

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL  
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  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, April 9, 2021  
1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 700  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL  
AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
THORNE ABBOTT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2025.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message (GM) 700, nominating Mr. Thorne Abbott to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2025.**

Mr. Abbott's experience in coastal management, protected areas, and species of special concern is a valuable asset for the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. Mr. Abbott has worked in government, private non-profit, education, and research sectors. Based on this experience, he has developed cross-jurisdictional multi-sector approaches to solving complex environmental problems.

Mr. Abbott is active in the coastal management community and has served on the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee, Hawaii Audubon Society Board of Directors, and previously chaired the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Mr. Abbott has extensive knowledge, skills, and commitment to the natural world and especially conservation of place here in the Hawaiian Islands. He received his master's degree in Tropical Environmental Management, thus fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of Section 195-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, as an expert in a relevant field.

The Department strongly supports GM 700 and recommends that the Senate confirm the appointment of Mr. Thorne Abbott on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

**GM-700**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 9:31:43 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jesse K. Souki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

I support the confirmation of Thorne Abbott to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

I worked with Mr. Abbott directly when I served as a deputy corporation counsel for the County of Maui and he was a planner in the department of planning. I also worked indirectly with Mr. Abbott over the years on matters related to the implementation of the statewide coastal management act. As you can see from his resume, he is well qualified for the position. But equally important is that he has a passion and interest in good planning and resource stewardship. Mr. Abbott will serve the state well in this position.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,  
Jesse K. Souki

**GM-700**

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 4:31:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marc Turtleaub	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I strongly recommend Thorne Abbott to serve on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission. I've known Thorne for over twenty years from the time he was on the Maui Planning Department through his years as a consultant on sensitive environmental issues and always found him to be a passionate advocate for the protection of our precious resources. He is smart, knowledgeable, and creative and would be an excellent member. Thank you. Marc Turtleaub, Makena resident.

**GM-700**

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 11:10:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robin Newbold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm grateful for the opportunity to support GM700 nominating Thorne Abbott to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (NARS). Having served on the Commission myself I'm aware of how important it is for each of us, as we're able, to share our time and expertise to care for the fragile ecological areas the State has set aside for protection.

I've known Thorne Abbott for the past two decades, and have observed him repeatedly sharing his time and expertise to protect Hawaii's unique and fragile areas on Oahu and Maui. I've also observed Thorne understanding the challenges that DLNR faces.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to support GM700 nominating Thorne Abbott to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission (NARS). Having served on the Commission myself I'm aware of how important it is for each of us, as we're able, to share our time and expertise to care for the fragile ecological areas the State has set aside for protection.

I've known Thorne Abbott for the past two decades, and have observed him repeatedly sharing his time and expertise to protect Hawaii's unique and fragile areas on Oahu and Maui. I've also observed Thorne understanding the challenges that DLNR faces.

Thorne is a long-time resident of Maui County, which hosts Hawaii's only marine Natural Area Reserve, Ahihi-Kinohi'o. From my own experience on the NARSC I'm aware of how helpful it is to have a Maui-based resident on the Commission - a person who understands the challenges of managing a NARS that is a popular area for recreation by both visitors and residents. Thorne is such a person.

It is my sincere opinion that it would be difficult to find someone as qualified and committed as Thorne Abbott is for this position.

Thank you for your support,

Robin Newbold



**GM-700**

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:37:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Glenn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is in my personal capacity in support of the confirmation of Mr. Thorne Abbott to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

I have known Mr. Abbott personally and professionally for a decade and have found him to be a conscientious person who is passionate about conservation. He is willing to put in the hard work to understand the details and the many interests involved in a planning effort or project, as most recently demonstrated in his capacity as an appointee to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Mr. Abbott has the experience and dedication to responsibly exercise the duties and responsibilities of the NARS Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Mr. Abbott's nomination and your consideration of his qualifications.

Respectfully,

Scott Glenn

**GM-700**

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 12:07:21 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/9/2021 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simone Bosco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lorraine Inouye,

I am recognizing Thorne Abbott's appropriateness as a nominee to the Natural Area Reserve Commission (NARS) and urge the Senate to confirm his appointment to the NARS. I have known Thorne both professionally and as a friend for over 15 years and have witnessed his consistent ability to provide sound, discerning, balanced decision-making when deliberating on issues that involve and affect Hawaii's valued ecosystems and natural resources. He has a lengthy record of experience of applying sound environmental practices towards managing sensitive lands and mitigating any potential negative impacts. He can be relied on to promote best practices. He will provide much added value to discussions that have been informed by his many years of working with natural resources and negotiating solutions to protect Hawaii's fragile ecosystems.