

TESTIMONY OF ESTHER KIA'AINA
IN SUPPORT OF GM1
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, August 29, 2017, 1:30 p.m. Room 225

Chairman Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

My name is Esther Kia'aina of Nanakuli, Oahu. I am testifying in support of GM1, the nomination of Lisa Hadway Spain, of Hilo, Hawaii, to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee at the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

As the First Deputy of the Department of the Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) between 2012-2014, I had the privilege of working alongside Lisa on a multitude of priority issues in her positions as the Branch Manager for Hawaii island for DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Administrator for DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the first woman to hold this position in the department's history. I worked closely with Lisa on the department's implementation of "The Rain Follows the Forest" watershed initiative, ungulate management and hunting issues, and securing the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress for Hawaii.

Lisa is a remarkable woman with a good understanding of the need for collaborative working relationships within communities and among partners to get things done in the conservation field. Her personal background, academic training in science, conservation, and business, and active participation in community boards, gives her the right balance between science and conservation, economics, and the concerns within communities. This is very important given the complexities in Hawaii on Native Hawaiian rights, limited land tenure, and competing community needs.

I highly recommend and urge that committee members support GM1, the nomination of Lisa Hadway Spain to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

Respectfully,

Esther Kia'aina
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