

COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. What qualifications and experiences do you have that will benefit the commission? How has your past volunteers and community service activities/leadership roles prepared you for this position?

I began contributing time and effort to organizations across the state since I can remember. Through service, I have developed a deep-sense of citizenship and responsibility, which I share with individuals to engage, inspire and motivate them to work cooperatively towards common goals. Doing so has helped me to develop the leadership and communications skills required to work with a wide-variety of people.

I have progressively had the opportunity to work with more complex and far-reaching programs. Here are examples of just a few of these programs and events that I have organized or taken leadership roles in over the years:

The Annual Unity House Labor Day Picnic

Annual USS Missouri: End of World War II Ceremonies (September 2nd)

World Diabetes Day (November 13th)

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Annual "Walk to Cure Diabetes"

Special Olympics Annual Holiday Classic

Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America 100th Anniversary Celebrations

I believe that my experiences with these events and the events not listed, have adequately prepared me for the challenges ahead.

2. What initiatives would you recommend to increase community service participation for all ages?

I recommend continuing initiatives to propagate volunteerism through educating and engaging potential participants. The "live aloha" concept is perfect for the current economic-environment. The key is to package and deliver it in a meaningful message for people to fully embrace.

3. What would be your top three priorities for the commission?

My top three priorities for the commission is to:

- a. Continue perpetuating the "Live Aloha" concept by contributing personal specialties, skills and experiences towards programs with the intent to educate, create awareness and engage community involvement.
- b. Ensure funds allocated towards programs are utilized efficiently and effectively to ensure maximum impact within the community.
- c. To have fun and bring new energy into the commission.

4. What impact do you think the current economic recession will have on volunteerism and what challenges and/or opportunities will the commission face during these times of economic uncertainty?

The challenges the commission face during the current economic recession are shared by all service organizations across the state. There will be a reduction in donations and involvement due to people placing their personal resources into reserves out of fear. This is understandable given the uncertainty of the future and the potential effects on quality of life.

However, I believe that there is no better time for the community to bond than in a recession. These are the times where all members of society share a common burden, and it is vital for the community to come together in efforts that will fulfill necessities, uplift spirits and increase morale within one-another.

In the true spirit of service, we must unite in difficult times with an optimistic view towards ensuring a better future, increasing quality of life for the communities that we serve.

TESTIMONY



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Infrastructure Division
1155 Market Street, 11th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 554-0739 phone, (415) 554-2466 fax; email: EPoma@sfpwater.org



April 3, 2009

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
Chairperson, Higher Education Committee
24th Senatorial District
Hawai'i State Capital, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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JULIET ELLIS
COMMISSIONER

ED HARRINGTON
GENERAL MANAGER

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Christopher J. Wong
in Support of his Nomination to the Hawai'i Commission
for National and Community Service

Dear Chairperson Tokuda,

It is a pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation for Mr. Christopher J. Wong, who has been nominated for membership on the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service. I believe that his nomination is tentatively scheduled to be considered by the Higher Education Committee next week, and would respectfully urge you and HRE members to advance his nomination.

As a manager in a municipal department that oversees water, power and wastewater capital projects, one of my duties is to research, analyze and track public policy, legislation and methodologies for workforce development and community partnerships in other jurisdictions, including Hawai'i. I therefore have some familiarity with the work of the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service, and I believe that Christopher's unwavering commitment to the community and his passionate civic responsibility make him well-suited for this Commission.

I have known Christopher since he was a child, as a family friend and mentor. His grandmother and my mother were classmates while growing up in the Philippines during and after World War II, and who became lifelong friends. Over time, I have seen Christopher develop into a vibrant and intelligent young adult whose many years of volunteer work with organizations such as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation - Hawai'i Chapter, the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Unity House, Special Olympics Hawai'i, Elks Club, and student organizations at Hawai'i Pacific University (at which, by the way, he is pursuing an MBA) will allow him to bring to the Commission exceptional sensitivity, particularly in being an advocate and articulate voice for young people and other underrepresented groups. Christopher was born and raised in Hawai'i, and knows firsthand the intricacies of connecting with and building trust with the diverse communities there. Moreover, his Filipino-American and Chinese-American heritage will contribute to the strength and diversity of the Commission.

