

GM 527

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Thursday, March 15, 2012  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 527 –  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PATRICK HART,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 527, nominating Dr. Patrick Hart as Field Biologist to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee for a second term to expire June 30, 2015.

Pursuant to Section 195D-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Endangered Species Recovery Committee reviews all applications and proposals for habitat conservation plans, safe harbor agreements, and incidental take licenses and makes recommendations, based on a full review of the best available scientific and other reliable data and at least one site visit to each property that is the subject of the proposed action, and in consideration of the cumulative impacts of the proposed action on the recovery potential of the endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species, to the department and the board as to whether or not they should be approved, amended, or rejected.

Dr. Hart received a Ph.D. in Zoology (Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology) from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2000. Dr. Hart's background in ecology, evolution, and conservation biology, and his position as a professor of biology at the University of Hawaii at Hilo have allowed him to contribute greatly to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee in his first four-year term. Dr. Hart is an expert in Hawaiian ecology, with the specialized knowledge of Hawaiian birds and plants, and he has an exceptional understanding of the issues and conservation goals related to threatened and endangered species in Hawaii.

Department staff looks forward to working with him and the time and expertise that he can bring to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee and this Department.

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**GUY H. KAULUKUKUI  
FIRST DEPUTY**

**WILLIAM M. TAM  
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**