finding solutions to DLNR challenges. She has demonstrated clear willingness to meet with others regardless of their stance on DLNR issues, and a calm and intelligent approach to the complex and sometimes contentious issues regarding our natural resources.

Therefore I voice my strong support and ask you to confirm her appointment. Her short introductory period already demonstrates much promise, and she needs a chance to build on this good start with the DLNR.

Nau no, me ke aloha

Dr. Samuel M. 'Ohukani'ohi'a Gon III  
At-large member, BLNR

LATE TESTIMONY



**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
Natural Resources, Governors Message No. 5,  
LAURA H. THIELEN,  
for a term to expire 12-31-2010**

Senate Committee on Water and Land

October 25, 2007

2:45 p.m.

Room: 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **supports** the appointment of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). In fact, on October 24, 2007, the OHA Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee voted unanimously to support her confirmation and reappointment.

Ms. Thielen has proven her ability to lead important departments within the State of Hawai'i, having come directly from the Office of State Planning. She has expressed a commitment to Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources; her intent to listen, learn and incorporate constituency and public trust beneficiary concerns and rights into management practices; and exhibited honest communication and outreach efforts.

Her efforts while administering the State of Hawai'i's Office of Planning, under which falls the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program were notable. Our shorelines and coastal areas are concentrated areas of cultural resources where our kupuna lived, subsisted, and were buried. Ms. Thielen's recognition of this and of the importance of ahupua'a management methods greatly enhanced our ability to integrate better planning and protection for these invaluable areas of importance not only to our beneficiaries, but to all who call Hawai'i home.

Ms. Thielen has also begun regular meetings and collaboration with OHA Administration and staff and has remained available to OHA staff and Trustees regarding general and specific management issues and concerns. This open-door policy has allowed our Hawaiian beneficiaries to provide information and cultural advice on such diverse issues and given our closely related and overlapping areas of concern and kuleana, this relationship is very important.

OHA knows that no amount of private or public sector experience can provide the type of expansive managerial knowledge of running a department with such important public trust responsibilities. However, Ms. Laura Thielen has honored and continued the important working relationship with OHA regarding our mutual concerns for the long-term care, management and protection of our precious natural, cultural and historical resources.

While we continue to have concerns regarding the capacity and efficacy of certain areas of her department's responsibilities, Ms. Thielen is now more knowledgeable of, and openly committed to, address issues of great importance to OHA and our beneficiaries, including improvements to the culturally important State Historic Preservation Program, reconciling

the ceded lands inventory, and protecting and perpetuating cultural and subsistence gathering rights.

OHA supports Laura Thielen's appointment without reservation and urges the Committee to confirm her nomination. Mahalo for this opportunity to share our fond aloha for Ms. Thielen and our hopes to continue to build upon our working relationship with her for the benefit of our beneficiaries, and all who have come to love and call Hawai'i home.



Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
Deborah A. de Quevedo, Esq.  
4515 Aukai Ave.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
Hearing: Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2:45 p.m.

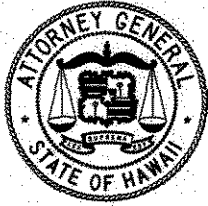
LATE TESTIMONY

Support for confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

I am writing in support of Laura Thielen's confirmation as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Through her leadership of the state Office of Planning, Ms. Thielen has experience balancing the interests of growth with concern for protecting and preserving Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. She has been a strong advocate for Hawaii and Hawaii's children, and has a broad base of support including, not insignificantly, the Sierra Club. Her significant interests in historic preservation, implementing Hawaii's ocean resource management plan, as well as renewable energy, will make her a valuable and effective asset in the stewardship of Hawaii's land and natural resources. I hope that after your careful consideration, Ms. Thielen receives your confirmation.

Regards,

Deborah A. de Quevedo, Esq.



**TESTIMONY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF 2007  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

G.M. NO. 5, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, LAURA H. THIELEN, for a term to expire 12-31-2010.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**DATE:** Thursday, October 25, 2007 **TIME:** 2:45 PM

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 225  
*Deliver to: Committee Clerk, Room 228, 1 copy*

**TESTIFIER(S):** Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General

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Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to testify in strong support of the nomination of Laura H. Thielen for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. While I had occasion to work with Interim Director Thielen while she was with the Office of Planning (and all my experiences were positive), I have had significantly more opportunity to work with her while she has been Interim Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have uniformly found Ms. Thielen to be very intelligent, thoughtful, committed, and ethical. Every interaction I have had with Ms. Thielen has impressed me and has been positive. I believe that Ms. Thielen is the strong caring committed leader the Department needs, and I support her confirmation wholeheartedly and without any reservation.



October 24, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair and Members  
Committee on Water and Land  
The Senate  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

**Subject:** Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as Chairperson of  
the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
LAURA H. THIELEN, for a Term to Expire 12-31-2010

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land, I would like to express my support for Laura H. Thielen and her confirmation as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

I have had the pleasure and opportunity to work with Ms. Thielen in my prior capacity as the Acting Deputy Director to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) during her tenure with the Office of Planning. Throughout this period, I found Ms. Thielen to be extremely supportive of CWRM staff and of the many program initiatives undertaken by CWRM to carry out its critical statewide water resource responsibilities.

Having served most recently on the BLNR Chairperson Search Committee, I had the opportunity to further review Ms. Thielen's background and relevant work experience. I sincerely applaud her commitment and long-range vision for sustaining our Islands' important natural resources and commend her praiseworthy passion towards pursuing and achieving the goals and objectives of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The position of BLNR Chairperson is a truly challenging and demanding position. I am confident that given the opportunity, Ms. Thielen will continue to carry forth her role and responsibilities in an admirable manner, and that she will be able to implement statewide program measures that will have a positive and lasting effect for generations to come.

In light of the above, I would like to respectfully request your Committee's support of Laura H. Thielen's confirmation as Chairperson of BLNR. I am assured that she will serve the public positively in protecting our State's important natural resources and will continue to be a tremendous advocate for the environment.

Very truly yours,



DEAN A. NAKANO  
98-1991E Kaahumanu Street  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

October 24, 2007

The Honorable Clayton Hee  
Chair and Members  
Committee on Water and Land  
The Senate  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair Hee and Members:

**Subject: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, LAURA H. THIELEN, for a Term to Expire 12-31-2010**

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land, I would like to express my support for Laura H. Thielen and her confirmation as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Thielen in my current capacity as the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS). During this time, I have found Chairperson Thielen to be both receptive and supportive of program measures to protect and sustain Oahu's ground- and surface-water resources.

