

GM 608

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

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

**Tuesday, April 07, 2015
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 608
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, SAMUEL GON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2019**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) expresses its strong support for Governor's Message 608 on the confirmation of Dr. Samuel Gon as a gubernatorial appointed member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC).

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 195D, the ESRC reviews all applications and proposals for habitat conservation plans, safe harbor agreements, and incidental take licenses. The ESRC 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 of Land and Natural Resources as to whether or not they should be approved, amended, or rejected.

During the 2014 Legislative Session, a new ESRC member seat was established under HRS Chapter 195D-25. This seat was established to be filled by a person possessing a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. Dr. Gon is the Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor for the Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i, where he has worked for over 25 years. Dr. Gon has served on panels of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs on the topic of traditional management of natural resources, and sits on the Hawaiian leadership committee advising the Hawai'i Life Sciences Consortium. Dr. Gon also served as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. His extensive background in both Hawaiian ecology and cultural history make him an ideal appointee to this newly created seat on the ESRC. The Department strongly supports and recommends Dr. Gon's confirmation for the ESRC.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING 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



GM608

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SAMUEL GON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2019.

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

April 7, 2015

2:45 p.m.

Room 225

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT** for GM608, which nominates Sam ‘Ohu Gon as the member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee with a background in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

OHA appreciates and supports the role of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, in providing technical advice on the protection of Hawai‘i’s many endangered species and their respective habitats. Hawai‘i is known as the “endangered species capitol of the world,” with a renowned level of biodiversity that contributes significantly to our islands’ scientific, cultural, educational, and economic interests. Accordingly, protecting our unique and fragile natural resources, including our endangered species and their habitats, should be a high priority of the state.

OHA also notes that the state, through its boards and agencies, has a constitutional and moral obligation to promote Native Hawaiian cultural perpetuation, through the reasonable protection and enforcement of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. Insofar as many of these practices are intrinsically connected to the land and its resources, certain endangered species recovery actions may unnecessarily restrict the exercise of these practices, or impact such practices to a greater extent than other potential alternatives. Accordingly, in 2014, the Legislature passed Act 53, which established a cultural expert seat on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, to provide an additional and important perspective through which to vet recovery action proposals in carrying out its important advisory functions.

With a strong background in and demonstrated commitment to both Hawaiian ecology as well as Hawaiian cultural practices, OHA believes that Mr. Gon is a highly appropriate individual to serve as the cultural practitioner member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. For nearly thirty years, Mr. Gon has worked for The Nature Conservancy in a variety of roles, including as its director of science as well as its senior scientist and cultural advisor. For 25 years, he has been a board member of ‘Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi, which seeks to combine Western science with Hawaiian traditions and values in developing appropriate and effective responses to the conservation issues

facing our islands today. He has also previously served for eight years on the Board of Land and Natural Resources, providing him with extensive knowledge on a range of conservation issues and efforts throughout the state. Finally, Mr. Gon is a recognized expert on Hawaiian cultural practices and traditions, having achieved the status of kahuna kākālaleo after completing his ‘uniki rites under Kumu John Keolamaka‘āinana Lake.

These experiences and skills, among many others, will allow Mr. Gon to contribute significantly to the work of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, and provide a particularly critical perspective regarding the connection between, and the importance of preserving, both our endangered native flora and fauna as well as the Native Hawaiian cultural practices and values that are intrinsically tied to the ‘āina.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM608. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 2:45 pm Room 225

In Support of GM 608 Samuel Gon

Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports GM 608 and the nomination of Samuel Gon to serve as a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

Dr. Gon one of the world's leading authorities on Hawaiian natural history and culture. He has committed his life to protecting our native Hawaiian species and ecosystems, and raising support for our unique cultural and natural heritage. His expertise and background are needed, and he will serve the resource and the people well.

Please support GM 608. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a nonprofit, environmental membership organization dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations.

Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists, government agencies, and elected officials.

Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy, CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.

Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Hannah Kihalani Springer | Vice-President: Julie Leialoha | Treasurer: Bianca Isaki | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka
Directors: Rick Barboza | Ryan Belcher | Maka'ala Ka'auomoana | Koalani Kaulukukui
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting GM 608 Gubernatorial Nominee Samuel Gon
for Confirmation to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 2:45PM, Room 225

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i strongly supports the appointment of Dr. Samuel Gon for confirmation to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

Sam has worked at The Nature Conservancy for more than 25 years and currently serves as our Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor. In this capacity, he oversees and guides the science behind our operations in Hawai'i. His scientific and cultural expertise and his field experience are critical in directing the vision, goals and work of our organization. Sam's long history in and broad knowledge of Hawaiian ecology makes him a valuable resource to others in the conservation community as well. He is often called upon by colleagues at the state, federal, and local levels for guidance, and his interactions have earned him the reputation of being intelligent, fair, and completely dedicated to the wise use and management of Hawaii's natural resources. Sam's extensive volunteer and professional associations further demonstrate his commitment to the protection of Hawaii's natural heritage. In addition, Sam's knowledge of Hawaiian history, culture, and language allows a broad perspective to ensure the best protection of Hawaii's unique natural and cultural heritage.

Sam is a leader in the conservation community whose expertise in Hawaiian ecology and culture will serve the Committee well. We respectfully encourage your favorable consideration of Sam Gon's appointment to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Alan H. Arizumi Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III
Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III Mark L. Johnson
Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui Wayne K. Minami
A. Catherine Ngo James C. Polk Chet A. Richardson Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose
Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith Peter K. Tomozawa James Wei Eric K. Yeaman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: lea.hong@tpl.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 10:27:39 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/3/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Hong	The Trust for Public Land	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee: The Trust for Public Land strongly supports the nomination of Dr. Sam Gon to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Dr. Gon is one of Hawaii's premier experts regarding all issues relating to native species -- their habitat/ecosystems, their recovery, the effects of invasive species, and their uses in traditional Hawaiian culture. We give him our unqualified support. Mahalo - Lea Hong Hawaiian Islands State Director The Trust for Public Land

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: Adaline.F.Cummings@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Monday, April 06, 2015 10:47:11 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adaline Cummings	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Samuel Gon is the most qualified having worked with endangered species since the late 1970s, as a student and volunteer to his position today as Senior Scientist at Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Alice](#)
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: [Alice Brown Russell](#)
Subject: Sam Ohu Gon III for ESRC
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 5:19:37 PM

Aloha kakou, I am sending my support for Sam Ohu Gon III for nomination to serve on the State Endangered Species Recovery Committee. This is regarding GM 608 and indicates my in SUPPORT of the nomination of Gon to serve on the ESRC.

Sam Ohu Gon III is very well respected in scientific and cultural fields. He represented Hawai'i well with his recent voyage on Hikianalia. He is recognized, known, respected and loved around the world for his conservation and cultural work.

Please accept my recommendation of Sam. Mahalo.

Alice B Russell

From: [Aloha McGuffie](#)
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Subject: GM 608
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 12:55:06 PM

Welina,

Please accept this testimony in support of the nomination of Sam Gon to the State of Hawaii's Endangered Species Recovery Committee, GM 608.

Mahalo,

Aloha

Aloha McGuffie

(808) 988-1287

"Re-creating the past is impossible, but it is within our reach to stem the loss of both cultural information and traditional plants and to promote genuine continuity with old Hawai'i." - Isabella Aiona Abbott, La'au Hawai'i, Traditional Hawaiian Uses of Plants

