

| NAME | ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL | SUPPORT/OPPOSE |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| ARTHUR B TOLENTINO | SHEET METAL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION | SUPPORT |
| DAVID T PIETSCH | TITLE GUARANTY ESCROW SERVICES INC | SUPPORT |
| KITTY SIMONDS | MAUNALUA HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB | SUPPORT |
| BART DAME | PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS OF HAWAII | OPPOSE |
| MARY MARVIN PORTER | ISLAND EYES VIDEO | OPPOSE |
| NO NAME | KUPA AINA CREATIONS | OPPOSE |

LOCAL UNION



LATE

No. 293

Sheet Metal Workers' International Association

STE. 401 • 1405 N. KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
PHONE (808) 841-5078

March 11, 2015

TESTIMONY

The Honorable Chair, Laura H. Thielen
and Members of the Water and Land Committee

Dear Chair Thielen:

My name is Arthur Tolentino and I am the Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of the Sheet Metal Workers' I.A. Local Union 293. I would like to offer my support for Mr. Carleton Ching to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Ching is an outstanding leader and would be an asset to the people of this state. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion and show our support.

Respectfully,

Arthur B. Tolentino
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Sheet Metal Workers' I.A. Local Union 293



TITLE GUARANTY ESCROW SERVICES, INC.

Established 1955

RECEIVED
MAR 11 2015

March 10, 2015

LATE

The Honorable Laura Thielen
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Carleton Ching

Dear Senator Thielen:

I am writing to offer my wholehearted support for Carleton Ching for the position of Chairman, State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR").

I have known Carleton for over ten years and have worked with him extensively in his current role at Castle & Cooke. During our interactions, I have found Carleton to display keen business acumen and to seek resolution of difficult matters with a thoughtful, fair, and honest approach. He is a strong, patient leader as evidenced by his ability to listen to competing viewpoints and make informed decisions. Carleton has a diverse work background which will serve him well in this important position.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Carleton knows the challenges that face our State. I am certain he will bring the necessary drive and commitment to lead the DLNR and make a difference for the people of Hawaii. I cannot stress enough my confidence in Carleton Ching.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Pietsch, Jr.", written over the closing text.

David T. Pietsch, Jr.
Chairman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: kittysimonds@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM514 on Mar 11, 2015 10:00AM
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 9:40:50 AM

GM514

Submitted on: 3/11/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 11, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kitty Simonds | Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club | Support | No |

Comments: In support of Mr. Carleton Ching's Nomination to Chair the DLNR. The Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club is pleased that Governor Ige has appointed a person of Hawaiian ancestry to lead a department that has so much relevance to the issues of our indigenous people. The appointment of Mr. Ching continues the practice of appointing people rooted in the host culture contributing to the decisions about our precious natural resources in the ocean and on the land -- that would benefit all of Hawai'i. In 2012, the legislature in its wisdom formally recognized the aha moku system and authorized the creation of an advisory committee within the department to assist the chair in ensuring that policy decisions reflect the natural resource values and practices of our Hawaiian people. Hopefully the new leadership at the DLNR will continue the example of others in the past, including Susumu Ono and William Paty.

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



Progressive Democrats of Hawai‘i

<http://pd-hawaii.com>

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COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 10 am
Room 229

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF CARLETON CHING AS CHAIR OF DLNR

Good Afternoon, Chair Thielen, Vice-Chair Galuteria and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bart Dame and I am testifying on behalf of the Progressive Democrats of Hawaii in STRONG opposition to the appointment of Carleton Ching as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Let me preface this by saying most of our members like Governor Ige, voted for him and wish his administration success. Our default response is to support his proposals, though not without some initial scrutiny. Unfortunately, our initial scrutiny of Ching’s nomination raised serious concerns and the subsequent weeks, as Mr. Ching has met with people across the state trying to gain support and neutralize opposition, have only strengthened our conviction Mr. Ching is not an appropriate choice for the position.

He clearly lacks the qualifications for the job, an understanding of the DLNR’s mission and the challenges it faces or a demonstrated commitment to the core mission of the DLNR to preserve and protect the natural, historical and cultural resources found on the state lands controlled by the department.

In his announcement of the nomination of Ching, Governor Ige said:

“No one understands better the complex issues this Department handles and how to balance the needs of our environment and our residents.”

We have been told we should not reject Ching because of the work he did on behalf of his employer, nor his advocacy for years on behalf of groups like LURF and the BIA. But I think Ching knowingly took on those tasks and should be held accountable. In his meeting with the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party a couple of weeks ago, Ching said:

“Frankly, if my core belief was in conflict with a job, I wouldn’t go to it. I mean, it’s as

simple as that.” I think that applies to his work at LURF, the BIA and at Catsle and Cooke. I think that means he SHOULD be accountable for the work he did with those groups.

There have been multiple meetings between the nominee and members of the community since that announcement and we have received emails from several of the participants detailing the inadequacy of Ching’s answers to questions, beyond vague pronouncements about “moving the needle forward” and “finding the balance.”