I cannot emphasize enough her commitment and long-range vision for sustaining our Islands' important natural resources. More importantly, I would like to acknowledge and sincerely applaud her praiseworthy passion towards pursuing and achieving the goals and objectives of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The role and responsibility of the BLNR Chairperson is a complex, demanding, and truly challenging position. I am confident that given the opportunity, Ms. Thielen will continue to carry forth in a commendable manner and will be able to implement statewide program measures that will have a positive and lasting effect for generations to come.

In light of the above, I would like to respectfully request your Committee's support of Laura H. Thielen's confirmation as Chairperson of BLNR. I strongly believe that she will continue to serve as a tremendous advocate for the environment and will serve the public positively by protecting our State's important natural resources.

Very truly yours,



CLIFFORD P. LUM  
636 Pamaele Street  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

**LATE TESTIMONY**

To: Senate Cmte on Water & Land  
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair  
Sen. Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Hearing date: Thu, 10/25/2007  
Time: 2:45 pm

I strongly support the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Director of the DLNR.

I am the GIS Coordinator for DLNR and worked with Laura and her staff at OP last year. Thru her efforts, the State's IT Governance Cmte (the Comptroller and the deputy directors of the exec depts) expressed support for growing the GIS program from a coordinated effort to a true enterprise system. Among the benefits will be facilitated access to GIS resources and analysis by decision- and policymakers.

Laura's proven leadership in directing and supporting her staff and programs bodes well for DLNR. It's clear that good stewardship of natural (and information) resources, and inter- and intra-agency communication and collaboration are priorities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Arthur Buto  
1335 Wilder Ave, #207  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile



**EARTHJUSTICE**

*Because the earth needs a good lawyer*

BOZEMAN, MONTANA DENVER, COLORADO HONOLULU, HAWAII  
INTERNATIONAL JUNEAU, ALASKA OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA WASHINGTON, D.C.  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON:  
WATER AND LAND**

**ATTN: CHAIR CLAYTON HEE & VICE-CHAIR KOKUBUN**

**Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Laura H. Thielen as  
Chairperson of the Board of Land & Natural Resources**

**October 25, 2007, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 225**

**LIVE TESTIMONY**

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Kokubun, and Members of the Committee:

Earthjustice supports the confirmation Laura H. Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Earlier this year, I participated on behalf of Earthjustice as a member of the DLNR Chairperson Selection Committee. This committee comprised several dozen members from a wide range of interests spanning the government, business, and public interest sectors and different islands. At the time, I wondered whether such a large and diverse group would be able to reach any consensus.

The committee conducted extensive deliberations in numerous meetings, as well as an entire day of candidate interviews. In the end, two candidates received the committee's overwhelming support and recommendation, one of whom was Ms. Thielen.

Earthjustice's work often interfaces with the responsibilities of DLNR and its various divisions, and we recognize the critical importance of this agency and the key leadership role of its Chair. Although Ms. Thielen is still early in her term, our observations to date indicate that she is knowledgeable, thoughtful, and committed to fulfilling DLNR's mission as trustee of our precious natural and cultural resources. We therefore support her confirmation.

Very truly yours,

Isaac H. Moriwake  
Attorney  
Earthjustice

**LATE TESTIMONY**

October 24, 2007

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LAURA THIELEN, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2010.

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to recommend Laura Thielen for Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources. I first met Laura when she was appointed Director of the State of Hawaii Office of Planning (OP) and I was a commissioner on the State of Hawaii Land Use Commission. Laura immediately distinguished herself before the Land Use Commission by expertly communicating OP's position on critical land use policy issues. From my perspective, Laura's leadership at OP brought focus and direction to her office and OP's input quickly became instrumental to the successful resolution of many difficult dockets. In addition, through her leadership, OP was able to garner input from other state department and agencies, presenting a cohesive state position on land use reclassifications.

Based on my past experience working with Laura Thielen, I am confident she brings both the management experience and leadership skills necessary to tackle the diverse issues in the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Respectfully,



MICHAEL D. FORMBY



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 5  
Confirmation of LAURA THIELEN  
Nominee for Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Chair: Senator Clayton Hee  
Vice Chair: Senator Russell Kokubun

Thursday, October 25, 2007  
2:45 pm  
Conference Room 225

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun, and members of the Committee.

I am writing in support of the confirmation of the appointment of Laura Thielen to be the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

When Laura Thielen worked as the director of the Office of Planning, I interacted with her as member of the public, and as a professional planner and project manager. In my experience, Laura has been effective in her role heading the Office of Planning. She is dedicated, hard-working, articulate, and knowledgeable of the complex policy, planning and programmatic matters facing state government.

With her experience in state government and the private sector, Laura Thielen is well prepared to serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I would encourage you to confirm her appointment.

Mahalo.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**CLAUDINE MIKI TOMASA**

1268 Mokapu Boulevard  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
Home: (808) 254-1113  
Email: [lcmtomasa@yahoo.com](mailto:lcmtomasa@yahoo.com)

**TO:** Chair Clayton Hee  
Vice Chair Russell Kokuban  
Senate Committee of Water and Land  
State of Hawaii

**DATE:** October 24, 2007

**RE:** SUPPORT OF LAURA THIELEN  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS CHAIRPERSON OF  
THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

I am writing as a private citizen in support of Laura Thielen for the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Laura has always been active in our Community. I served with Laura on the Kailua Neighborhood Board and I've watched her grow to serve the greater community – the State of Hawaii- with much dedication, effort, and with the ability to work collaboratively with all groups and interests.

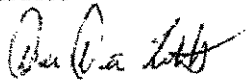
Besides meeting the qualifications (that prompted the search committee to recommend – to Governor Lingle - Laura Thielen for this important position), I know that she will be able to meet the expectations, and the challenges because of her extensive background, experience, and exposure. I can't think of a better person to fill this important and honorable position.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my comments and support of Laura H. Thielen – for the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

October 23, 2007

To: Senator Clayton Hee

FR: Dee Dee Letts



RE: Appointment of Laura Thielen

**LATE TESTIMONY**

I have worked with Ms. Thielen on several projects when she headed the state planning office and support her for the current appointment as Chairperson for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

In working with Ms. Thielen I found her dedicated, organized, focused and knowledgeable on the types of resource issues that face the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I recommend her to you for this position.

LATE TESTIMONY

SUZANNE E. CASE  
3757 Round Top Drive  
Honolulu. HI 96822

October 25, 2007

Via facsimile: (808) 586-7334

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
The Senate of the State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Honolulu HI

Re: Confirmation Hearing for Laura Thielen as Chairman, DLNR

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Suzanne E. Case and I have resided at 3757 Round Top Drive, Honolulu, Hawaii, for more than 40 years. I was Librarian at Hanahauoli School, Honolulu, for 12 years.