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: tsuneyos@lycos.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 12:55:38 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Tsuneyoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: annettesadventures@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 4:32:13 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/3/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annette Kaohelaulii	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to express my support for the nomination of Samuel Gon for the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. I have known Sam since he was in high school and know him to be very bright and extremely knowledgeable about all the native Hawaiian species. He is very dedicated to the protection of all things Hawaiian. The Governor has made a very good selection in choosing Sam Gon. He has already served on the Board of Land and Natural Resources, so is familiar with responsibilities these appointments entail.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: bevby@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 1:58:53 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Beverly Byouk	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I wholeheartedly support Sam Ohu Gon III for the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. I can't think of anyone more qualified, knowledgeable or dedicated for this position.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: kupczyk@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 6:06:02 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/3/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Kupczyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known Sam Gon for over a decade and throughout that period he has been a tireless proponent for preservation of Hawaiian natural resources including: air, land, water, flora, and fauna. While Sam's dedication to preservation is admirable, what I have learned to appreciate most is his ability to educate others through a diverse mixture of modern and traditional approaches. Through his use of social media, for instance, he taught me about the exacting toll feral cats have had, and continue to have, on Oahu bird populations. In person, he taught me how to make an inexpensive, chemical-free, water purification system. These are just two examples of many preservation-related topics Sam has educated me on. As a Hawaii resident, I can think of no one better suited to protecting our natural resources than Sam and I strongly support his nomination to the state's Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: auntiyaina@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 5:45:51 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: cfmyric@bellsouth.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 1:43:55 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Myrick	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I submit as testimony, for Dr Samuel Gon, that he is an excellent candidate for the State Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Dr. Gon has an extensive education and working knowledge in this field and will be a great asset to a committee on Endangered Species recovery. Dr. Gon has already made contributions in this field and being on this committee would allow him to continue to do this work in a broader capacity.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: dalebonar@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 1:22:04 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale B. Bonar	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dr. Sam Gon is an outstanding biologist, conservationist, and cultural practitioner who has worked extensively on Hawaii's natural areas and on endangered/threatened species issues. He is one of the most widely respected, intelligent, considerate people I know and would be a stellar choice for States's Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Please confirm his nomination.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Don Mitchell](#)
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Subject: GM608
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 5:20:28 PM

I'd like to record my support for Samuel Ohu Gon III's nomination for the State's Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

I've been following his work for some time, and I think he'd bring a lot of expertise to the Committee.

I say this as someone who, many years ago, helped look after the very small population of nene, at Pohakuloa.

Thanks for your consideration.

Don

Don Mitchell
don@wiasi.net
www.a-red-woman-was-crying.com
www.don-mitchell.com
www.hilodailyimage.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: vested_interest_hi@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 7:17:40 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, For approximately 35 years I have watched Sam Gon approach his career with passion and devotion. I am sure he will bring that passion and devotion to this appointment as well and urge his confirmation. Elizabeth Kent

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: kraftsow@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 10:36:56 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/3/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Kraftsow	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Honorable Senators, This testimony is submitted in support of the appointment of Samuel Gon to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. His expertise and perspective, combined with his energetic and diplomatic character, will make him a wonderful asset. Thank you. Sincerely, Ellen Kraftsow

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: kauaibanaguy@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, April 05, 2015 8:34:19 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/5/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Burton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support Sam wholeheartedly for this position, one of the best choices for this position you can make. His experience, aptitude, passion, and cultural respect are perfect for this role.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 6:25:37 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I enthusiastically support Sam Gon for the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. He has a background in both science and Hawaiian Cultural studies. I am pleased with his nomination. Felicia Cowden Kilauea, Kaua`i

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: gaellenquinn@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 12:34:49 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/3/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gaellen Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the consideration and confirmation of Samuel Gon. He has impeccable credentials. I'm a resident of Moloka'i where we are concertedly working for the preservation of endangered species. I feel that Samuel Gon's appointment would further that work on this island and throughout Hawaii. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: ginalobaco@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 2:02:40 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gina Lobaco	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Samuel Gon's expertise, knowledge and strong scientific background as both a scientist and a cultural practitioner make him an excellent candidate for this position. His understanding of island ecosystems and his demonstrated commitment to conservation practices will equip him well for this important position. I wholeheartedly endorse his nomination.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Hob Osterlund](#)
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Subject: GM 608 Support GON
Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 8:13:44 AM

Dear Senate Committee,

I ask you to support Sam Ohu Gon III for GM 608 and for the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. He is highly qualified and a supreme team player.

