

GM 585

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSICA WOOLEY, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Report Title: Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 10, 2014
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

G.M. 585

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, gubernatorial nominee, JESSICA WOOLEY, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the nomination of Jessica Wooley as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC). She is an honorable nominee who is worthy of your support. Her background as a former Deputy Attorney General and current Legislator are well-suited to meet many of the challenges OEQC will be facing should she be confirmed.

The DOT is hopeful that she will approach cases and disputes with a balanced approach that would be open to all perspectives and with an appreciation toward seeking consensus solutions that not only will benefit the environment but also our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for Governor's Message 585.

Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
AUDREY HIDANO
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LINDA ROSEN, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

GM 585, Gubernatorial Nomination for Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC)

**Testimony of Gary Gill
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration**

**April 10, 2014
2:45 p.m.**

Testimony in SUPPORT of Jessica Wooley as OEQC Director

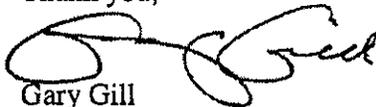
Jessica Wooley's broad and varied experience as an attorney and state legislator make her uniquely suited for the role of OEQC Director. I have worked with Jessica over the years, both during her time as a deputy attorney general representing the Department of Health, and as a Representative in the Hawaii State Legislature, where she served as Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Jessica will bring fresh leadership and clear vision to the Office. I know she will work to inform the public and encourage their participation in the environmental review system. At the same time, she will be fair-minded and collaborative with the planning community and the land owners and developers they represent. She will apply our law consistently and efficiently to provide predictability and save industry time and money. Her initiative and intelligence give me no doubt that she will be an effective Director.

Jessica has experience in a wide variety of agriculture, public health, and environmental issues. In every instance she studies the details, considers all sides, and acts in the best interests of the people of Hawaii. She offers a unique, informed perspective that will serve the state well as OEQC Director.

I ask for your support on the confirmation of Jessica Wooley as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,


Gary Gill



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Energy and Environment
Thursday, April 10, 2014
2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of GM 585 – Jessica Wooley, Gubernatorial Nominee

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the multi-agency/NGO partnership CGAPS (Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species), I respectfully request your support of Gubernatorial Nominee Jessica Wooley for the Director of Office of Environmental Quality Control. As the Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, Ms. Wooley worked closely with several groups, including CGAPS, to address invasive species issues that impact agriculture and the environment. Chair Wooley has shown that she has the passion, dedication, knowledge, and internal compass necessary for this position.

We have enjoyed working with Chair Wooley, and we ask that you please confirm this appointment. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to share the CGAPS perspective.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
Ph: (808) 722-0995

**Testimony of Leimana DaMate
Aha Moku Advisory Committee**

Before the Senate Committee on
Energy and Environment

Thursday, April 10, 2014
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

**In Support of
Governor Message 585**

Jessica Wooley

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment.

On behalf of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, we are happy to support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Jessica Wooley as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Ms. Wooley has long been a staunch spokesperson for fairness in all matters pertaining to the environment. She understands the symbiotic relationship between the Hawaiian and the ecosystem. But, most of all, she understands that all are stakeholders in the protection and sustainability of our cultural and natural resources and is able to make honest and fair decisions.

We are very proud and happy that Governor Abercrombie nominated her for this position and urge this committee to pass G.M. 585

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Executive Director
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
Ph: 808-587-1498

GM585

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for ENE on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	About Face	Support	No

Comments: Chair, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Senate ENE Committee V. Chair, Sen. Russell E. RUDerman, ENE Right Honorable Members of the ENE Committee We support without reservations now the confirmation of Rep. Jessica Wooley to the OEQC. The term expires in just ONE YEAR! There are at least three Democrats and one GOP former office holder, vying either for an appointment in the interim, and to also run in the Primary and the General Elections. One year appears about right in view of the Election cycle. But if the appointee is willing, we would like to see her serve a full term. She did a great job on the House Finance Committee together with Rep. Isaac Choy. They both frequently singled out by the Committee chair and colleagues for for their due diligence and results. Please consider fast tracking this confirmation hearig decision in support. Mahalo. Arvid Tadao Youngquist Spokesman, Administrator, & Founder *Note: Registered voter, CD1, U.S. House of Representative district (Kalihi Valley resident)



