

**Testimony of
Ling Ong, Ph.D
SWCA
SLUC Docket No. A10-787 Maui R&T Partners, LLC.**

In the Matter of the Petition of Maui R&T Partners, LLC. to Amend the State Land Use District Boundary of Lands Situated at Kihei, Island of Maui, State of Hawaii, Consisting of 253.05 Acres from the Agricultural District to the Urban District,
Tax Map Key Nos. (2) 2-2-024: 016 and 017, and (2) 2-2-002: 054 (por.)

My name is Ling Ong and I am a wildlife biologist with SWCA and I conducted additional wildlife reconnaissance surveys of the property on March 31, 2011 (included as Appendix C-2 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement). I have been conducting terrestrial biological surveys in Hawaii since 2008. A copy of my resume is attached.

The USFWS comment letter to the EISPN indicated that additional surveys should be conducted to determine the presence of endangered species on the Maui Research and Technology Park (MRTP) property. In response to the letter the Applicant retained SWCA to conduct additional survey work. I will briefly summarize the findings of the surveys.

The project area was found to be dominated by non-native *kiawe* and buffelgrass. The Obscure Morning Glory (*Ipomoea obscura*), a possible host plant for the adult BSM, was found to be rare; however, no species confirmed as larval host plants for the BSM were found within the MRTP properties. No additional species of wildlife were observed. No listed or candidate endangered species of animals were observed within the property.



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Education / Training

- Ph.D., Zoology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2007
- M.Sc., Biology, National University of Singapore, 2000
- B.Sc., Biology, National University of Singapore, 1997

Registration / Certification

- Certified small boat driver, Department of Interior

Expertise

- Avian, bat and marine surveys
- Risk assessment to Endangered Species
- Development of viable mitigation alternatives
- Marine fish and benthic surveys

Relevant Projects

- Kahuku Wind Power, Kaheawa Wind Power II and Kawaihoa Wind Power Habitat Conservation Plan; Honolulu City and County, Hawai'i
- Kahuku Wind Power and Kawaihoa Wind Power Searcher Efficiency Trials
- Kalaupapa National Historic Park Resource Assessment
- Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan; Hawai'i County, Hawai'i

Dr. Ong has more than 15 years' experience with terrestrial and marine ecological studies in the tropics. She has conducted conservation research in tropical forests of Singapore and Malaysia through the Conservation and Behavioural Ecology Laboratory at the National University of Singapore. Her work encompassed bird census, mist-netting, blood work, arthropod sampling and behavioral ecology of birds and solitary bees.

She completed her doctoral studies on parrotfish ecology at the University of Hawai'i. Her research identified the contributions of herbivorous reef fish and invertebrates to ecological processes on the reef (e.g. sand production and reef growth) and the potential effects of harvesting reef fish on ecosystem health. She studied the movements of reef fish in relation to the size of Marine Protected Areas and assessed their effectiveness in protecting fish stocks. Her experience includes an island-wide census of target reef fish stocks and benthic (coral, macroalgae, large invertebrates) surveys to characterize the survey environment. She is currently involved in long-term coral reef monitoring within a Marine Protected Area. She also provides peer review of scientific papers and technical papers for refereed journals and government agencies. At SWCA, Dr. Ong is the lead in conducting intertidal and marine surveys and can facilitate Essential Fish Habitat and Endangered Species Act consultations with NOAA.

Dr. Ong also provides scientific expertise in the field of terrestrial wildlife ecology, including technical advice to help clients comply with the Endangered Species Act, and developing sustainable environmental practices. She has specific expertise with the design and conduct of long-term bird and bat population studies. She has co-authored three multi-species Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) which include development of mitigation options with multi-agency cooperation to ensure net conservation benefit to the affected endangered species. She is committed to helping clients achieve their sustainable development objectives, while benefitting the indigenous flora, fauna, and environment of each project area.