Nor does his resume suggest he has the experience to run such a large department. His position at Molokai Ranch is cited to suggest he has qualifications. But he managed a crew of four employees, while DLNR has nearly 900!

Despite his years of active leadership lobbying on behalf of groups like the Land Use Research Foundation and the Building Industry Association to weaken environmental protections and regulations to preserve historical sites and his lack of experience on conservation issues, the one claim Ching offers as proof of his commitment to environmental protection is a story how he “used to catch o’opu in the mountain stream” and his calabash uncle told him, “Make sure you leave enough behind.”

I loved Olomana as much as anyone. I grew up as a Windward boy in Kailua. Their songs about Kahaluu and preserving the aina were anthems for many of us who followed up by being involved in the fight to win back Kahoolawe from the military’s bombing and to preserve ag lands like at Waiahole-Waikane. Which brings me to Ching’s exaggerated claims about the role he played at Waiahole.

In his submission to this committee, Ching, or some staffer completing the questions on his behalf, wrote:

“ During my tenure (1980 to 1990) with the State of Hawaii, the Hawaii Housing Authority (HHA) ... was instrumental in “keeping the country country” by acquiring approximately 600 acres of Waiahole Valley. In the late 70s as this windward community was revolting over development plans by the land owner, the Elizabeth Marks Estate to preserve the rural agricultural nature of the valley.”

He goes on to say “I personally participated in community outreach...” etc.

He concludes by saying:

“Today, Waiahole Valley stands as a statement to preserving a lifestyle, promoting of diversified agriculture, of limiting urban growth, to “keep the country country.”

There is so much that is misleading in the account in Ching’s effort to wrap himself in

the cloak of being someone with a proven track record of helping “keep the country country” and to preserve small farming from development. What a strong response to those who want to portray him as a developer who helped destroy the prime ag lands at Koa Ridge! Except this account is grossly misleading!

Look at the chronology. The farmers and residents of Waiahole-Waikane had struggled for several years to build public support and to make it clear to the state they would not be moved. In 1976, when the sheriff’s department came in to serve writs of eviction, the road was blocked by hundreds of angry supporters, the residents accepted then burned the writs in front of the deputies. In one action, when word was leaked from HPD that the cops were coming in to evict the residents, not just the valley road, but Kamehameha Highway itself was block with cars. The residents drilled, wearing helmets and locking arms in preparation for evictions. The slogan was “Stay and Fight.”

It was the farmers, the residents, and the massive support they received from up and down the windward coast and across the state which saved the valleys and “kept the country country,” not Carleton Ching.

There was talk the National Guard might have to be activated to remove the residents and their supporters as the deadline for another eviction attempt neared. There was a serious potential of cops having to go in with clubs flailing and mass arrests. It was in THAT context Governor Ariyoshi backed down, shifted position and called upon HHA to use funds to buy the land from Elizabeth Marks. I can understand why politicians might want to credit elected officials and I am glad the Governor backed down. But it is warped version of history to see the HHA action as anything other than a last ditch effort forced upon the governor by the militant resistance of, and broad popular support for, the residents themselves.

And look at the chronology. HHA voted to buy the valley in 1977. Ching went to work for them in 1980, about 3 years later. So why this distorted narrative?

If we want to salute someone for being “instrumental” in stopping those evictions and saving those farms, I would suggest Pete Thompson, who helped organize those residents to resist with his creative and militant tactics. But Pete is in hospice as we speak, near death from cancer, while Carleton is hoping people are confused about the actual history and that he can get away with this misrepresentation of his role.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Please due your due diligence in executing your constitutional responsibility of “advise and consent.” Please reject this nomination for this crucially important position.

From: [Mary Marvin Porter](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: Opposition to Appointment of Carleton Ching
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 7:09:47 AM

Aloha Members of the Committee On Water and Land,

Carleton Ching is a very inappropriate person to head the very important Department of Land and Natural Resources. His experience is in supporting development not preservation.

Mahalo,
Mary Marvin Porter
Island Eyes Video
Kea'au, Hawai'i

From: [Aloha](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: In Opposition to GM514 -- Nomination of Carleton Ching to DLNR
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 7:27:18 AM

Aloha Senators,

I strongly urge you to not confirm Carleton Ching as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). DLNR is an extremely complex organization responsible for protecting our natural environment -- the beauty of our islands. Yet, his resume indicates no experience in managing natural resources or complex institutions.

Moreover, his volunteerism has supported organizations whose mission directly contradicts the mission and purpose of the department. His promises to abide by DLNR's mission fall short of addressing this concern, especially given Mr. Ching's lack of familiarity with the activities of the department.

I trust that you, Senators, will be objective in your assessment of this candidate and adhere to your responsibility to ensure that DLNR is led by a qualified and objective director.

Please help protect Hawaii's natural and cultural resources by voting down Mr. Ching as nominee for Director of DLNR.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.