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

MALAMA I KA HONUA
Cherish the Earth

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

April 10, 2014, 2:45 P.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 585

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, with over 12,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, supports the appointment of Jessica Wooley as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Jessica Wooley is a highly respected, long-time advocate for a balanced approach to stewarding natural resources for a strong economy today and a prosperous future for tomorrow. She has a background in complex environmental regulatory matters, having served as the Deputy Attorney General providing advice to the Hawaii State Clean Water Branch. There, she balanced the need to protect Hawaii's environment while working with the business community to avoid significant and adverse impacts on our economy.

As an active member of the Kaneohe community, Jessica is a community leader. She spends her off-time volunteering with local programs. In her role as Director, Jessica can understand and relate to public concerns, and be a successful go-between governmental agencies and the public at large.

Her legal background would serve her well in dealing with a complex topic: the application of chapter 343. Few have the capacity to understand this issue from both a community and legal perspective.

Our legislative directly specifically requires the Director to interact with the public, government agencies, and the private industry. Haw. Rev. Stat. § 341-4. Ms. Wooley will do this. We encourage this Committee and the Senate to confirm her.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Submitted by:
Shannon Wood, *President*
Windward Ahupua`a Alliance
P.O. Box 6366
Kane`ohe, HI 96744
Voicemail: 808/247-6366; Cellular: 808/224-4496
Website: <http://www.waa-hawaii.org>; E-mail: info@waa-hawaii.org

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair

2:45 pm
Thursday, April 10, 2014
Conference Room 225

GM 585 - JESSICA WOOLEY - Gubernatorial Nominee - Director of the *Office of Environmental Quality Control*

STRONGLY SUPPORT + COMMENTS

I am Shannon Wood, the co-founder and president of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a 501c3 Hawai`i non-profit corporation which was established in July, 2002, to create the **Ko`olau Greenbelt & Heritage Trails System** to restore, protect & provide public access to the *mauka* lands on the Windward side of O`ahu as well as to support locally-owned sustainable economic activities in the more developed areas. However, its mandate and our work have greatly expanded over the past 12 years well beyond these important regional issues - including a wide range of issues brought up by or before the *Office of Environmental Quality Control*.

I first met Jessica Wooley in 2006 when her husband, David Henkin, and William Aila, Jr., ran for **Lt. Governor** and **Governor** respectively. Two years later, I was one of Jessica's core supporters when she first ran for - and won - the *House District 47* seat. Jessica not only has a strong background in environmental law but also she understands that policy-makers have to make decisions that will impact Hawai`i decades down the road.

Now Jessica's getting ready to move to a very different position - **Director** of the *Office of Environmental Quality Control* - from being an elected official. She'll be a significant leader in a wide range of environmental issues in this new position.

However, I strongly urge that the *State Legislature*, the *State Department of Land & Natural Resources*, the *Department of Transportation*, the *Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism*, the *Department of Agriculture*, the *University of Hawai`i*, and the *Department of Health* along with federal & county elected officials and administrative departments and NGOs start working together with *OEQC* on what Hawai`i will look like 10 to 35 years from now - especially the climate change impacts which are already pounding our shores and drying out our ground waters.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support Jessica's nomination.

ENE Testimony 4-10-14 245pm GM585

RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSICA WOOLEY, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Ruderman and members of the Energy and Environment Committee,

We **strongly support** the nomination of Jessica Wooley as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. Her commitment to the conservation of our state's precious natural resources and her extensive background in environmental law and policy issues makes Jessica a highly qualified candidate for this important position.

In the 6 years we have had the pleasure of working with Jessica as a House Representative and recently as Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, she has consistently been accessible and attentive to the concerns of Hawaii residents, has been compassionate and transparent in her actions, and has demonstrated her dedication to protecting our fragile environment and all of its inhabitants, both human and animal alike. Jessica has also been the recipient of our Humane Legislator Award (2012, 2013) for her steadfast advocacy for the voiceless and vulnerable.

