

GM 294

John T. Harrison III

Dr. Harrison received his Bachelor's degree from Stanford University in Biological Sciences and his Doctorate in Zoology, with an emphasis on Marine Ecology, from the University of Hawai'i. He served as Administrator and research scientist for 4 years at the Mid-Pacific Research Laboratory on Enewetak Atoll in the Marshall Islands studying effects of lagoon floor communities on redistribution of residual radionuclides from the weapons testing program. Returning to Hawai'i, he worked for both the University of California at Berkeley and the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service in developing the Federal Environmental Impact Statement for an Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plant at Kahe Point, Oahu. After two years as an independent environmental consultant, he was appointed University of Hawai'i Environmental Coordinator and head of the UH Environmental Center in 1987, a position he occupied until he retired at the end of 2006. He served as Principal Investigator (PI) and lead author of a 1989 report on the ecology of the Hanalei River estuary and other rivers and streams on the North shore of Kauai, which led directly to development of the statewide Hawai'i Stream Assessment.

Dr. Harrison has served on numerous committees, including the Governor's Task Force on Creation of a Department of Environmental Protection, the Hawai'i State Earthquake Advisory Board, the Hawai'i Stream Assessment Steering Committee, the Hawai'i Visitors Bureau Environment Committee, and the Water Use Committee of the Kaneohe Bay Task Force. He served as Vice Chair of the Legislatively-created Energy Efficiency Policy Task Force, and he remains a member of the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Audubon Society from 1991 until the present, and he currently is President the Society.

In addition, as Head of the UH Environmental Center, Dr. Harrison served *ex officio* as a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC) from its inception in 1998 until his full retirement in at the end of 2007. As a charter member of the ESRC, Dr. Harrison participated in initial implementation and subsequent amendments to achieve compliance with Chapter 195D, and he has considerable experience in the complex environmental management protocols that constitute the purview of the Committee. His training and experience in Ecology and Ecosystem Dynamics has included extensive work on ecosystem responses to human-induced perturbations, and these experiences have been helpful in substantive ESRC deliberations.

Dr. Harrison was appointed to the ESRC on an interim basis in October 2008 and has continued to fully participate in efforts that promote the recovery of endangered species.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, February 26, 2009
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 293 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY COMMITTEE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOHN T. HARRISON,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2009.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message (GM) 293 to appoint Dr. John T. Harrison to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee for a for a term to expire 6-30-2009, as one of the two non-governmental members with expertise in conservation biology. Dr. Harrison is nominated to fill a vacancy created when Dr. Clifford Morden moved from serving as one of the appointed non-governmental member for conservation to be the official representative of the University of Hawaii Environmental Center. In compliance with the requirements of §195D-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Dr. Harrison is a field biologist with expertise in conservation biology.

Throughout his professional career, and into his retirement, Dr. Harrison has been a strong supporter of conservation, management, and restoration of threatened and endangered species and native ecosystems. He served as Environmental Coordinator at the University of Hawai'i Environmental Center from July 1987 through December 31, 2007, and as Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Research, University of Hawai'i between 1999 and 2001. Prior to that time, he acted as a private consultant, and held a Fisheries Biologist position with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Dr. Harrison has served as the Vice President of the Nu'uauu Valley Association, a Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum member, on the Hawai'i State Emergency Response Commission, and was a charter appointee to the Hawai'i Endangered Species Recovery Committee as the University of Hawai'i representative and has been an active and productive member of the committee. He has also served as Vice Chair on the Legislative

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Task Force on Energy Conservation, as charter member and Vice Chair of the Hawai'i State Earthquake Advisory Board, on the Hawai'i Stream Assessment Steering Committee, and the Governor's Task Force on Creation of a Department of Environmental Protection, among many others.