Mahalo,

Hob Osterlund

Princeville, Kaua`i

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 7:09:36 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Sam Gon for the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. He is one of Hawai'i's living treasures and has a wealth of experience with endangered species and biodiversity conservation in Hawai'i. The people of Hawai'i are grateful for his many years of service to the public in his many capacities and I humbly ask for your support. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: jessicahallmanbehnke@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Monday, April 06, 2015 11:46:41 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Behnke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [kailon](#)
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Subject: GM 608
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 5:45:37 PM

Aloha,

My testimony today is regarding GM 608. I like to support the nomination of Sam Ohu Gon for ESRC. He's a outstanding conservationist with a great understanding of hawaii nei culture and resources. He will do the best he can and help the community in many ways.

mahalo, kai

From: [Kathy Mahealani Wong](#)
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Subject: RE: GM 608 Support Dr. Sam Ohu Gon III serving on the ESRC
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 3:20:25 PM

Aloha mai kakou,

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Dr. Sam Ohu Gon II to serve on the State's Endangered Species Recovery Committee. He is knowledgeable about Hawai'i's unique environment and fair in decision-making processes regarding that environment.

Sam and I have served as kumu for Halau Mele (formerly under the direction of John Keola Lake) for almost a decade now, and he has proven to be a capable and open-minded leader who manages to balance Hawai'i's past while looking to the future. I know he would be invaluable as a member of the ESRCCommittee.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Mahealani Wong

808.781.5381
maheakat@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: kaulanad@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 8:16:29 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/3/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee SAMUEL GON to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: changkwaix@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 3:32:19 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Honorable Senators, It is my opinion that you could ask of no better a person to serve the public on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Sam, a conservationist by professions is also a public servant in his every day life and is always mindful of what that means. Aloha nui Kevin

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: kristie.brachmann@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 7:33:50 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristie Reilly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

GM608

Aloha Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment,

I am submitting this written testimony supporting the approval of Dr. Samuel 'Ohu Gon to serve on the the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

I believe Dr Samuel 'Ohu Gon is an exemplary choice to serve on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee. As a former DOE Hawaiian Studies teacher (retired) and as a Native Hawaiian, it has been a privilege and honor to learn and share Dr. Gon's knowledge about our islands' forestry and ocean life from not only the perspective of conservation, but also from Hawaiian Traditional Knowledge in hand with Modern Science perspectives. I find him to be intelligent and fair minded in his approach and direction, while also filled with passion for our island natural life, needed to make clear decisions concerning Endangered Species Recovery management.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Leilani Kalilimoku

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: leimomikekina@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Monday, April 06, 2015 9:57:47 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Dierks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is no better choice for this position than Dr. Sam Ohu Gon III. His knowledge and expertise in endangered species in Hawaii is above and beyond any other in the state of Hawaii. He is truly an expert in the field of conservation, preservation, and endangered species.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: labehnke@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 12:07:30 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/7/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucas Behnke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dr. Samuel Gon is a positive force in Hawai'i both as a scientist and a cultural practitioner. Sam's passion for both the natural world, as well as the culture that it supports is obvious to anyone who has worked with, or simply had the pleasure of spending time with him. His historical knowledge of both conservation efforts and the people of Hawai'i is inspiring. I fully support his nomination to the ESRC, as I know that he will carefully consider the consequences of conservation measures and set realistic goals with the well-being of our systems as a whole in mind.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: labbott@kirc.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 4:14:03 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyman L. Abbott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dr. Gon would be a huge asset for the State of Hawaii government. I worked with Sam in the field and office and he is by far one the most intelligent scientist in Hawaii i have ever met. Lyman L. Abbott

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Committee on Energy and Environment
Twenty-Eight State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu HI 96813

April 6, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my unequivocal support for Samuel 'Ohukani'ōhia'a Gon's nomination to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

In his work as the Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor for the Nature Conservancy as well his many extracurricular activities including oli, hula and Hawaiian navigation, Sam has been an enthusiastic paragon of effective ecological management and cultural sustainability.

He brings the unique combined viewpoint of a scientist and a cultural practitioner to his work in the preservation of these islands we call Hawai'i Nei.

His appointment to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee will serve to benefit both the State and its inhabitants in the most positive of ways.

Respectfully yours,

Mei Jeanne Wagner
Vice President
Anthology Marketing Group
1003 Bishop Street
Suite 950
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony in Support of GM 608

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee,
Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL GON, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Dear Senators Mike Gabbard and Josh Green,

I support the nomination of Samuel Gon to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

For the past 18 years I have been hiking to remote parts of the Hawaiian Islands to photograph the native plants and animals of Hawaii, many of them rare and endangered. I have a blog – HawaiianForest.Com which documents some of the biological treasures of Hawaii.