Our only regret with her Appointment is that we will lose her compassionate leadership in the state legislature.

Thank you for your consideration and we again strongly support this nomination.

Best, Inga

Inga Gibson

Hawaii Senior State Director, State Affairs

igibson@humanesociety.org

o 808-922-9910 c 808-354-3211 f 808-922-9911

The Humane Society of the United States

P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830

humanesociety.org and [HSUS Hawaii on facebook](#)

[Join Our Email List](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Blog](#)



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Celebrating 60 Years

The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization, rated most effective by our peers. For 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We are the nation's largest provider of hands-on services for animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our advocacy campaigns.

The HSUS is approved by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance for all 20 standards for charity accountability, and was named by Worth Magazine as one of the 10 most fiscally responsible charities. To support The HSUS, please make a monthly donation, or give in another way. You can also volunteer for The HSUS, and see our 55 ways you can help animals. Read more about our 60 years of transformational change for animals, and visit us online at humanesociety.org

GM585

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for ENE on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lon Paresa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support Ms. Jessica Wooley as the Director of OEQC.

TESTIMONY OF
Dr. Danny P. de Gracia, Th.D.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MEASURE

G.M. 585, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee JESSICA WOOLEY, for a term to expire 6-30-2015

TO BE HEARD BEFORE THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
APRIL 10, 2014, 2:45PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM 225

CHAIRMAN GABBARD, VICE CHAIR RUDERMAN, HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Rep. Jessica Wooley to the position of Director of the Office of Environmental Control, per Gov. Neil Abercrombie's nomination in G.M. No. 585.

Rep. Wooley is one of the most outstanding, visionary and principled public servants I have ever had the honor to meet in Hawaii government. I first met Rep. Wooley in early 2009 and was impressed by her superlative understanding of jurisprudence, public administration and economic theory. Rapidly able to identify key facts and decisive in taking action, Rep. Wooley is exemplary of the kind of public leadership that taxpayers need on the line to make the right call.

Her acumen for policy analysis as well as her commitment to equal justice made her an outstanding chair of several committees, more recently the House Committee on Agriculture, where she championed environmental and sustainability policies vital to the State of Hawaii. Her no-nonsense, direct yet compassionate and fair style won her many supporters and admirers across the Islands, including myself.

Rep. Wooley is a woman of deep purpose, strong ethics and immense love for Hawaii. As Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, she will continue to serve Hawaii in a role that critically needs her abilities and talents. Thank you in advance for your advice and consent.

Dr. Danny P. de Gracia, Th.D.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, April 10, 2014

TIME: 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225

Testimony on GM 585

I strongly support Representative Jessica Wooley as the next OEQC Director.

I worked at OEQC for 15 years from 1991 to 2007 and understand the importance of the office to the good and sustainable future of our state and her people.

OEQC administers the all-important EIS law, which is an extension of our democratic process. The EIS law gives citizens added opportunities to voice concerns to government leaders before final decision making.

Representative Wooley is the ideal person to lead the office because of her commitment to enhancing our democratic system, excellent legal background to administer the law and passion to protect our environment and culture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jeyan Thirugnanam

OEQC Planner

1991-2007

jeyant@hotmail.com

GM585

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for ENE on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William South	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Bill South, am a resident of Kaneohe and support the confirmation of Jessica Wooley as the Director of the Office of Environmental Control. I have known Jessica Wooley since she first ran as House Representative in 2008. I have found her to be one of the hardest working and effective representatives we have ever had on the windward side of Oahu. Whenever I had concerns about topics that affected our community, Jessica was there for us. She has been a steady ally on both agricultural and environmental issues. As the new Director of the Office of Environmental Control, Jessica will be in a position to benefit the entire State of Hawaii.

