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March 31, 2008

Via email

The Honorable Sen. Russell S. Kokubun
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chairman Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Leslie H. Kondo as a commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Les well since the time that we both practiced law together at Chun Chipchase Takayama Nagatani beginning in the year 2000. At that time, he was practicing civil litigation. Through my daily interaction with him in the office and frequent consultation on legal issues, I grew to respect his intelligence, judgment, and character. Even under the most stressful situations, Les proved an able problem solver and team player. He was equally respectful of both attorneys and staff, and was well-liked by both. He is a hard worker, a quick study, and a person of integrity. If a document was submitted to court with his name on it, you could count on cogent reasoning and thorough analysis.

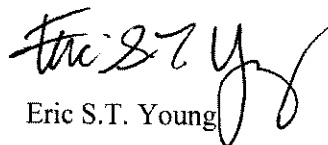
Since that time, I have watched with admiration as Les grew into the role of Director of the Office of Information Practices. My first legal clerkship was for the Office of Information Practices many years prior. Les quickly became an expert on information practices and records and open meeting laws. Under his leadership, the Office issued decisions and opinions, that while not always politically popular, were well-reasoned and grounded in the law.

I firmly believe that if confirmed, Leslie H. Kondo will similarly become a valuable asset to the Public Utilities Commission.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric S.T. Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "Y" at the end.

Eric S.T. Young

testimony

From: Presley Pang [presleypang@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2008 11:14 PM
To: testimony
Subject: GM 322 Testimony in Support of LESLIE H. KONDO for Public Utilities Commission--Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing
Hearing Date: Monday, March 31, 2008
Time: 9:30 am
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
Agenda Item: GM 322, Confirmation of LESLIE H. KONDO as Public Utilities Commissioner

Honorable Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to strongly support the nomination and confirmation of LESLIE H. KONDO as a Public Utilities Commissioner.

I often consulted with Les Kondo during the years he was the director of the State Office of Information Practices. I was extremely impressed by Mr. Kondo's personal qualities, the professional manner in which he discharged his public responsibilities, and his integrity. He always listened to different perspectives, kept an open mind, and fully thought through issues before providing opinions. I particularly appreciated his willingness to honor both the intent and spirit of the Uniform Information Practices Act and the Sunshine Law, while also working with boards and commissions to develop practical resolutions to issues that developed under those laws. He never advanced a personal agenda and was truly dedicated to the mission of his Office. He understood technical details in the context of the "big picture" and could convey the importance of both. These qualities make him an excellent choice as a Public Utilities Commissioner.

Our State is facing serious economic challenges--failing airlines, contested ferry transportation, companies that shut down, credit and borrowing uncertainties, and the steeply rising costs of gas and electricity. As a citizen of Hawaii, I am grateful that Les Kondo is willing to serve as a Public Utilities Commissioner. He has the talent, skill and commitment to contribute greatly to the Commission.

I respectfully urge you to confirm his nomination. If you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,

Presley Pang