

TESTIMONY
GM 543

TESTIMONY OF LAWRENCE H. MIIKE, M.D., J.D.

on Governor's Message No. 543

**Lawrence H. Miike, Gubernatorial Nominee to the
Commission on Water Resource Management**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND**

March 24, 2008

Aloha, Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land. My name is Lawrence Miike, and I am the Governor's nominee for the member of the Commission on Water Resource Management who has "substantial experience in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional riparian usage pursuant to section 174C-101." I am currently serving in this position with the Commission and have been re-nominated by the Governor for a second term.

I have been interested in water resource issues since I served on the Commission as an ex-officio voting member as the Director of Health from 1994-1998. Because of this interest, after three years of research, my book, **Water and the Law in Hawai'i**, was published in 2004 through the University of Hawai'i Press. In that book, I concluded that a discussion of water law would be incomplete without explaining the science of our state's streams and aquifers, as well as what role water played in the mythology and history of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, and how water law evolved from the ancient ahupua'a system to our current urbanized state.

Currently, I am representing the Commission as the hearings officer for the contested case in which petitions have been made to restore the four streams of Na Wai `Eha on Maui, a case which will further define the legal principles first set out in the Waiahole decision by the Commission and the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I hope you will confirm my nomination and allow me to continue with my work with the Commission. Because of a prior commitment and short notice, I am sorry that I was not able to attend this hearing. I will be happy to meet with Chairman Hee and members of the Committee in the immediate future.

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU
IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF LAWRENCE H. MIIKE TO THE
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

March 24, 2008

To: Chairman Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and this testimony is being submitted in support of the nomination of Lawrence H. Miike to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I have known Larry Miike since high school and he ranks as one of the brightest persons that I have had the pleasure to know in my lifetime. He clearly possesses the background to be on this commission having served on the Water Commission when he was Director of Health for the State of Hawaii, and having authored *Water and the Law in Hawaii* published in 2004.

Mr. Miike has a reputation for being a decisive and straightforward person, and he certainly has the experience and ability to serve on this commission. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of Dr. Miike.

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