The following statement by the Environmental Center does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

On behalf of the Environmental Center we would like to offer our support for the appointment of Mr. Brian Choy to be the new Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC).

As one of the three sister organizations created by Act 140 in 1970 that established the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the Environmental Council, the Environmental Center has worked most closely with the Office of Environmental Quality Control and its many directors over the past 21 years. It is with considerable pleasure that we now offer our support for Mr. Choy's appointment as the new Director of OEQC.

The Office of Environmental Quality Control is really the backbone of the environmental management system in the State of Hawaii. Through its administration of the Environmental Impact Statement system and guidance to the governor and other agencies, the director can provide guidance to the State and private sectors in all aspects of environmental management. Furthermore, at the delegation of the governor, the director of OEQC has the discretionary authority regarding the acceptability of environmental documents prepared pursuant to Chapter 343 for projects involving state lands or state funds and for projects proposed by state agencies. While the director's duties within this context are fairly specific, the quality of the decisions is a direct reflection of the competence of his staff and the director's own grasp of environmental management needs, statutes, regulations and his personal expertise. Mr. Choy's experience and track record certainly qualify him for this task.
We have had direct working relationships with Mr. Choy for many years in the areas of environmental planning, development of state water quality standards, non-point source pollution control, ground water protection, wetlands identification and management, and now most recently in his capacity as acting director of OEQC. In all cases, Mr. Choy has provided strong leadership and the willingness to make difficult decisions with regard to environmental protection issues. He has developed an outstanding staff under each of his departmental "hats", and has clearly demonstrated an excellent understanding of the broad, multidisciplinary issues that face environmental managers and planners.

We are particularly pleased that someone with Mr. Choy's experience, talent, vision and integrity has been selected for the OEQC Director's position. I am pleased to offer our full support for his appointment.