



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Monday, March 16, 2026, 3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**GM 614**  
**NOMINATING MARK GORDON TO THE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **strongly supports** GM 614 nominating Mark Gordon to a seat on the Environmental Advisory Council.

Per HRS Chapter 341, the Environmental Advisory Council's mission is to determine an optimum balance between economic development and environmental quality by appointing members representing education, business and environmental professions, including environmental health and safety professionals.

Mr. Gordon has worked as an Environmental, Health and Safety (EH&S) professional with broad experience in government, health care, automotive, aerospace, semiconductor and construction industries. As a team player, he fosters very good interpersonal relationships internally and with regulatory agencies. He has facilitated EH&S compliance in a cost-effective manner, as well as having served on a number of committees and other volunteer opportunities in his South Kohala community.

OPSD believes Mark Gordon is well qualified to be confirmed as a member of the Environmental Advisory Council. We urge you to advise and consent to the nomination of Mark Gordon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure



# STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,  
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAII  
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*Lt. Governor*  
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*OPSD Director*  
Mary Alice Evans

*Chairperson*  
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom

*Vice Chair*  
Jay Stone

*Members*  
Mark Gordon  
Michele Lefebvre  
Rachel Sprague

Statement of  
**DAWN HEGGER-NORDBLOM**  
**Chair STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**  
Monday, March 16, 2026 @ 3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**GM 614**  
**NOMINATING MARK GORDON TO THE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

The Environmental Advisory Committee **supports** GM 614 nominating MARK GORDON.

Per Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 341, the Environmental Advisory Council's mission is to determine an optimum balance between economic development and environmental quality by appointing members representing education, business and environmental professions.

Mr. Gordon has worked both in the private and public sector. Mr. Gordon has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Michigan, is a Certified Hazardous Material Manager (CHMM), and a trainer in First Aid/CPR/AED. Mr. Gordon has served on the South Kohala Community Development Plan committee. Mr. Gordon was instrumental in helping to establish a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Waikoloa Firewise Committee. Mr. Gordon also volunteers for the USO at Pohakuloa Army Garrison and for Habitat for Humanity.

Mark Gordon is qualified to be confirmed as a member of the Environmental Advisory Council. The Environmental Advisory Council urge you to advise and consent to the nomination of Mark Gordon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Monday, March 16, 2026  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**GM 614**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
MARK GORDON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

I **support** GM 614 nominating **Mark Gordon** to a seat on the Environmental Advisory Council. Per HRS Chapter 341, the Environmental Advisory Council's mission is to determine an optimum balance between economic development and environmental quality by appointing members representing education, business and environmental professions, among others.

Mr. Gordon has worked as an Environmental, Health and Safety (EH&S) professional with broad experience in government, health care, automotive, aerospace, semiconductor and construction industries. As a team player, he fosters very good interpersonal relationships internally and with regulatory agencies. He has facilitated EH&S compliance in a cost-effective manner, as well as having served on a number of committees and other volunteer opportunities in his South Kohala community.

I believe Mr. Gordon is well qualified to be confirmed as a member of the Environmental Advisory Council. I respectfully you to advise and consent to the nomination of Mark Gordon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**GM-614**

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:58:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alfred Leung	Testifying for Pacific Biodiesel	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to highly recommend Mark Gordon for his exceptional work in Environmental, Health, and Safety consulting. Mark has worked with Pacific Biodiesel for the last decade, and his services have been outstanding.

Mark's knowledge of regulatory compliance (OSHA, EPA, etc.) allowed us to identify risks with technical expertise, he has provided practical, easy-to-understand guidance that our team could immediately implement, resulting in a significantly safer workplace culture.

Mark's ability to bridge the gap between complex safety requirements and day-to-day operations is truly impressive. I highly recommend Mark Gordon to any organization looking to elevate their EHS performance.

Sincerely,

Alfred Leung

**GM-614**

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 9:32:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Leighton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Brian Leighton, and I serve as the Oahu Plant Manager for Pacific Biodiesel Technologies, LLC, a leading producer of sustainable biodiesel in Hawai‘i. I have had the privilege of working with Mark Gordon as a professional colleague and consultant in the environmental, health, and safety (EH&S) field. He has provided expert guidance to our operations on regulatory compliance, hazardous materials management, and sustainable practices.

Mark's background makes him qualified for the Environmental Advisory Council. As a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager with over two decades of experience across industries including transportation, construction, and environmental consulting, he has demonstrated a deep commitment to EH&S compliance and community safety. His roles at The JMDecker Group and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority involved developing ISO 14001 standards, audits, training, and coordinating emergency response team; skills related to advising Hawai‘i's environmental policies. His volunteer work with the Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team, Habitat for Humanity, the Hawai‘i Island Fentanyl Task Force, and his involvement in boards such as the Waikoloa Leadership Group and South Kohala Community Development Plan Committee, shows his dedication to public service and kuleana no ka ‘āina.

I support Mark Gordon's confirmation. His knowledge in chemistry, regulatory affairs, and sustainable development will be important to the Council in addressing our state's environmental challenges, including renewable energy and hazard mitigation.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Brian Leighton