Laura Thielen was my student for her entire elementary school years as I taught library subjects to all classes every year. I have followed her educational progress after Hanahauoli and her career as an attorney with close interest. I am impressed by her thoughtful and deliberate approach as she thinks through a problem, and with the imaginative, practical solutions she proposes.

I feel she would be an excellent Chairman for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and recommend that you confirm her appointment as Chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Very sincerely yours,



**LATE TESTIMONY**

October 24, 2007

Rick Benedict  
PO Box 1911  
Kailua, HI 96734

State Senator Clayton Hee  
23rd Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Senator Hee.

It is my intent to express my most sincere support for Laura Thielen as a candidate for the DNLR. I first met Laura almost 15 years ago and in our first conversation was taken with her intellect and thought process. In that time that it has taken to know her, I have seen how she has made a most sincere effort to try to thoroughly understand various issues at hand, rather than jumping to conclusions. This mindset and seeking of understanding would seem to bode well for a position that would inherently need to include the voices of all people here in Hawaii concerned with how we use the land. It is my hope that you may give her the utmost consideration for this responsibility.

Best regards,

Rick Benedict

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**NOA EMMETT ALULI, M.D.**

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**FAX MEMO:** October 25, 2007

**TO:** Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
(808) 586-7334

Senate President Colleen Hanabusa  
Hawaii State Capitol  
(808) 586-7797

**FROM:** *Noa Emmett Aluli*  
Noa Emmett Aluli, MD  
(808) 553-4269

**RE:** DLNR Chair Confirmation Hearing

LATE TESTIMONY

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**ALOHA**

I'm writing to support the confirmation of Laura Thielen for Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. As you know, I was one of the members of the search committee to interview and name the finalists for that position for Governor's consideration. What you probably don't know is that I've known Laura for 30 years.

*Laura and I first met on Kaho'olawe. Her mother was the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana attorney, and sent Laura on an access to the island in those early days when we were fighting for the return of the Island.*

Uncle Harry Mitchell was on that access too. He spent much time sharing his experiences, knowledge and mana'o about the Island, culture, how to fish and gather food from the land, and how to respect the 'aina. A couple months after that access, Uncle Harry had a dream about Laura, that she was like the mist that hangs alongside the pali. He said he had that dream because every time he turned around after telling his stories, there was one young wahine standing a little behind, listening intently to what he said. He gave Laura the Hawaiian name for that mist - Lilinoe.

I've seen Laura grow from that teenager into the adult she is today. In my experience, I've found Laura to be connected and committed to Hawai'i Nei, a skilled negotiator, and an articulate presenter.

When we looked at the applications for the Chair of DLNR, Laura's stood out to many of us because of her clear dedication and vision for a strong environment, and her desire to do public work.

The answer, her mana'o, to my question of her interpretation of our State motto Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Aina I Ka Pono was from the heart, and convincing enough for me to support her nomination and now confirmation.

**MAHALO**

**LATE TESTIMONY****LATE TESTIMONY****CONFIRMATION OF LAURA THEILAN AS DIRECTOR OF THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Aloha mai kakou Chair Clayton Hee and fellow committee members. My name is Shad Kane. I am presently a member of the State Environmental Council, the Native American Advisory Group (NAAG) to the ACHP (Advisory Council of Historic Preservation) who has oversight over the preservation of all of America's historic landmarks and historic properties. NAAG advises ACHP who in turn advises Chairman Nau who in turn advises the President. I am also the Chairman of the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board #34. I am also a member of many cultural organizations to include the Kapolei Hawaiian Civic Club and the Royal Order of Kamehameha I. I am also President of the private non-profit Friends of Honouliuli committed to balanced growth in the growing city of Kapolei. I am also President of the Makakilo Kapolei Lions Club and member of the Kapolei Outdoor Circle.

I urge you to support Laura Theilan as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Although I know Laura on a personal level as a friend I am not asking for your support for that reason but rather for her commitment to doing the right thing regardless of affiliation. She is a tireless worker committed to the highest ideals. She has all the qualities of a leader. She has been stalwart even under fire in the most difficult situations. She is not afraid of challenges even when it is overwhelming. She has proven herself time and again that she can handle the toughest situations alone with no help. She is unshakeable. I think most of us here are aware of her achievements.

Laura Theilan came to the Department of Land and Natural Resources under extremely unusual circumstances. But that is almost routine for her. It was a department in turmoil and controversy. She has been able to get beyond all the controversy and work toward improving a rather difficult situation. She has been able work toward improving the operations of one of the largest departments in the State of Hawaii with the existing personnel. She has been able to improve relationships not just within the department but with other civic, community and cultural groups.

I have known few women who could handle the most difficult and challenging situations. Laura is one of them.

I urge you to support the confirmation of Laura Theilan as Director of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo a me, Aloha no,  
Shad Kane





hee1 - Sesnita

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**From:** nancy cullen [alanapc2002@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2007 7:30 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Colleen Hanabusa; sentokuda@capitolhawaii.gov  
**Cc:** laura.thielen@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Confirmation of Laura Thielen

## LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Sirs and Ladies,

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as the Chairperson of the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Laura for about five years. I met her first as a parent of two daughters that were attending a school where I was working. As a parent she was active and supportive and took time to be involved in activities at the school. Her daughters were different ages and had very different personalities and I would see her, and her husband celebrate and support each of the girls as the individuals they were.

She became more involved in school activities taking part in the PTSA at the school level and even attending an annual Hawaii State PTSA convention. Having lived both in Hawaii and on the East Coast she brought a good national perspective to issues being discussed.

Later we were involved in different community activities together. I always observed a high level of organization and fairness in everything she did. She constantly carried herself with the utmost composure.

I feel she has the flexibility to work with the wide variety of work groups and community organizations that are involved in DLNR. She has the background in government and a sensitivity to the environment and people of Hawaii that are essential to guiding the department.

And as an interesting aside, after Laura and I had known each other for close to a year we realized that she and her husband had known two of my brothers and sisters while attending college in Cleveland.!

In closing, I could not think of a better person as a steward for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for your time.

Nancy Cullen  
320-4 Molo St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

393-0354

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**From:** Linda F. Collins [lfc@kikiaola.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2007 1:20 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Cc:** Sen. Colleen Hanabusa; Sen. Gary Hooser  
**Subject:** Re: Thielen Confirmation Testimony

Dear Senator Hee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Laura Thielen as the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. We are certain that she has the qualifications to meet her stated and worthy objectives to initiate innovation, to develop a common vision, and to address systemic and chronic issues in the Department.