In closing, I am confident that Christopher will serve the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service well with his resourcefulness, diligence, accessibility, energy and vision. If you or members of the HRE have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (415) 554-0739 or by email at: EPoma@sfpwater.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edgar Poma



USS MISSOURI MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

63 Cowpens Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
Phone: (808) 455- 1600 x306 Fax: (808) 454-0543

April 3, 2009

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Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair, Higher Education Committee
Hawaii State Capital, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Re: Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service, GOV.MSG. NO 558

It is an honor to recommend Chris J. Wong for confirmation by the Senate to serve as a member of Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. Chris has always been one to promote community service and awareness to our youth.

I have known Chris for a number of years, as an employee and a friend. He has an outstanding background, with experience as a docent at the Battleship Missouri, as a Guest Services Representative for Norwegian Cruise Line, and as a Job Trainer at Insights To Success. While he was at HPU, he was Membership Vice-President for the Alaka'i Jaycees and was recognized by the Hawaii State Jaycees as top recruiter for two months.

Chris said that working as a tour guide at the Missouri has given him rare, once in a lifetime, insights into the lives and experiences of the men and women who has sacrificed their dreams and lives for their posterity and following generations; generations of which we are descended. He believes that it is because of the greatest generation that we are able to live free in the pursuit of our own happiness, and so that we may also be able to ensure the same for our offspring.

Chris left the Battleship Missouri to further serve these ideals and values in public office. His goal on the commission is to motivate high school students, college students and the overall populace to become more involved in service to our community. He also seeks to raise awareness for existing program and promote involvement in organization serving our community, raising quality of life for everyone.

I am pleased to give Chris Wong my highest recommendation for service on the state's commission for national and community service.

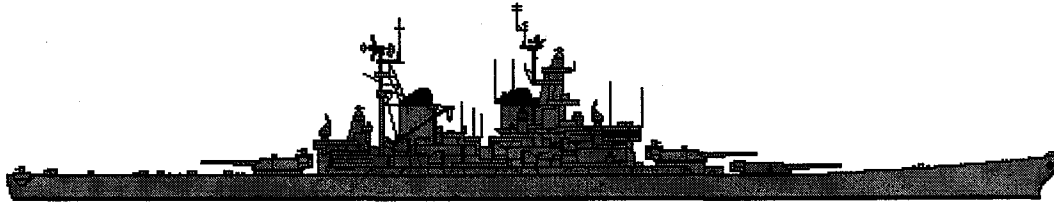
Respectfully,

Masaji Hasebe

Tour Operations Manager/Eastbound Sales Manager

Phone: 455-1600 x 306/228

E-mail: MasajiH@ussmissouri.org



BB-63 USS MISSOURI MEMORIAL
Visitor Operations Department

Dated: April 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm pleased that Chris Wong a former employee and docent at the memorial are seeking to expand his education, cultural awareness and promote goodwill. He has been an exceptional person and well liked by his peers and managers here at the USS Missouri Memorial. His communication skills offered visitors from around the world the experience, knowledge and legacy of the memorials mission to educate our guests. He was very adaptable and receptive towards learning new things and brought a high level of energy making it fun and exciting when conducting tours.

I give Chris high praise for accepting responsibility and performing duties and tasks as assigned. He has been exemplary and a model for our docents to emulate.

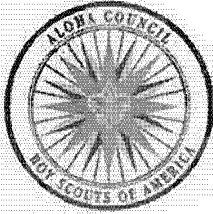
In the words of Albert Schweitzer, *"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: The ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."*

Chris is an exceptional person and will be a great asset as he pursues a life long career.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Lowe".

Samuel Lowe
Director of Education & Visitor Programs
Battleship Missouri Memorial
63 Cowpens Street 96818
Phone: (808) 455-1600 x 228/248
Email: SamL@ussmissouri.org



ALOHA COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
Chairperson, Higher Education Committee
24th Senatorial District
Hawaii State Capital, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Christopher J. Wong
Nomination for the Hawaii Commission for National
and Community Service

Dear Chairperson Jill N. Tokuda:

I am forwarding this letter of recommendation for Christopher J. Wong to provide my support for his nomination as a member of the Hawaii commission for National and Community Service. I know Mr. Wong would be a great asset to your organization and respectfully feel that he should be selected.

