

# GM 592

## **Koke'e State Park Advisory Council**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KATHRYN CASSEL**, for a term to expire 6-30-2016

Governor's Message 592  
Kathryn Cassel  
Kokee State Park Advisory Council

A written statement that addresses the following questions:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council?

I have been so blessed and privileged to work in Koke`e and be involved in its amazing natural resources and community, that I want to “give back” and help in any way I can be useful.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council?

The members' roles are to assist DLNR State Parks in bringing community input to the master plan and helping to review and update it, and then helping to implement it when it is final; helping to preserve and protect the natural resources is also a large role.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council.

I feel my best input would be regarding the council's purpose to “protect and preserve the area's natural.....resources” since my work in Koke`e as coordinator of the Koke`e Resource Conservation Program (KRCP) for 14 years has allowed me a lot of time on the ground in the native forest managing the invasive weed threat, and seeing all the threats to the forest and the change in the forest over time.

The 4 years I spent working for Hui O Laka/Koke`e Natural History Museum before starting KRCP gave me invaluable insight into the interpretive services they provide for the park, and into the cultural and historical resources of the parks.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope the master plan gets finalized and can begin to be implemented. I also hope that somehow more funding can be garnered to protect Koke`e's natural resources, which are a biodiversity hotspot of global magnitude and extremely valuable for Hawaiian culture.

- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council?

My best qualities are probably practicality, attention to detail, and willingness to do hard physical work with an optimistic "can do!" attitude. I think at least the first two would help in decision making.

- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council?

In 1998 I started the Koke`e Resource Conservation Program to give a framework for volunteers to work to conserve Koke`e's forests by removing invasive weeds. This experience of working with non-profits, volunteers, and the natural resources has given me a solid basis for decision making regarding those natural resources and what is needed to save them.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I really don't see any conflicts of interest except possibly that I'm employed in Koke`e, but I'm determined not to let that influence any votes or choices that I make on the committee.

Mahalo.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

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

**Thursday, March 7, 2013  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 592  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
KŌKE'E STATE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
KATHRYN M. CASSEL, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is in support of Governor's Message 592, on the nomination of Kathryn "Katie" Cassel to the Kōke'e State Park Advisory Council, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Ms. Cassel founded and serves as Program Coordinator for the Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program that is dedicated to natural resource conservation, preservation and restoration. She has successfully led the efforts in native forest and endangered species conservation in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks and possesses outstanding abilities in the recruitment and training of volunteers, developing media and community support, and the solicitation of grants and donations to fund her program. Moreover, she strives to educate a volunteer workforce about the issues and values of Hawaiian montane forests with the goal of engaging them in long-term commitments for direct conservation action. She seeks pragmatic solutions and promotes effective partnerships to protect the future existence of our natural areas.

The Department is in complete support of Ms. Cassel's nomination to the Kōke'e State Park Advisory Council knowing that she will make significant contributions in helping to implement invasive species control and native forest restoration throughout our flagship parks on Kaua'i, Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon.

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ESTHER KIA'AINA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
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  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Malama Solomon  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Capitol  
451 South Beretania Street, Rm. 210  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RECEIVED MAR 06 2013

Re: Gubernatorial Nominee: Kathryn Cassel  
Koke'e State Park Advisory Council

Dear Senator Solomon:

I am informed that Kathryn Cassel has been nominated by Governor Neil Abercrombie for a position on the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council. I am in strong support of Ms. Cassel's nomination and I am sure that she will do an exemplary job as a member of the council if approved by your committee.

It is my firm belief that if confirmed, Ms. Cassel will become a valuable asset to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration and if there are any questions with regard to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to communicate with me.

Sincerely,

RONALD D. KOUCHI  
Senator - 8<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

cc: Kathryn Cassel



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**  
**Senator Malama Solomon, Chair**  
**Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair**  
**March 5, 2013**

Testimony in SUPPORT of Gubernatorial Nominees:

**Charles Wichman, Jr.-GM 591**  
**Kathryn Cassel-GM 592**  
**Wayne Souza- GM 593**

**Koke'e State Park Advisory Council**

Chair Solomon, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Housing:

It is with great pride that I submit my support for confirmation of all of the Kaua'i nominees to serve as members of the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council.

As a former member of the Kauai County Council, I have had the privilege of working with these individuals who possess vast knowledge of our treasured Koke'e and their deep passion to preserve the legacy of our native rain forest. Each individual offers unique contributions to the mix of the advisory council that their synergy will have a lasting impact for generations to experience the wonders of Koke'e.

My family and I are so grateful and appreciative of the many, many individuals that keep Koke'e in its pristine state for all to enjoy. These gubernatorial nominees are the backbone of this network who serve in many capacities usually not in the public view. It is time to recognize their work as they continue to contribute their talents and skills for our mountain forest.

I ask for your favorable consideration for confirmation of these individuals to serve on the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council.

Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, 14<sup>th</sup> District  
East and North Kauai

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting GM 592 and the Confirmation of Kathryn Cassel  
to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Thursday, March 7, 2013, 1:15PM, Room 225

---

*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 10 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

---

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports the confirmation of Kathryn "Katie" Cassel to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council.

It has been the privilege of our Nature Conservancy Kaua'i Program and a pleasure to work with Katie on both the management and protection of some of Kaua'i's diverse ecosystems, specifically within the Koke'e State Park and the Alaka'i Wilderness. Katie was one of our first partners when we initiated our work on Kaua'i. She is a dynamo whose organization, the Koke'e Resource Conservation Program (KRCP), has worked long and hard to preserve Kauai's astonishing natural diversity. She founded the KRCP in 1998 with grant funding, and has been working to control invasive weeds in very heart of Kaua'i—the Koke'e and Alaka'i regions—ever since. KRCP is a volunteer organization that has logged more than 130,000 volunteer hours controlling some of the worst invasive weeds on more than 9,500 acres removing nearly 10,000,000 weeds. Her group was one of the first to respond to the Miconia threat to Kaua'i in 2000.

Katie is qualified, she is a resident of Kaua'i and is knowledgeable in the advisory council's strategic areas – education, cultural resources, the environment and she has incredible knowledge of native plants, animals and ecosystems. Katie Cassel has provided significant and long-standing support for conservation on Kaua'i and at Koke'e. In 2012, we were proud to award Katie our Nature Conservancy Kāko'o 'Āina (one who supports the land) award.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our very strong support for Katie's confirmation to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council. We hope you will give her appointment your most enthusiastic recommendation for approval to the full Senate.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alan H. Arizumi Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge  
Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Eiichiro Kuwana  
Duncan MacNaughton Wayne K. Minami A. Catherine Ngo James C. Polk H. Monty Richards Chet A. Richardson  
Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith James Wei Eric K. Yeaman

*Chair:* Kenton T. Eldridge *Chair Emeriti:* Samuel A. Cooke (co-founder; chair 1980-1991), Herbert C. Cornuelle (co-founder), Bill D. Mills (1991-1995), Jeffrey N. Watanabe (1995-2004), David C. Cole (2004-2008), Duncan MacNaughton (2008-2011)