I am the President of Kikiaola Land Company which employs about 50 people and is the owner and developer of Waimea Plantation Cottages Hotel and 600 acres of land on West Kauai between Waimea and Kekaha. We provide agricultural land for a company that employs over a 100 people. As such we are keenly aware of the important and far-reaching impact DLNR has on all of our lives.

Kikiaola Land Company has a long history of cooperation with various Divisions of DLNR in projects important not only to our company, but to West Kauai as a whole. Some of that history includes:

- working with DLNR and other State agencies to help solve irrigation, storm-drainage and other environmental issues on our agricultural lands;
- working for the last ten years with DOBOR in securing community consensus and providing a site for dewatering for the improvements at Kikiaola Small Boat Harbor;
- as the concessionaire for the Kokee Lodge, working with the Parks Division to improve the facility and its services; and
- as a residential leaseholder at Kokee, working with diverse groups to achieve a fair disposition of the leases at Kokee.

We want to continue that history of cooperation and believe that Ms. Thielen has the education and the experience to provide the necessary leadership and balanced judgment to work with all stakeholders to tackle the diverse and challenging issues in DLNR's purview today.

As a member of the Board of Historic Hawaii Foundation (HHF) who ascribes to its goals, I am confident, along with other members of the board, that Ms. Thielen will be proactive in initiating action at the State Historic Preservation Division and finding ways that DLNR can partner with HHF and others in solving preservation issues.

Sincerely,

Linda Fayé Collins  
President  
Kikiaola Land Company  
Waimea, Kauai

Telephone: 808-338-1900

10/26/2007



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of Linda L. Smith  
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Monday, October 29, 2007  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 224

in consideration of  
GM 5  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Laura H. Thielen

Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of the nomination of Ms. Laura Thielen as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I join the many others who have shared with you that Ms. Thielen is the right person for this job.

I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Thielen since 2003 when she was an elected member of the Board of Education. Ms. Thielen was instrumental in assisting with the development of landmark charter school legislation in 2005 that significantly improved the operations, governance, and accountability of Hawaii's charter schools. She also provided invaluable insights on the Reinventing Education Act that included provisions for the weighted student formula to improve distribution of funds to Hawaii's public schools.

When Ms. Thielen was appointed as Director of the Office of Planning, she promptly recognized the talents and capabilities of that office. She reinvigorated the staff and brought to the forefront the importance of the Office of Planning's coastal zone management functions and the power of the Geographic Information System that is operated by that office. Ms. Thielen also took on the daunting task of spearheading the Leeward Coast revitalization project. She oversaw numerous community forums and guided over 167 discussions with members of that community to formulate a set of suggestions developed by residents, community leaders, non-profit organizations, and the public sector that can lead to long-term improvements in the quality of life for those who live along that Leeward Coast.

Testimony of Linda L. Smith in support of Laura Thielen  
GM 5

More recently I have had an opportunity to work with Ms. Thielen on ways in which we can address the burgeoning workload within the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). Laura has evidenced a balanced approach that recognizes the importance of addressing in a straightforward fashion issues that have been developing for a long period of time within the department. She has given generous amounts of her time to work with our federal partners, community groups, experts, and the native Hawaiian community to craft a series of suggestions for improving the operations of SHPD. Her goal has remained that the division needs to be realigned to allow it to focus on its core duties of preserving and protecting our cultural, historic, archeological, and architectural resources.

I hope you will give Ms. Thielen favorable consideration and vote to confirm her as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

**testimony**

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**From:** M Schaefer [msch4@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2007 1:30 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Support GM#5

To: Committee on Land and Water

RE: GM#5 Confirmation of Laura Thielen for Director

Please support the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Director of Land and Natural Resources. Ms Thielen will provide outstanding leadership to protect and preserve our wonderful natural resources.

I have worked with Ms Thielen on several state issues and find her very bright with an excellent grasp of the essence of many different issues.

The responsibilities of DLNR are far ranging and important. She is up for the challenge. I hope you will join me in supporting Laura Thielen for the directorship. Thank you.

Madge Schaefer  
520 Mikioi Place  
Kihei, HI

10/26/2007

*David A. Thompson, MD*  
*Diplomate American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology*  
*American Society of Addiction Medicine Certification*

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*c/o 1188 Bishop Street, Suite 3007*  
*Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

*(808) 578-2271*

October 27, 2007

Re-Laura Thielan

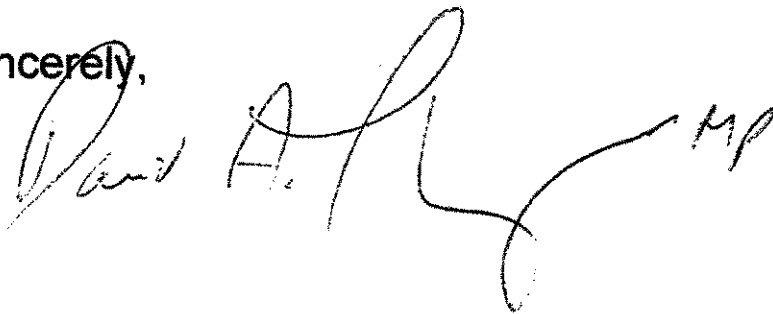
DLNR confirmation

Greetings,

Ms. Thielan and I have known each other for 15 years, raising our families in Kailua. Her willingness and ability to take on projects which benefit everyone is unique and refreshing. All of us have too much to do. Laura embraces being active in the community. Her example is a guidepost for all of us.

Public service requires a combination of intelligence, tenacity, and vision. Such individuals are rare. Please confirm Ms. Thielan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David A. Thompson MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "MD" initials clearly visible at the end.

I support Gov. Lingle's appointment of Laura Theilen as the Interim Director of DLNR.  
Diane Pure  
Lahaina Maui

Aloha Elected Officials,

I support Laura Thielen's appointment for Director of DLNR. Please approve her appointment.

Thank you very much for your consideration and service,

Patricia Cadiz

2406 Waipua Street

Maui, HI



Grace Furukawa  
3604 Woodlawn Terrace Place  
Honolulu, HI 96822

October 21, 2007

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Water and Land Committee  
State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee,

I would like to recommend Laura Thielan as Director of the Department Land and Natural Resources. My relationship with Laura Thielan is not close, but that which I have had convinces me of her dedication to whatever issue before her that will benefit Hawaii. I am convinced of her ethic of honesty, integrity and total effort to her task. She has a vision for Hawaii and she will do her best to achieve that vision in conjunction with related departments.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is a vitally important department, especially as we see the need to keep Hawaii green in the face of global warming. The chairperson of this department must be strong in upholding our laws, yet open to consider new needs that may confront her.