GM585

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for ENE on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J. William Busch	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This testimony is being submitted by me as a private citizen, and reflect my personal opinions. At the same time, I am very active in community affairs in Kahalu'u and Kaneohe. I have served on the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board, am on the Board of Kaneohe Business Group, and am presently President of the Civilian Military Council for Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe. I have interacted with Representative Wooley for several years as my State Representative. I have found her to be forthright, intelligent and willing to discuss all sides of a situation. She is collaborative and personable. I highly recommend her appointment as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. Along with her personal attributes, her work background and education are exemplary.

GM585

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for ENE on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Herman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support GM585. Jessica Wooley's experience in environmental management and as a legislator will provide the leadership OEQC needs to advance its goals and objectives. Please confirm this appointment. Thank you.

GM585

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for ENE on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Ishida	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I offer my wholehearted support for the nomination of Jessica Wooley as OEQC Director. She will provide leadership and vision for the Office based on the knowledge she has gained through her diverse experience. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support.

GM585

Aloha!

On behalf of the Hau'ula Community Association I would like to ask you to please confirm Jessica Wooley as the new Director of Environmental Quality Control. We need her leadership during these times especially. Jessica is a person of great skill, vision and integrity. We believe that she will serve our state and our communities well.

Mahalo!

Dotty Kelly Paddock
Hau'ula Community Association

GM652

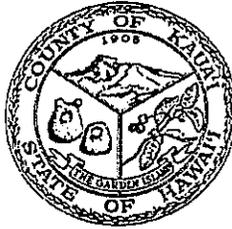
Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for ENE on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cody Acuna	Individual	Support	No

COUNTY COUNCIL

Jay Furfaro, Chair
Mason K. Chock, Sr., Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Gary L. Hooser
Ross Kagawa
Mel Rapozo
JoAnn A. Yukimura



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188
Fax (808) 241-6349
Email cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

April 2, 2014

**TESTIMONY OF GARY L. HOOSER
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

**GM 585, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
JESSICA WOOLEY, AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY CONTROL**

Committee on Energy and Environment
Thursday, April 10, 2014
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for GM 585, relating to the appointment of Gubernatorial Nominee, Jessica Wooley, to serve as the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council and as the former Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control.

Representative Jessica Wooley has demonstrated, by her work in the State House of Representative and as the Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture, that she is a dedicated advocate of the environment and fully understands the intricacies of environmental and land use laws.

While Representative Wooley's presence and leadership in the House Committee on Agriculture will be sorely missed, it is without reservation that I offer this Committee my strong support for her appointment as the Director of Environmental Quality Control.

For the reasons stated above, I encourage the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment to approve this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

GARY L. HOOSER
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:aa

GM 585

Status & Testimony

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the ENE Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSICA WOOLEY, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Aloha,

My name is Barbara Kahana and I am pleased to offer testimony in strong support of JESSICA WOOLEY as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (GM 585).

I have known Jessica for a long time and have watched her steadfast support and active honorable representation for the communities she was elected to represent. She will bring the qualities of honesty, integrity, hard work and dedication to the OEQC. We need to have her talents and skills in place at an organization that is tasked with review recommendations and other duties which have long-lasting and far-reaching impact to our environment, and quality of our lives.

PLEASE support Jessica Wooley's confirmation as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control:

Mahalo.

Barbara Kahana - Registered voter, VP Hauula Comm. Assn, past member of Neighborhood Board #28, active in other community and non-profit organization.

POB 164

Hauula, HI96717

Home 808 293-1353

GM585

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for ENE on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-chair Ruderman and Committee Members, Jessica Wooley will make a fine director of the OEQC. Please vote to confirm her. She's exactly the right person for the job! Mahalo, Rene Umberger