In my work as the Director of Marketing and Programs for the Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America, I have depended on Mr. Wong's help in organizing and advising our committees on several community and political related issues. His sage advice has always been key to my strategic positioning of the programs for the Boy Scouts of America.

Our organization is launching its 100th Anniversary as a youth organization in 2010 not only locally here in Hawaii, but also as a national organization. Our organization began on April 8, 1910 here in Hawaii; only a mere two months after it came to the United States from England.

Our organization needs youthful, energetic, diligent, and resourceful individuals like Mr. Wong. I strongly urge your organization to appoint Mr. Wong to this position. I feel that Hawaii and its people need leaders like him. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Foronda".

Ron Foronda
Director of Marketing and Programs
ron.foronda@scouting.org
808-285-7790 mobile phone

Unity House, Inc
“*Serving Hawaii’s Working People*”
www.unityhousehawaii.org
Arthur A. Rutledge, Founder

April 5, 2009

The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda.
Chairman of Higher Education Committee
State of Hawaii
Legislature – State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: CHRISTOPHER WONG
Confirmation to the National and Community Service Commission

Aloha Senator Jill Tokuda:

It is with great honor and respect that I recommend and support Christopher Wong’s confirmation to the National and Community Service Commission. For over 15 years I have been associated with Mr. Wong in his capacity as a friend and Community and Public Service Volunteer/Leader.

I have watched him grow over the years, with witness of his dedication and passion to help others. His ambition to better himself is lead with his enthusiasm, professionalism and strong leadership skills.

Through his experiences, accomplishments and dedication as a Community and Public Service Volunteer/Leader, I am confident he will be a great asset on the Commission in raising awareness for existing programs and his motivation to promote involvement in organizations to raise the equality of life for Hawaii’s communities.

Please give Mr. Wong all considerations for this nomination.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Arlene E. Ilae
President

1701 Ala Wai Blvd- Honolulu Hawaii 96815- (808)-945-0050- facsimile- (808) 944-0056,

April 8, 2008

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Chairperson
Higher Education Committee
Hawai'i State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Recommendation of Christopher Wong for appointment to Commission of National and Community Service

Dear Senator Tokuda:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Christopher Wong to serve on the Commission of National and Community Service. Christopher has been an employee of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for more than two years serving in the capacity of Special Events Coordinator. JDRF is an international organization that raises funds to support the research that works to find the cure for diabetes and its complications. Funds are raised through the staging of multiple special events, each of which require large numbers of volunteers.

Christopher sees every day the value of committed community service and what it produces.

Christopher's personal history is an excellent example of service to his country and community. In high school at Kamehameha Schools he served with JROTC. During high school and his college years Chris devoted considerable time to Unity House, Local 5, in the development and production of Community Days and Family Picnics. While an undergraduate at Hawaii Pacific University, Chris served as a mentor of youth by teaching teens about citizenship and civic responsibility. I have personally witnessed his ability to mobilize youth to serve when he recruited a large number of students from McKinley High School to coordinate an event for World Diabetes Day last November.

It is my belief that Christopher Wong not only talks the talk, but walks the walk. He has both the personal experience and deep commitment to service that being a Commissioner requires. His youth brings an extra dimension to the commission because he will be able to relate well to the younger community who is being asked to serve. Christopher Wong is an excellent choice for this position and he has my full support in this nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Manya Levin
Executive Director, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

April 6, 2009

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Christopher J. Wong - GM558
Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service
Thursday, April 9, 2009 – 1:15 PM

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Higher Education Committee:

I am writing in support of Christopher Wong and highly recommend your approval for his appointment into the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

My name is Elaine Phan, and I am a senior at McKinley High School. I have known Mr. Wong for a few years and met him at a volunteer service event. Mr. Wong is the Special Events Coordinator for the Hawaii office of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). I have worked closely with him through volunteering for JDRF and at many other community involvements.