Thank you for considering Laura Thielan for this position.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Furukawa". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Grace Furukawa



**Confirmation of Laura Thielen  
Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources**

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Water and Land Committee**

Dear Chair Clayton Hee, my name is Bart Potter, current Vice President of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA). I am representing our President, Mike Robinson and our organization.

Thank you for allowing me to present testimony to you in support of Laura Thielen's Confirmation as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

HFIA is a non-profit Hawai'i organization, incorporated in 1989, which promotes a balance of forest land uses and sound management practices for all of Hawai'i's forests. Our industry generates over \$35 million in business for the State, through the products and services of our approximately 200 member companies and individuals. We have worked closely with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) over the past 15 years to promote, foster and develop industry standards, initiate forestry research and development, and promote quality control and industry integrity in the State of Hawai'i as a means of diversifying our economy and protecting our environment. We look forward to working with Laura Thielen to support the Hawai'i forest industry and ensure the proper management and maintenance of healthy and productive forests in our state.

On behalf of Mike Robinson, HFIA Board Members, and our association membership, I am happy to submit testimony in support of Laura Thielen to you today.

Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

Bart Potter, Vice President

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Russell S. Kokubun, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Thomas S. Dye, Ph.D., President  
Society for Hawaiian Archaeology  
P.O. Box 23292, Honolulu, HI 96823  
Telephone: 808-529-0866, FAX: 808-529-0884  
Email: sha@tsdye2.com

LATE TESTIMONY

HEARING: Thursday October 25, 2007, 2:45 PM, Conference Room 225

SUBJECT: Testimony in Opposition to Confirmation of Gubernatorial  
Nominee, LAURA H. THIELEN as Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
Natural Resources (GM 5)

I am Dr. Thomas Dye, President of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA). We have over 200 members that include professional archaeologists and advocates of historic preservation in general. At the behest of our membership, I am testifying in opposition to the confirmation of Laura Thielen as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Many of our members routinely work with the Department's Historic Preservation Division and have done so for years.

At our 2007 annual business meeting held on October 20, 2007 in Kona, Hawai'i, our membership voted unanimously to oppose the nomination of Ms. Thielen based on the serious concerns our members have over the continued deterioration of the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) which stands in stark contrast to Ms. Thielen's publicly-announced assessment that SHPD has been and is moving in the "right direction." Ms. Thielen has stated that SHPD is one of her highest priorities and yet, to date, she has not demonstrated an informed understanding of how serious the division's problems are, or even what they are, and is proposing remedies that appear to be largely superficial and short-sighted. More troubling, she has not sought the solid advice of knowledgeable and experienced individuals who could provide her with the information and direction we believe she needs most. In short, she needs a reality check.

The following is a brief summary of our primary concerns:

Staffing: Although claims have been made that 24 or 25 out of the 27 positions are now filled, SHA understands that at least some newly hired archaeologists are "emergency" hires, meaning that their employment is for a 90-day period with one extension and not benefits. It is not clear what will become of these individuals or the positions when this employment period ends. Of greater concern, is that this hiring practice lends itself to the already very high level of staff turn-over and delays in the reconstruction the Division's badly damaged institution knowledge and experience. Are these the approaches the Administration is touting as "creative"?

Lowering Professional Qualifications: Position descriptions for archaeological and history and culture professional positions have been recently rewritten, to reduce the minimum qualifications and experience individuals need to fill SHPD's primary professional positions. Previously, these qualifications were consistent with or exceeded

national historic preservation standards. In addition, multiple levels archaeological qualifications have now been created but no additional positions have been created to absorb these additional levels. Thus, individuals with lower qualifications can and are now filling positions that were once held by individuals with advanced degrees and/or years of experience in Hawaiian archaeology. More importantly, these recent hires are not being trained or supervised by individuals with the higher qualifications and experience.

Archaeologists hired with reduced qualification are also being put in the awkward and vulnerable position of not meeting the qualifications required, by administrative rule, of anyone conducting archaeological work in Hawaii (§§13-281-2 and 3). Thus they are reviewing, without qualified supervision, the adequacy of reports and plans they are not qualified to prepare. Formerly job descriptions and qualifications for supervising professionals and those conducting reviews requiring professional judgment calls were based on the nationally recognized Standards of the Secretary of the Interior ([http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch\\_stnds\\_0.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_0.htm)). Replacing the high number of departed staff with individuals with lower qualification and less experience will not help rebuild the institution and functions of SHPD no matter how well intended and dedicated the current staff may be.

Programmatic Agreement for HRS §6E-42 Project Reviews: Ms. Thielen has publicly touted an initiative she and the Governor's Office began to purportedly streamline the historic preservation review process and lower SHPD work loads. They wish to enter into programmatic agreements with county agencies that would define entire classes of projects and applications that would no longer be submitted to SHPD for review in accordance with HRS §6E-42. These are characterized as actions that are superfluous, such as road striping and the installation of grease traps, in that they would not affect historic properties in any way. Staff would then be able to focus on permitting and land use actions that have the greatest potential to impact historic properties.

While superficially this may sound reasonable and effective, on closer examination it is both potentially dangerous and unlikely to significantly reduce workloads. Basically, it shifts historic preservation decisions from SHPD staff to county planning staff or engineers that may not have the background to know if a project in a particular locale could affect historic properties and they may not have access to records needed to make what informed decisions. For example, on O`ahu alone we know of instances where grease trap excavations resulted in the inadvertent discovery of human burials. Also former SHPD staff who literally saw thousands of project submittals do not recall any that were solely for road striping. Road striping was generally part of larger highway improvement project that, depending on its location and depth of disturbance, could impact historic properties, particularly burials. Eliminating projects that are infrequently submitted will not significantly reduce workloads.

We note also that there is no basis in state law or regulations for such programmatic agreements as there is in the federal historic preservation process. A key factor in federal programmatic agreements is that most federal agencies with them have on staff historic

preservation specialists that can make professional judgment calls on whether an action is or is not excluded under the programmatic agreement.

We strongly question why the state is pursuing, at this time, a departure from long-standing policy and practice when the counties already have some latitude under HRS §6E-42 determining what projects will be submitted to SHPD for review. In the past, experienced and knowledgeable staff at SHPD, most of who had very good working relationships with their county staff, were able to quickly and effectively prioritize their workloads and filter out superfluous reviews. Staff was willing and able to do this because it ultimately supports a higher level of compliance with the state's historic preservation laws.

**Weekly Posting of Reports and Plans and SHPD Determinations:** The SHPD is required by regulation and by court settlement to provide a weekly web posting of all its review determinations and a list of all reports and plans received for review during the preceding week. During the last three years, the online postings became intermittent and erratic, with updates occurring at monthly or even quarterly intervals. From September 2006 through August 2007, no online postings whatsoever appeared on the division's website. The SHPD resumed the postings in August 2007 but in a confusing, diminished, and inaccurate format that is difficult for professionals to understand and probably impossible for the public to use as the regulations intended. Why was the database previously used for posting, which also served other office functions to reduce duplicate data input, abandoned?