GM585

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for ENE on Apr 10, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Antolini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I write in strong support of the nomination of Representative Jessica Wooley as OEQC Director. I have 25 years of experience working in the field of environmental review law, and I am a former chair of the State Environmental Council. I also co-authored the Legislature's 2010 study of the state environmental review process (Act 1, 2008). Based on this experience and my personal and professional knowledge of Representative Wooley for the past 20 years, I am confident that she will be an excellent director for OEQC. OEQC deserves and needs a strong, balanced, and experienced leader like Rep. Wooley. After her years in the Legislature and work as an attorney in agencies and the community, she is very capable of bringing together diverse stakeholders for the common good and she has a clear vision of how to uphold HRS chapters 343 and 341, the state's foundational environmental laws. Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of Rep. Wooley. Please support her nomination! Denise Antolini Pupukea resident Former chair, State Environmental Council

Dear Senator Gabbard and Committee Members,

I am lending my support of the nomination by the governor, of Rep Jessica Wooley, for the position of Director of Environmental Quality Control. She is very qualified with her extensive background in law, policy, and environmental work. Her commitment to whatever she takes on, will be a great asset.

Aloha
Ginny Tiu

Personal statement of Jessica Wooley,
GM 585 for director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control

Here in the state Capitol, it is often said that we come to "do the people's business." But what we do is not a business, it is a *sacred trust*, and one I do not take lightly. My decision to accept the Governor's appointment as Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control is rooted in my commitment to make Hawaii a better place, and my belief that I can make a difference.

I would like to have the opportunity to help the OEQC navigate its way through the challenges ahead using my experience with land use and environmental law, agriculture and local food industries, and transportation and affordable housing policy, combined with my commitment to promote economic development by protecting Hawaii's unique resources. This position, this challenge, responsibility, and this path to work with the staff, council members, the public, the Governor, state agencies, and the legislature, is one I must accept because I'm needed. It's not going to be an easy job, but I look forward to the challenge and I believe I will do you all proud. Today, it is critical that our state resolve complex issues that threaten the health of our environment and economy. If given the privilege to serve in this capacity, I will do all that I can to bring people together from all sides to resolve problems as quickly as possible, work with the administration, provide clear and consistent information, promote transparency and public involvement, and ensure agencies receive the best advice possible on actions they take that will determine the future of Hawaii.

Drawing inspiration from the words of President Kennedy, I envision a Hawaii *"that makes life on Earth worth living, and that enables men [and women] and nations to grow, and to hope, and build a better life for their children."* In my opinion, we need a renewed call to protect our ocean and land resources, to take seriously the issue of food security, and ensure that our land is not indiscriminately paved over. Hawaii's unique geographic location has blessed us with some of the most unique and *fragile* forms of life, all integral to a historically rooted way of life that, for many, sits at the center of their lives. The very health of our economy depends on our environment, our beaches and parks, fish and algae, wind, sun, even our volcanic rocks and mountain tops.

Our economy, health, quality of life and future all depend on our stewardship of these environmental resources. I will do everything in my power as OEQC Director to address and anticipate the needs of future generations.

April 4, 2014

Representative Jessica Wooley
Room 441
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Rep. Wooley:

Re: Governor's Message No. 585, Nomination of Jessica Wooley to the position of Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control

This letter is in response to Governor's Message No. 585, regarding your nomination to the position of Director of Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC). To assist the Senate with its constitutionally mandated responsibility to confirm gubernatorial nominees, submission of the following information is required:

- (1) A description of your experience in the field of environmental quality, or any related field;

My education reflects my interest in the environment and how it relates to our well being, from the robustness of our economy to the food and water we put on the table. As an undergraduate at the University of California, at Santa Cruz and Berkeley, and Flinders University in South Australia, I focused on environmental studies and science, and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics. I went on to graduate school and earned a Master's degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics and a law degree at UC Berkeley. Many of my law school electives and clinic experiences centered on environmental law and policy.

Beginning in 1990, I spent two years assisting with policy, advocacy, and litigation on environmental issues as a Research Associate at the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in San Francisco.

In 1998, after finishing graduate school and law school, I went to work for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (LASH) as an Americorp attorney, providing legal representation to the state's most vulnerable families. At LASH, I focused on creating equal access to justice programs and promoting solutions for low-income housing. I also worked briefly at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, where I contributed to an economic analysis estimating some of the values of environmental resources to Hawaii's economy.