I have known Samuel Gon for the past 23 years through his capacity of Director of Science for The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii. A review of his resume reveals that Samuel Gon is knowledgeable about Hawaii's endangered species and is committed to their recovery. Over the years Samuel Gon has participated in countless projects to restore ecosystems important to the survival and recovery of many endangered plants and animals.

His qualifications and passion speak for themselves. I heartily support the nomination of Samuel Gon to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

Respectfully yours,



Nathan Yuen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: twothylacines@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 10:53:18 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/3/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nick Holmes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: pohaikalani@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 03, 2015 2:00:19 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/3/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pohai Kirkland	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Sam is your man. Sam is intelligent beyond words. Sam is compassionate about the environment in general and Hawaii nei in particular and all that is contained therein. I support his nomination fully. I support what he will become hereafter because he is a humble man.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: rtb808@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, April 06, 2015 8:13:44 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/6/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randal T. Bartlett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, President,
And Members of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

SUBJECT: RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL GON, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

I am writing to voice my support for the nomination of Samuel Gon for the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

For the past 5 years I have been one of the coordinators for the Manoa Cliff Native Reforestation Project. I have also recently worked at Papahana Kuaola, native environmental and cultural non-profit. I was also part of the team to help describe a new species of *Cyanea* (genus of shrubs only found in Hawai'i) discovered here on O'ahu.

I've had the pleasure of working with Mr. Gon on several events at Papahana Kuaola. His passion, knowledge, and sweat equity for Hawaiian native biota was immediately clear. Endangered Species Recovery does not happen in a vacuum; greater buy-in from the broader community is important to the long and short term goals of species recovery. Mr. Gon has shown repeatedly his willingness and ability to connect with everyday community members. Finally, Mr. Gon brings competence and professionalism which I feel will be great fit for the recovery committee.

Thank you for your time. Respectfully,

Sebastian Marquez/ Manoa Cliff Liaison

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: shantison@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, April 04, 2015 8:38:29 AM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/4/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
son geiger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of Sam, he is informed about the subject and is therefore the right person for this job.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM608 on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 7:07:39 PM

GM608

Submitted on: 4/2/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 7, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas T Shirai Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair & Cmte, I strongly support GM 608 for Sam Gon. His background speaks for him which includes well grounded cultural practice and knowledge. He is highly deserving for this stewardship. Mahalo. Thomas T Shirai Jr Mokule'ia, Waialua

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Tim Bowden](#)
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Subject: GM 608
Date: Thursday, April 02, 2015 2:18:19 PM

To whom it may concern.

I would like to testify in favor of Dr, Sam Ohu Gon's nomination to serve the State's Endangered Species Recovery Committee. Dr Gon is uniquely qualified for this job and is a tireless servant to all causes relating to conservation in Hawai'i. Please allow his immediate confirmation to this position. Mahalo for your consideration in favor of Dr. Gon!

Fondest Aloha,

Tim Bowden

Victor Ching

95-216 Maka'ika'I Place

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

Re: Senate confirmation for the State's endangered Species Recovery Committee.

GM 608.

Dear sirs:

It has been my pleasure to know Samuel Ohu Gon, for many years now. I am a science major with a BLAS in science and a Professional Diploma from the University of Hawaii. I can say without reservation that Sam has the Pu'uwai (heart), and Manao (knowledge) to serve the people of Hawaii. He is a living treasure and has dedicated his life to perpetuating the culture and values of the Hawaiian people, and has a deep understanding of what needs to be done, to preserve and grow the natural environments that are unique to Hawaii Nei.

Aloha a nui loa ia okou.

Wikoli Ching

GM608
Dr. Samuel M. Ohu Gon III
April 1, 2015

I submitted my interest in serving on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee because I was approached by DOFAW staff to serve in that capacity, due to my long experience with endangered species and biodiversity conservation in Hawai'i.

I perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee as a matter of weighted management decisions. Endangered species management is not always straightforward. Depending on the situations that arise, it is important to consider the many factors involved in both species endangerment and the best course toward recovery. Any member of the ESRC should bring their skills to bear on considering the options and recommending courses of action to DLNR.