**Streamlining the Review Process:** Given Ms. Thielen's emphasis on streamlining, it difficult to understand why previously established procedures implemented to support and streamline the compliance review process has been dismantled or abandoned and done so without replacements. For example, stamps with prepared compliance language were used to quickly approve plans where no historic properties would be affected. Use of the stamps was discontinued. In addition to the failure to maintain the weekly online postings described above, the SHPD's website is woefully out of date. Recent hires are not reflected in the staff listing, and all telephone contacts for O`ahu are referred to clerical staff. Agendas for the island burial councils are posted erratically, sometimes less than six business days before a meeting while minutes are posted months after they are due. A database of reports and plans in the SHPD library, formerly accessible online, was abruptly removed in 2005 and there has been no visible effort to replace it. Most importantly, the division's GIS database ? a critical tool for staff and public alike ? has apparently been scuttled, with all access to it denied. All of these things ? accomplished online ? would streamline the review process and greatly assist the public who must work with SHPD; not coincidentally, moving more information sources to the web would also free up staff time.

**Privatization:** Using reduced staffing as an excuse, the SHPD has begun to privatize various functions, ranging from the recovery of inadvertent burials to the regulatory reviews of reports and plans. There has been little transparency in developing or securing private services. The processes for determining which functions are privatized, how contracts for the work are let, who gets such contracts, and what

accountability, if any, the private contractors have for their work is all unknown. More importantly, there appears to be no standard or thorough policy to avoid conflicts of interest.

Working Group Reports: We have waited in vain for SHPD and the department to report on the meetings of Historic Preservation Working Groups convened in 2006, and in which many SHA members participated. Although at least \$24,000 of State money was spent on this endeavor, there is still nothing to show for it, despite repeated inquiries made to successive Directors of DLNR. Ms. Thielen recently announced creation of a working group to assist the Bureau of Conveyances. We hope that interested parties concerned about that Division do not face the same fate.

Record Keeping: Our members report continual problems with SHPD's record keeping. It is commonplace for the division to claim that they cannot locate their own files or correspondence which can have serious consequences. SHA members have experienced situations where SHPD has claimed that copies of existing preservation plans or agreements cannot be found or previously issued approval letters are missing. The resulting delays are costly to any permit applicant, and disastrous in the case of historic sites. How is the SHPD going to monitor such preservation plans if it can't keep track of its own records? Conversely, when SHA members and others have been denied access to SHPD records and files, often in an arbitrary and capricious manner, it has required the assistance of the Office of Information Practices to resolve these issues. Most serious of all, we are aware of several instances where the SHPD has apparently purged its correspondence files, erasing the state's record of its own historic preservation decisions.

In conclusion, we hope that the Committee carefully considers the concerns listed above. If Ms. Thielen is confirmed as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, I wish to reconfirm our willingness, as a Society and as individual members, to help provide her with the information, perspectives, and experience we believe she needs to truly move the Historic Preservation Division in the right direction. Thus far she has rebuffed our willingness to help, but we remain committed in our attempts to support this important state agency and its fundamental functions.

Thank you for considering our testimony, and please feel free to contact me at the preceding telephone numbers or email should you have any questions about our testimony.

**From:** carl [mjellings@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2007 12:15 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Russell Kokubun  
**Cc:** Sen. Colleen Hanabusa; Rep. Mele Carroll; karen\_awana@msn.com; Rep. Maile Shimabukuro  
**Subject:** Written Testimony

Aloha Senator **Clayton Hee**

It has come to my attention after watching the oral testimony on the just recent confirmation hearings regarding the current Land Board Chair Laura Theiland,,, that she has met with several of the environmental group leaders Kahea and TNC and maybe some others,,, I must inform You that several attempts by the fishing community have been made to schedule and meet with her to discuss issues that have dire consequences for fishermen and fishing communities abroad,, and furthermore We would also have wanted to discuss what future fishing will have in her administration ..she has either failed to respond or put off these attempts supposedly till a later date or after her confirmation,,, she claims or her aid claims that she is unable to meet with us at this time,,, The Senate has been heavily ***criticized*** for having ousted former Land Board Chair Peter Young by environmental groups through out Hawaii,,, especially Our Honorable Senator Russell Kokubun Senate President Colleen Hanabusa and as well as Your self as you sat on the Water Land Committee as Co Chair,,, I would Like to make mention to You that it is this fishermen"s strong opinion that should you choose to allow her "the" position you will be getting much of the same kind of leadership that you diligently worked so hard to remove,,, I would like to strongly suggest a more fair and balanced personality as Chair,,,

Mahalo Nui

Carl Pao Jellings

Dear Members of the Committee on Land and Water,

You will be holding a hearing on the nomination of Ms. Laura Thielen to be the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. While I hear many favorable things about her, there is one matter that I respectfully suggest may prove disqualifying.

In the examination of her qualifications, an exploration of her participation in the illegal scheme to continue operations of the Hawai'i Superferry, after the ruling by the Hawai'i Supreme Court in the *Sierra Club* case, is appropriate.

In the hearing before the Senate on the proposed Superferry legislation, Mr. Fukunaga confirmed that, when lobbying against the 2007 legislation requiring an EIS for Superferry, he understood the law to mean that, if an EIS is required, the Superferry had to stop operating. The same law applies to an EA.

Then when the Supreme Court later issued its opinion that an EA is required, Mr. Fukunaga came out with his opinion that the Superferry could continue to operate while preparing an EA; he knowingly misstated the law. That deliberate misstatement set in motion all the illegal events the transpired up to the time Judge Cardoza entered his order.

I do not necessarily believe that Ms. Thielen understood that she was participating in an illegal act outside the scope of her authority. Nevertheless, she did participate.

In questioning Ms. Thielen during her confirmation hearing, you have an opportunity to continue the process of exploring what really happened in the Superferry episode.

I have attached a legal memorandum that is very blunt in its terms because it is part of papers being prepared to request a special prosecutor be appointed.

If Ms. Thielen is not accompanied by counsel, it would be appropriate to remind her of her Fifth Amendment rights against self incrimination. Even better would be to advise her in advance to appear with legal counsel. I assume that she will be under oath while testifying in her confirmation hearing.

I trust this submission will be viewed as contributing to your fulfilling your responsibilities in the confirmation process.



I believe Ms. Thielen deserved better than the leadership she received from the Governor and regret that matters got so far out of control and so far outside the law.

