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

SYLVIA LUKE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA





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

> P.O. BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of DAWN N. S. CHANG Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on WATER AND LAND

Friday, April 11, 2025 1:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 745 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, THORNE ABBOTT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2029

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 745 and Mr. Abbott's appointment to continue serving on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (Commission). Mr. Abbott possesses scientific qualifications, evidenced by an academic degree, thus fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of Chapter 195-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Mr. Abbott's experience in coastal management, protected areas, and species of special concern is a valuable asset for the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. Mr. Abbott has worked in government, private non-profit, education, and research sectors. Based on this experience, he has developed cross-jurisdictional, multi-sector approaches to solving complex environmental problems.

Mr. Abbott is active in the coastal management community and has served on the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee, Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors, and previously chaired the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Mr. Abbott has extensive knowledge, skills, and commitment to the natural world, especially in conserving places in the Hawaiian Islands. He received his master's degree in Tropical Environmental Management, thus fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of Section 195-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, as an expert in a relevant field.

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

DAWN N.S. CHANG CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

> RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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





Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina State of Hawai'i Aha Moku P. O. Box 621 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land Friday, April 11, 2025 1:00 PM Conference Room 229 IN SUPPORT of GM 745

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (NARS), Gubernatorial Nominee, THORNE ABBOTT, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports this Gubernatorial Nominee.

Based on his extensive experience in government policymaking, zoning, planning and expertise in Historic Districts in the State of Hawaii, Aha Moku supports Thorne Abbott as a member of NARS. He brings fairness and integrity in his reviews of whether an area is suitable for inclusion with the reserves system; and, can establish policies and criteria regarding the management, protection, and permitted uses of areas which are part of the reserves system – all of which are critical to the well-being of natural ecosystems in Hawaii.

Aha Moku brings forth the voices of the generational and traditional native Hawaiians of the eight islands of the Pae'Aina, the natural and cultural resources of Hawaii Nei. The health of the natural resources is intertwined with the health of the indigenous and host culture – the Native Hawaiian. All depend on the sustainability of the natural and cultural resources. We believe that Mr. Abbott will safely ensure the sustainability of the natural and cultural resources of Hawaii through careful planning that is fair and perpetual.

Thank you for the opportunity to sharing our mana'o with you. We support Mr. Abbott's nomination to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

Respectfully,				
Rocky Kaluhiwa, Chair	Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director			
Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee	Hawaii State Aha Moku			
808-286-7955	808-640-1214			
Rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com	leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov			

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

<u>GM-745</u> Submitted on: 4/5/2025 2:33:33 PM Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Su	bmitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maka	ala Kaaumoana	Testifying for Hanalei Watershed Hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

The Hanaei Watershed Hui is proud to strongly support this nomination for Thorne Abbott for the NARS Commission. We have worked with Thorne for over two decades in varying capacities and found him to to be thoughtful and skilled in matters of our island environment. He is a talented and collaborative group partner with many years of experience in working within our government systems.

Mahalo for supporting this nomination.



April 9, 2025

To: Selection Committee for Natural Area Reserve Commission

From: Amy Hodges, Executive Director, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

Re: GM745 - Thorne Abbott Nomination to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission

I enthusiastically support Thorne Abbott for the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. Thorne, a highly respected expert in his field, will bring a much deeper understanding of the protection afforded by government agencies and permitting to this position. He will contribute a considerable amount of water quality, reef and shoreline knowledge to better inform the commission's decisions.

Thorne has served as a trusted advisor to the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council (MNMRC) and provided us with invaluable insights and explanation of the coastal planning process. Thorne was also an active participant of the Maui Coral Reef Recovery Team (MCRT) formed by the MNMRC in 2010. Over 2.5 years this team of experts, fishers, cultural representatives, planners and community folks developed a Coral Reef Recovery Plan for Maui, where valuable coral reefs are in rapid decline at numerous sites. Without healthy coral reefs to protect our shorelines from storms and rising sea level, Maui's beaches, coastal developments, fisheries, and tourism will suffer. Thorne contributed to the plan and in collaboration with other MCRT members, is providing guidance and trainings for implementation of the Plan at three priority sites.

I have experienced Thorne's dedication, expertise and experience first-hand and know he will contribute productively to the discussions and decisions of the Commission.

Mahalo,

any Hodges

Amy Hodges Executive Director, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

<u>GM-745</u> Submitted on: 4/8/2025 1:07:04 AM Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc Turtletaub	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 25 year rsident of Maui, I have known Thorne Abbott,first as a government employee in planning and subsequently as a consultant on land use matters and have always found his approach to land use to be dilgent, knowlegeable, and evenhanded. I could not recommend him more highly.

<u>GM-745</u> Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:19:04 PM Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonnetta Peters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to submit my support for Thorne Abbott to the Natural Area Reserves Commission. NARS need dedicated individuals on the commission.

Mahalo!