Volunteering with him has allowed me the opportunity to develop my skills by speaking in front of other students. I have learned a lot about leadership and communication from him. I was a very shy student prior to meeting him, always having a hard time talking to other people. I would have never seen myself as a leader. In the past, I would have been afraid of participating in activities that gave me a leadership role. Now I am a part of the student government at my school and vice president for a club involved in volunteering in the community. I am no longer frightened by the thought of speaking in front of students about volunteering in the community.

Through his guidance, I was able to communicate more effectively to others. The students at my school, who also participate in community services, have gotten along well with him too. He has personable characteristics, allowing him to work well with a variety of people.

Mr. Wong has inspired us all, and has shown us that doing volunteer service not only benefits the community but also makes you a better person. I feel he is a fully qualified person who will be a vital asset to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. He has many good qualities that would be crucial to this position. I look forward to seeing Mr. Wong being given the opportunity to serve our state in this manner. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elaine Phan
Student Volunteer
McKinley High School, Class of 2009
Honolulu, Hawaii
(808) 636-1353

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Thursday, April 9, 2009
1:15 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 558

WRITTEN ONLY

TO THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR, NORMAN SAKAMOTO, VICE
CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ronald Boyer, and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 558, regarding the appointment of Christopher J. Wong to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service ("Commission"). I strongly support Mr. Wong's appointment and respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to his appointment to the Commission.

I have known Chris Wong for five years and have been thoroughly impressed with this young man and his energy and passion for public and community service. Chris is the sort of person who gives "old folks" like me comfort and hope in knowing that, as John F. Kennedy said, when "the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans" it will be in very capable, compassionate and generous hands.

Chris's "career" in volunteerism began when he was just 13 years old – an age when many youngsters have not yet embraced the notion of giving of

themselves unto others. Since then, Chris has given selflessly of his time and talents to many organizations and efforts including Unity House Hawaii, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Special Olympics Hawaii, the Elks Club, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Pearl City Community Association, and in various ways during his high school and college days.

Chris has also not neglected the other important aspects of life. I know him to be a devoted son and grandson. He has pursued educational goals including earning his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Hawai'i Pacific University where he is currently in the process of earning his Masters of Business Administration. In addition, he has long held down a job to support himself and help out with his family's expenses. Chris is also an accomplished chess player who regularly placed in the winners' circle at tournaments and, as captain, led Kamehameha Schools Chess Team to a 2nd place finish at the Hawai'i State High School Chess Tournament.

I am confident that if given the opportunity, Mr. Wong will prove to be an asset to the State through his service on the Commission. He is a respectful, articulate, and well-mannered young man with an interest in the world around him and – more importantly – in people. I respectfully request that your Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Mr. Chris Wong's appointment to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Mr. Wong's behalf.

TESTIMONY

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Jonah-Kuhio K. Ka'auwai
92-513 Awawa Place
Kapolei, Hi 96707
(808) 620-5702

DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2009 @ 1:15 (Capitol Conference Room 225)

SUBJECT: **GM 558, Consideration and Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee
CHRISTOPHER J. WONG to Hawai'i Commission for National and
Community Service, for a term to expire 6-30-2012**

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Sakamoto and other distinguished committee members. My name is Jonah-Kuhio K. Ka'auwai and I am in strong **support** and encourage the confirmation of Christopher J. Wong to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

Through the time that I have known Chris I have grown very fond of Chris because of his work ethic, his positive attitude and his ability to lead others. His personality is infectious and he is always in a positive mind frame. In public Chris carries himself very adroitly and can be counted on when there is a task to be accomplished.

As the Special Events Coordinator for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Chris has done an outstanding job fundraising and coordinating events to find a cure to diabetes. In his position, he is responsible for fundraising and doing community outreach to inform Hawaii's citizens of this terrible disease. Because of Chris and his efforts, many children across Hawaii receive assistance and care.

It is my personal opinion that Chris will be one of the best and the brightest on this commission and his talents will be very valuable to all. It is with deep hope that Chris will be confirmed by your committee today.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.