Aloha,  
  
Lanny Sinkin

—  
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Attorney at Law (Federal Practice)

Ali'i Mana'o Nui (Chief Advocate and Spiritual Advisor) by appointment of  
Ali'i Nui Mo'i (King) Edmund Keli'i Silva, Jr.

*Dated October 26, 2007*

## QUESTIONS POSED:

Did Laura Thielen, as Acting Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, participate in a conspiracy to illegally continue operations of the Hawai'i Superferry after the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruling in the *Sierra Club* case required, as a matter of law, that all further operations of the Hawai'i Superferry Cease?

Did the acts committed by Ms. Thielen constitute terroristic threatening, a Class C felony?

On August 31, 2007, the Hawai'i Supreme Court issued its opinion in *The Sierra Club v. The Department of Transportation of the State of Hawai'i*.

In that opinion, the Court stated:

Therefore, based on this record, we can only conclude that DOT's determination that the improvements to Kahului Harbor are exempt from the requirements of HEPA was erroneous as a matter of law. The exemption being invalid, the EA requirement of HRS § 343-5 is applicable. This issue being dispositive, we need not consider Appellants' other arguments.

<http://www.state.hi.us/jud/opinions/sct/2007/27407.pdf> at 101-102

(emphasis added).

HRS § 343-5(b)(2) includes the following requirement:

(2) The final authority to accept a final statement shall rest with:

(A) The governor, or the governor's authorized representative, whenever an action proposes the use of state lands or the use of state funds, or whenever a state agency proposes an action within the categories in subsection (a); or

(B) The mayor, or the mayor's authorized representative, of the respective county whenever an action proposes only the use of county lands or county funds.

Acceptance of a required final statement shall be a condition precedent to implementation of the proposed action.

HRS § 343-5(b)(2) (emphasis added).

Once the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled that the State of Hawai'i is required to prepare an environmental assessment for the harbor improvements made to facilitate operation of the Hawai'i Superferry and for the operation of the Hawai'i Superferry itself, all the requirements of HRS § 343-5 applied. One of those requirements found in HRS § 343-5(b)(2) is completion and acceptance of the environmental assessment prior to any further operations by the Superferry.

#### DISCUSSION

Acceptance of a required final statement shall be a condition precedent to implementation of the proposed action.

HRS § 343-5(b)(2) (emphasis added). See also HAR § 11-200-23(c)

(Acceptance of a required statement shall be a condition precedent to the use of state or county lands or funds in implementing the proposed action.); see also Kepoo v. Kane, 106 Haw. 270, 291, 103 P.3d 939, 960 (2005); Kahana Sunset Owners Ass'n v. County of Maui, 86 Haw. 66, 74; 947 P.2d 378, 386 (1997); "Guidebook for the Hawaii State Environmental Review Process" (2004) published by the Hawaii Office of Environmental Quality Control at 9 (final EIS accepted before project can proceed) and 13 (environmental

review process must be completed before final approval of an action can be granted.)

The Hawaii Supreme Court has consistently upheld this legal principle. See e.g. Pearl Ridge Estates Comm. Ass'n v. Lear Siegler, Inc., 65 Haw. 133, 648 P.2d 702 (1982), (voided boundary amendment because EA had not been prepared prior to approval); Molokai Homesteaders. v. Cobb, 63 Haw. 453, 466, 629 P.2d 1134, 1144 (1981) (environmental compliance required "prior to a governmental approval").

The opinion that the Hawai'i Superferry could continue to operate while preparing an environmental assessment was contrary to law; "condition precedent" and "concurrent" are mutually exclusive terms.

There is no colorable question of law regarding the application of HRS § 343-5 to the facts in *The Sierra Club v. The Hawai'i Department of Transportation*. The law mandated that:

(1) The Hawai'i Superferry cease all use of harbor improvements made by the State of Hawai'i to facilitate Hawai'i Superferry's operation until such time as the State of Hawai'i completes an environmental assessment of the harbor improvements and of the operations of the Hawai'i Superferry and that assessment is accepted by the Governor or the Department of Transportation.

(2) Any attempt by the Hawai'i Superferry to resume operations using such improvements prior to completion and acceptance of the environmental assessment would be an illegal act.

(3) All Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and the Executive Branch of the State were obligated to desist from facilitating the continued operation of the Hawai'i Superferry.

(4) All actions by a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agent or any member of the Executive Branch of the State to facilitate the continued operation of the Hawai'i Superferry constituted *ultra vires* acts (acts outside the authority of their office) and subjected the person acting to personal liability.

The official actions taken to continue operations of the Hawai'i Superferry, after the Supreme Court ruling, constituted actions outside the authority of the public officials involved and constituted both illegal actions and actions taken in furtherance of a conspiracy to violate the law.

Encouraging and facilitating the illegal operation of the Hawai'i Superferry, after the Supreme Court ruled that an environmental assessment was required, constituted malfeasance in office or official misconduct on the part of the Governor and the Director of the Department of Transportation.

The agreement between the Governor, the Director of the Department of Transportation, and the management/directors of Hawai'i Superferry, Inc. to continue operations of the Superferry illegally, after the Supreme Court ruled that an environmental assessment is required, constituted a conspiracy.

The events of August 26 and 27 in Nawiliwili Harbor, Island of Kaua'i, include the following civil torts and/or criminal offenses:

Even though State and Federal officials in the highest positions of responsibility were not present on August 26 and 27, to the extent those officials acted to create and/or facilitate the situation, those officials are accessories to the events on those dates.

On August 26 and 27, law enforcement officials arrested numerous people trying to prevent the implementation of the illegal conspiracy to continue Superferry operations. All those arrests were false arrests.

The people arrested on August 26 and 27 were falsely imprisoned.

Anyone participating in the Superferry enterprise who took from another person their boat, surfboard, boogie board, or other possession without their consent is guilty of theft.

The actions of law enforcement in seizing the property of people in the Nawiliwili Harbor area on August 26 and 27 took place with the implicit use of deadly force. Such actions constituted robbery.

In the course of aiding and abetting Superferry in violating the law, law enforcement personnel arrested, and detained against their will, citizens trying to enforce the law. Such actions constituted kidnapping.

To the extent the County Prosecutor pursued or continues to pursue prosecution of those arrested, rather than those participating in the illegal conspiracy, the County Prosecutor is engaged in, or is engaging in, *obstruction of justice*.

The Coast Guard boat that de-tarped and manned its large caliber machine gun in Nawiliwili Harbor committed an assault on those within range.

When the Governor then created the Unified Command to continue the illegal operation, all participants in the Unified Command joined the conspiracy.

**HRS §707-716 Terroristic threatening in the first degree.** (1) A person commits the offense of terroristic threatening in the first degree if the person commits terroristic threatening:

(a) By threatening another person on more than one occasion for the same or a similar purpose;

(b) By threats made in a common scheme against different persons;

(c) Against a public servant arising out of the performance of the public servant's official duties. For the purposes of this paragraph, "public servant" includes but is not limited to an educational worker. "Educational worker" has the same meaning as defined in section 707-711; or

(d) With the use of a dangerous instrument.

(2) Terroristic threatening in the first degree is a class C felony. [L 1979, c 184, pt of §1(2); am L 1989, c 131, §1; gen ch 1992; am L 2006, c 230, §31]

The press conference held by the Governor, the Coast Guard, and Superferry announcing the plan to return to Nawiliwili Harbor constituted an act of official terroristic threatening.

To the extent that the Attorney General cooperated with the Superferry illegal enterprise and/or failed to prosecute the government officials cooperating in that enterprise, the Attorney General is guilty of obstruction of justice.

The release of the statement of offenses and punishments aimed at those intending to enforce the law in Nawiliwili Harbor was the second act of official terroristic threatening. That second act triggers Section (a) of the State statute.

The Governor going to Kaua'i to again threaten people with arrest and prosecution is a third act of official terroristic threatening, reinforcing the application of Section (a) of the State statute.

Laura Thielen participated in the Governor's meeting on Kaua'i in her official capacity as Acting Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. As a participant, she committed the offense of terroristic threatening.



The official threats made against hundreds of people to further the Superferry enterprise triggered Section (b) of the State statute.

The people trying to enforce the law in the face of official lawlessness assumed a position as "public servants." The threats directed at these public servants triggers Section (c) of the State statute.

To threaten to arrest, prosecute, imprison and fine people acting in harmony with the law in order to further violations of law constitutes official terroristic threatening.

The inclusion of law enforcement personnel in the Unified Command added use of deadly weapons to enforce the threats, triggering section (d) of the statute.

The conspiracy to intimidate, arrest, prosecute, imprison, and fine the people trying to enforce the law against the illegal operation of Superferry constitutes a civil rights conspiracy with both state and private actors.

October 26, 2007

Page One of Two

To:  
Senator Clayton Hee

From:  
Dr. Diane Ragone and Jim Wiseman  
PO Box 1126  
4413 Kaluamakua Place  
Kilauea, HI 96754  
(808) 828-1995  
[wiseman.jim@gmail.com](mailto:wiseman.jim@gmail.com)

Dear Senator Hee:

We were contacted today by a third party who saw our opinion letter that was published in today's Garden Island newspaper who thought you should see it. It summarizes our feelings on recent actions taken by the Board of Land and Natural Resources that directly affect residents of the North Shore of Kauai. Although I have no first hand knowledge of the Board's action, (I was not at the meeting, but understand our representatives were not even notified), I have it from very reliable sources that what we have stated is true. We would appreciate it if you would enter it into the record for the confirmation hearings for Ms. Thiclen, and perhaps question her on the Board's reasoning for depriving the people of Kauai of this important resource. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to call or email.

Thank you,

Jim Wiseman

In opposition - jmw

Garden Island, Friday, October 26, 2007

*Water diversion hurts*

*Why did the Board of Land and Natural Resources turn off the water on Kaua'i's North Shore?*

*The Board of Land and Natural Resources, under Laura Thielen (Interim Director, DLNR), recently voted to turn off the natural water supply to a large portion of Kaua'i's North Shore. A special legislative session is underway. One agenda item is confirming her nomination. The board's decision to dry up our streams adds insult to grievous injury: seven deaths, destruction of property and phenomenal damage to the Kilauea River watershed in March 2006.*

*The flow of water in streams throughout the area has totally ceased, not due to drought, but by deliberate action of DLNR. Water from state land is being diverted under the guise of "liability concerns" from streams not affected by the Kaloko Dam breach. The water now flows out to sea, bypassing traditional waterways. Wildlife habitat and nesting sites have been destroyed.*

*This action is widely impacting the 'aina. Farmers' livelihoods and residents' quality of life are affected. During droughts, brush fires are a threat. Surface water plays an important role in fire fighting, but the ponds are gone. Thus homes and lives are jeopardized.*

*Water flowing from state land belongs to the people. This issue must be resolved before irreparable damage is done to North Shore watersheds, residents and agriculture.*

*Diane Ragonc and Jim Wiseman*

*Kilauea*

Please distribute to the Committee on Land and Water prior to the hearing on the nomination of Laura Thielen to be Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I cannot support Ms. Thielen's confirmation.

*Cannot support →*  
Aloha. My name is Megan Wong. I am a Native from the Island of Kauai. I am a steward of this Aina with a spiritual obligation to protect it. I have the following questions that I believe are relevant to whether Ms. Thielen should be confirmed:

1. Why have some of our streams on the North Shore just dried up?
2. Why is water being diverted from natural streams to the ocean?
3. Water has also been turned off for months at Polihale State park.

I am curious to know whether the shutting off of the water on the North Shore was preceded by an environmental assessment. Maybe Ms. Thielen should leave her office and go camping at our beautiful "State Park". You will find that there are NO signs warning people that there is no water at the park. You will find the bathrooms to be a disgusting breeding ground of germs and feces. You will find toilet paper and feces in the keawe trees due to the lack of working facilities.

My family and I live on Kauai's North Shore. We packed up for family time at Polihale State park. It is over 2 1/2 hr drive for us. We brought with us a little fresh water to rinse off the kids but were not prepared to have NO water there. Needless to say there were No warning signs either.

We have so many of our own issues and problems on Kauai without adding the Superferry passengers wanting to camp at our State Parks. Our facilities are NOT prepared for more visitors or campers. There are much needed stipulations addressed before the Superferry resumes business. The Courts ruled that an EA was to be completed BEFORE the Superferry was to run. I am still dumbfounded that we are in Special Session to change the law. This is so unconstitutional. How can an EA be done while the Superferry is running? Please correct me if I'm wrong. Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account **before** the decisions are made. The process involves an analysis of the likely effects on the environment, recording those effects in a report, undertaking a public consultation exercise on the report, taking into account the comments and the report when making the final decision and informing the public about that decision. So why would we agree to let a private business run **before** an EA is complete?

Which leads me to my final question...

4. Why was Ms. Thielen sitting with the Governor at the meeting when she came to Kauai?

She has been appointed to protect this land. Why has she sold out to the Governor? We will be watching her! Her Loyalties should be to the land. Please do the right thing in protection and preservation of our Aina and examine carefully whether Ms. Thielen is really the right person for this responsibility.

Mahalo

Megan Wong  
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