

GM 592

EDT

Jennifer Zelko

CBED

April 13, 2009

To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

From: Jennifer Leilani Zelko
1939 B. Kaiwiki Rd.
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-0406 or (808) 769-1401

Subject: Nomination to the Community-Based Economic Advisory Council 2009-2010 term

Aloha Chair Fukunaga & Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology. Thank you very much for allowing me to provide my background to you in consideration of my confirmation to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Council.

I was born in Hilo in 1977 and raised on the Big Island of Hawai'i. I attended Hilo Union Elementary School, Hilo Intermediate School and graduated from Hilo High School in 1995. In 2000, I graduated from the University of Hawai'i with a Psychology Degree. In 2003, I graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law with a J.D. Degree. After graduation, I came home to Hilo to practice law. I spent three years practicing in the Hilo office of Carlsmith Ball, LLP, before joining the Hilo office of Torkildson, Katz, Moore, Hetherington & Harris.

I, like many of our Island residents left Hawai'i to attend school on the mainland, knowing in my heart that I wanted to return after graduation. My biggest concern was whether there would be career opportunities for me on the Big Island. Luckily, there were, and I was able to come home and make a living. I know that not everyone is so lucky. Many of our Island's residents have watched as their children have moved away to the mainland for work, leaving families with a great distance between them. This is why I am a strong advocate for providing job opportunities, so that our next generation can come home and make a living here for themselves and their families.

I serve on the following non-profit organizations and Boards:

YWCA of Hawai'i Island	Vice President/ Board of Director
University of Hawai'i at Hilo Alumni	Board Member
East Hawai'i Council of Advisors	Chair

Senator Fukunaga, in response to your request of April 7, 2009, the following is my list of references:

Mrs. Yu Yok Perring, University of Hawaii Alumni ED (808) 974-7311
Ms. Brenda Olcott, President YWCA of Hawaii Island (808) 557-8975
Dr. John Mebane (808) 961-5796
Mrs. Ann Roberti (808) 557-1196
Ms. Sanoe Kauhane, author Big Island Weekly (808) 345-3486

To keep the next generation in Hawai'i, it is most important that we are able to provide the opportunities here for them to make a living. We often times lose our best and brightest because of the lack of quality jobs here in Hawai'i. I believe creating a viable and sustainable economic environment, means an economy not based solely on tourism.

I believe being a member of this Council will allow me to be a representative voice, as I have a similar concern as many of our Island residents do, with the long term economic forecast for Hawai'i. I want my son Logan (who is now almost 11 months old) to be able to live in this beautiful place we call home, with its diversity in people and environments, and I want him to be able to make a career for himself here. I think the role of the Community-Based Economic Advisory Council is to help make the right decisions that will support viable, sustainable ventures for Hawai'i.

As Chair of the East Hawai'i Council of Advisors, I have witnessed many presentations of great economic ideas from our Islands residents, most recently sustainable agriculture. The greatest problem they face is funding support. As the Vice President of the YWCA of Hawai'i Island, I have seen first hand the effects of cuts in funding for programs that attempt to make the quality of life on our Island better. As a corporate attorney, my clients are faced with many business decisions and it is my job to help guide them in the right direction. I truly believe that the various roles that I play on a daily basis will help me in my role on the Council. I think I can surely represent the voice of the younger generation that wishes to live, work and raise a family here in Hawai'i.

I hope that during my term on this Council, I will be able to be a part of supporting those persons and entities that have great ideas, ideas that are compatible with our Community's visions of our future quality of life.

I am passionate about these Islands, and how wonderful they are. I am diligent in my efforts of doing what I can to make sure the future is very bright for not only my son, but all of our Community's children. I am action-oriented and want to be involved in making decisions that will benefit all of our Island residents. It all starts with creating opportunities that will have the greatest benefit on our economy and our environment.

In the last few months I have been privy to conversations going on between the YWCA of Hawai'i Island and its employees, and have watched how layoffs have affected

families. I have listened to the passionate pleas by both the employer and employees arguing to keep the programs going. These pleas will help me remember what is important. People are important, and people need to be able to make a living, not only for the obvious financial reasons, but for their self-esteem and self-worth.

I do not see any conflict arising during my term, should I be confirmed for this Council. Thank you very much for your consideration and I humbly ask for your support.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Zelko". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Leilani Zelko



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TECHNOLOGY**

Wednesday, April 15, 2009
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
GM 592

**JENNIFER L. ZELKO, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE COMMUNITY
BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE 6-30-2010.**

Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Baker, and Committee members:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Jennifer L. Zelko to the Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Advisory Council.

Ms. Zelko's education and professional experience will serve to increase the "skill and knowledge" resources that program staff and other CBED Advisory Council members draw upon in their mission to assist and empower Hawaii's communities.

Having graduated from Hilo High School in 1995, the University of Hawaii at Hilo with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 2000, and Gonzaga University School of Law in 2003, Ms. Zelko currently is an Associate Attorney with the law firm of Torkildson, Katz, Moore, Hetherington & Harris. She is a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association and Hawaii County Bar Association.

Currently, Ms. Zelko serves as Vice-President on the Board of Directors for the YWCA, and on the Alumni Board of the University of Hawaii.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the CBED Program are proud and honored to support the nomination of Ms. Jennifer L. Zelko to the Advisory Council of the Community-Based Economic Development Program.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

fukunaga4 - Michelle

From: Alan Rudo [alan.rudo@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 10:44 AM
To: EDTTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of G.M. 592 Nomination of Jennifer Zelko

April 9, 2009

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009

**SUBJECT: G.M. 592 Nomination of Jennifer Zelko
Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Counsel
Hearing Date: 04-15-09
Time: 2:150 PM
Conference Room: 016**

I am writing in support of Jennifer Zelko to the Community-Based Economic and Development Advisory Counsel.

I have known Jennifer for over 4 years and believe she will be an asset to the counsel. Jennifer is very familiar with Economic Development through her extensive background as an attorney working with local developers and government agencies to provide affordable housing and community-based development. As an attorney, Jennifer is also very familiar with the laws of the State of Hawai`i and would bring her valuable insight to the counsel.

Jennifer Zelko is committed to helping the people of Hawaii by increasing community-based economic development. I respectfully request that the Senate confirm Jennifer Zelko to the Community-Based Economic Development Advisory Counsel.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this appointment.

Alan S. Rudo
Citizen, Kea`au, Hawai`i