Beginning in 2000, I worked for the Attorney General's office, representing the Clean Water, Drinking Water, and Wastewater Branches for the State of Hawaii as

Dept Head Nominee

a Deputy Attorney General. My responsibilities included coordinating federal and state administrative actions; resolving inter-agency disputes; investigating, managing, and litigating enforcement actions; reviewing and revising proposed laws and regulations; and preparing testimony for agencies.

I began to serve as a representative, first as the representative for District 47 and then for District 48, beginning in 2008. I served as Vice Chair for the Committee on Agriculture from 2008-2010, the Chair of the Committee on Culture and the Arts from 2010-2012, and Chair of the Committee on Agriculture from 2012 until now.

Also, I have served as a member of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Reserve Advisory Council since 2001.

- (2) An assessment of your strengths and weaknesses;

My strengths include my persistence, experience, collaborative spirit, willingness to work hard, balanced approach, focus on policy, and commitment to public service. Some may believe my weakness is my strong will and passion to push things forward, even on controversial issues, yet others believe that I am too accommodating because I always seek consensus and balance.

- (3) An assessment of the Office of Environmental Quality Control's strengths and weaknesses. Please include an explanation of how the OEQC's strengths may be best utilized, as well as how the OEQC's weaknesses may be improved;

The OEQC Council and staff are all professional, dedicated and educated, family oriented and friendly. That is the strength of the office. The strengths of the staff can be utilized to improve the information services of the agency.

The primary weakness, in my opinion, is the office does not have enough resources. The office has been underfunded and understaffed and is still using outdated technology to provide critical information for residents, businesses, and government agencies. Data entry continues to take up valuable staff time. Minor improvements in the office's technology would eliminate much of the data entry backlog.

Adequate staff and resources will make a huge difference to overcome historical and current "weaknesses" and promote an efficient, business-friendly environment where the process, notice of actions and decision-making are inclusive of and transparent to the public.

(4) An overall vision for the OEQC, specifically what goals can be accomplished within the next four years and what types of annual benchmarks can be used to evaluate the OEQC'S progress towards those goals;

The priority for the office is to improve public outreach and promote better communication between all interested parties, particularly when there are real or perceived differences. Other immediate goals include promulgating administrative rules, establishing fees for the filing of reports, and updating the agency database and technology. Specific four-year goals should be set with the OEQC Council and staff, and might include (1) better communication between the OEQC office and all agencies, (2) increased public outreach that is user friendly, searchable, and useful for everyone, and (3) improved transparency and consistency. Annual surveys and benchmarks can be used to determine the office's success.

In my opinion, the office can improve coordination between agencies and private-sector leaders to promote more efficient decisions that protect the environment and promote "greener" economic growth. The OEQC office can assist and advise agencies on their exemption list updates, public participation opportunities, and how to speed up the approval and review processes and reduce red tape, for example.

(5) The OEQC's top budgetary priority for the biennium;

This year it would be a one-time expenditure to upgrade the office's technology (\$150,000) to enable the state OEQC to complete a database that is searchable by applicants, agencies, and all members of the public. By doing so, the OEQC will become more accessible and transparent.

(6) An assessment of the OEQC staff's morale, including the turnover rate for personnel;

Staff morale has suffered because there has not been a permanent director for quite some time. In addition, the office has suffered from staff cuts over the years and some staff and council turnover. Further, the OEQC is administratively attached to the Department of Health, which causes the office to be separated from economic policy issues. This is a long-term challenge for the agency.

- (7) Any foreseeable possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service in the OEQC and how you would overcome them.

If there were ever a decision or action that I would have to make in my capacity as the director for OEQC that might present a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict, I would consult with the Department of the Attorney General and follow their advice.

Please submit the requested information to:

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
ENETestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that any testimony submitted to Senate committees on your behalf will be posted on the Legislature's website as submitted. It might be helpful to remind individuals who intend to submit testimony on your nomination of the public nature of the testimony.

Your prompt response in providing the above information will ensure that the Senate confirmation process can proceed in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment