

March 23, 2015

Senator Laura H. Thielen
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land

Dear Senator Thielen,

Here are the answers to questions you have asked of me as well as resume to be included as testimony.

1. Please describe the core State values that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is charged to protect.

1. The DLNR is charged to steward Hawaii's limited natural, cultural, and historic resources protecting this cherished public trust for future generations to enjoy.

2. What do you think is the role of a member of the DLNR?

2. We must listen, ask questions, and acquire facts to help guide our policy makers in doing the best thing, the best way, making sure to stay true to our mission of enhancing, protecting, conserving, and managing.

3. As someone outside the department, what issue do you think the DLNR should address? What issue do you think the DLNR has handled well in the past?

3. I feel a need to engage community and involve the stakeholders more. Our community can not be a box checked off just to fill the requirement. My father once told me, "If you want to know what the ocean's currents do, ask the people who use it daily don't just throw dye in the water".

The DLNR stopping of the hydro electric plant on Hawai'i island was a great success. While conserving fossil fuels to create electricity sounded great, confining the flow of water would have hurt our watershed, hunters, farmers, recreational water users, and fisherman. This I believe is what the DLNR is about. Finding the best usage to enhance community by protecting our limited resources mauka to makai for generations.

4. Four years from today – if you are confirmed and looking back on your term as a Board member – is there anything in particular you'd like to see done or accomplished during this time?

4. If there is one accomplishment during my term it would be as a board we made all divisions accountable to engage community more in helping decision making that effects their communities needs as well as all of us with Hawaii's best interest in mind. As for myself, I hope I helped to do the right thing, the right way, for the right reasons.

5. Provide a description of any volunteer activities, especially those pertinent to the mission of the DLNR, including any service on boards or other positions in organization, or other community service project or activities.

5. I've been involved in an organization called Save Our Surf who's mission is "preservation of our ocean, coral reefs, waves, beach water quality, and shore line accessibility" for most of my life.

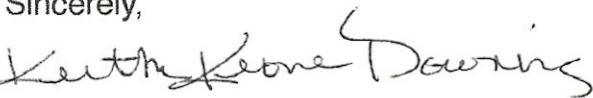
6. Are there any situations where you can foresee recusing yourself from a decision by the Board of Land and Natural Resources on the grounds that you have, or there is an appearance of, a bias or favoritism?

6. I do not see any situations at this time that I would need to recuse myself from especially when everything we are doing is based off the mission of the DLNR.

7. Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered by the committee?

7. I feel protecting our natural resources is in my DNA. My great grand uncle Pua Ha'aheo was a caretaker of Kahana Bay. My father George Downing was a founding member of Save Our Surf. For over forty years I have learned what you need to do to protect the things you love. I've been very fortunate to be guided by so many knowledgable people in the importance of our natural resources. When I was ten years old my grandmother said to me, "Keone if there were no planes and no boats how will you survive". I didn't know what she mean't then, I do now.

Sincerely,



Keith Keone Downing

KEITH “KEONE” DOWNING

SUMMARY

Keone Downing was born (1953) and raised in Honolulu, son of big-wave pioneer George Downing and began surfing at age five in Waikiki. He won the juniors division of the Makaha International in 1968 and 1969, placed fifth in the 1970 World Surfing Championships at Bells Beach in Australia, a runner-up in the 1980 Duke Kahanamoku Classic' and Winner of the 1990 Quiksilver in Memory of Eddie Aikau big-wave contest at Waimea Bay.

Downing was one of Hawaii's most decorated outrigger-canoe paddlers in the '80s, helping his team to five victories in the Molokai-to-Oahu championship between 1980 and 1988, and winning the World Canoe Surfing Championships in 1988. He attended California College of Arts and Crafts majoring in commercial art, and went on to design logos for surf industry giants Quiksilver and O'Neill.

In the 1990 Quiksilver/Aikau event, still considered by many to be the most exciting big-wave contest ever seen, Downing was regarded as a longshot contender. But he selected waves perfectly, went through the one-day event without so much as a slip or bobble, and led from start to finish. He rode a board shaped by his father. Downing's \$55,000 winner's check was the sport's biggest-ever cash prize at the time.

He also operates Downing Hawaii with his sister, the surfboard shop his father launched in 1949.

EXPERIENCE

- 1978- present *Downing Hawaii*
- Operates Hawaii's oldest surf shop, specializing in innovative and custom surfboards. Each board is shaped by a member of our family. We carry name-brand apparel and surf gear.
- 1973-present Member, *Surfing Education Association*
- Save our Surf is dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's oceans, coral reefs, waves and beaches.

EDUCATION

- 1971-1975 Commercial Art, *California College of Arts and Crafts*
- 1967-1971 High school , *Kamehameha Schools*