Given my understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, I believe that I am qualified for the position, because I've spent over 30 years now in biodiversity conservation in Hawai'i, the so-called "endangered species capitol of the US." I have worked with endangered birds, plants, and invertebrates directly in the surveying, management planning, and conservation implementation phases, including scientific research on Threatened and Endangered species, and even Hawaiian cultural aspects of such work. I have been asked by OHA to present on the topic of endangered species and Hawaiian culture, and have even advised on conferring of Hawaiian names to endangered species too rare to have inoa Hawai'i that have been transmitted orally to the present day.

If confirmed, during my term of service, I want to contribute to the best decisions on the part of the State of Hawai'i in achieving its endangered species obligations under law, as well as contributing to the recovery of endangered species.

I hope to benefit the ESRC in several ways: I am comfortable in both academic approaches and Hawaiian cultural approaches, and believe in the rapprochement of those disciplines in the modern world. I am a scientist and very comfortable with the academic and nomenclatural aspects of endangered species work. I am continually fascinated by our native biological diversity and therefore motivated by a need to learn more about our native species, including the endangered ones. I hope to bring my enthusiasm and expertise to the ESRC.

I'd like to share one previous experience that would make me stand out as a nominee for the Endangered Species Recovery Committee: With a colleague I described and named a new species of Hawaiian *Sanicula* (an herb found in bogs, forests, and cliffs). It is known only from a single locality on 'Ohikilolo Ridge, Wai'anae Mountains, O'ahu, and has been listed as an endangered species. This benefits the ESRC because my participation in this committee is based on real contributions and practical experience related directly to our endangered species.

Regarding potential conflicts of interest, as a long-time employee of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i it is difficult to separate myself from association with that organization. I intend to disclose my position with the Conservancy if any decisions of the ESRC involve Conservancy Preserves or funding that benefits the Conservancy, and ask the attending AG if I must recuse from such decisions. I served two terms on the BLNR and am very familiar with conflict of interest issues. I am very comfortable disclosing any potential conflicts, and recusing as necessary. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Dr. Samuel M. Ohu Gon III

- (1) **Why do you wish to be a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee?** I was requested by DOFAW staff to serve in that capacity because of my long experience with endangered species and biodiversity conservation in Hawai'i.
- (2) **How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee? Endangered species management is not always straightforward.** Depending on the situations that arise, it is important to consider the many factors involved in both species endangerment and the best course toward recovery. Any member of the ESRC should bring their skills to bear on considering the options and recommending courses of action to DLNR.
- (3) **Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.** I've spent over 30 years now in biodiversity conservation in Hawai'i, the so-called "endangered species capitol of the US." I have worked with endangered birds, plants, and invertebrates directly in the surveying, management planning, and conservation implementation phases, including scientific research on Threatened and Endangered species, and even Hawaiian cultural aspects of such work. I have been asked by OHA to present on the topic of endangered species and Hawaiian culture, and have even advised on conferring of Hawaiian names to endangered species too rare to have inoa Hawai'i that have been transmitted orally to the present day.
- (4) **What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?** I want to contribute to the best decisions on the part of the State of Hawai'i in achieving its endangered species obligations under law, as well as contributing to the recovery of endangered species.
- (5) **Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Endangered Species Recovery Committee?** I am comfortable in both academic approaches and Hawaiian cultural approaches, and believe in the rapprochement of those disciplines in the modern world. I am a scientist and very comfortable with the academic and nomenclatural aspects of endangered species work. I am continually fascinated by our native biological diversity and therefore motivated by a need to learn more about our native species, including the endangered ones.

- (6) **Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Endangered Species Recovery Committee?** With a colleague I described and named a new species of Hawaiian Sanicula (an herb found in bogs, forests, and cliffs) it is known only from a single locality and has been listed as an endangered species. This benefits the ESRC because my participation in this committee is based on real contributions and practical experience related directly to our endangered species.
- (7) **Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?** As a long-time employee of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i it is difficult to separate myself from association with that organization. I intend to disclose my position with the Conservancy if any decisions of the ESRC involve Conservancy Preserves or funding that benefits the Conservancy, and ask the attending AG if I must recuse from such decisions. I served two terms on the BLNR and am very familiar with conflict of interest issues.