The duties of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee are to: 1) Review and recommend to the Board actions to take on all applications and proposals for Habitat Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Incidental Take Licenses; 2) Review all Habitat Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Incidental Take Licenses on an annual basis to ensure compliance with agreed to activities; 3) Consider and recommend appropriate incentives to encourage landowner involvement in endangered species restoration efforts; 4) Perform other duties as needed; and 5) Consult with persons possessing expertise in endangered species matters as the committee may deem appropriate and necessary; and conduct site visits to properties covered under plans and agreements.

Dr. Harrison will continue the trend of providing strong conservation biology expertise. The Department supports G.M. 293 on the appointment of Dr. Harrison to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee and looks forward to working with him in the future.

From: Cliff Morden [cmorden@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2009 8:10 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: John Harrison nomination for ESRC

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Dr. John Harrison as a member of the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC). I worked with Dr. Harrison when he previously served on this committee as a representative of the University of Hawaii Environmental Center. His input to the discussions, knowledge of the legal issues, and care for the environment was an inspiration to me as a new member to the committee. His retirement from the University two years ago was a loss to both the academic community as well as the ESRC at that time. I was very pleased when he was appointed on an interim basis last year because of his extensive experience in these matters and his acumen for finding and understanding the critical points of the documents we review in service of the public.

Sincerely,

Clifford W. Morden
Deputy Director, PCSU
Botany Department
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI 96822
Ph: 808.956.2396
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Testimony on GM 293, GM 294

The Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Thursday afternoon, February 26th, at 2:45

Relating to GM 293, GM 294: Nomination of John Harrison to the Endangered Species Committee

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am David Duffy, a professor of Botany at UH Manoa. I also run the Pacific Cooperative Studies. I have extensive experience with endangered species biology and management and have known John Harrison for almost ten years. I speak as an individual and not on behalf of the University of Hawai'i.

I believe John would make a strong contribution to the Endangered Species Committee, as he has previously served with dedication and distinction for almost 20 years. His years at the Environmental Center at UH, much of the time spent reviewing complex environmental issues for the state, his research on Hawaiian ecosystems, and his background education and experiences before arrival at UH: all make him an exceptional candidate. In addition, his personal dedication and quiet way of doing business suggest that he will be highly effective as a member of the committee and will add value to its decisions.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge his appointment.

With Aloha,

David Cameron Duffy
Professor of Botany and Unit Leader
Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU)
University of Hawai'i
3190 Maile Way St. John 410
Honolulu, HI 96822-2279

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Hearing: Thursday, February 26, 2009, at 2:45 P.M., Room 225

Re: **GM 293 & GM 294**
Appointment of John T. Harrison to the Endangered Species Recovery Committee

Testimony in Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair English, and members to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment. My name is George Massengale and many of you know me as the Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society.

I am here today as a private citizen, a birder, and member of the Hawaii Audubon Society, to offer comments in support of John Harrison's confirmation to the Endangered Species Recover Committee.

I first met John Harrison almost four years ago, after returning home to Hawaii from Alaska via California. I develop my passion for protecting our critical ecosystems while attending law school in early 90's, during which time I had the opportunity to taker several environmental law courses, thus beginning my real desire to do more to protect our environment, and our endangered species, and critical habitats.

Three ago I was offered the opportunity work with Hawaii Audubon as their Legislative Analyst. And that was when I met John Harrison who was with the Environmental Center at the University of Hawaii, as well a board member for the Audubon Society. Needless say, I have found him to be one of the most knowledgeable individual that I've ever met with respect to environmental and ecological issues. For me this has been a blessing, especially when preparing testimony for this committee or others. A quick email to John was all I needed when I wanted to know about, bird restoration projects, habitat conservation plans, environment impact statements, or shoreline setbacks just to mention a few. Also I should mention, I could understand what he was saying.

I really don't know anyone better or more qualified that should be on the endangered species recover committee.

I would just like make one recommendation that John be confirmed to a four year term (GM294). To me it just makes good sense that we appoint the most qualified person for the longest term possible.

Mahalo, for giving me the opportunity to offer testimony in support John's confirmation.

George Massengale, JD
4340 Pahao Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816