

GM523

**Measure
Title:**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014. (Replaces GM522)

**Report
Title:**

Public Utilities Commission (Replaces GM522)

Description:

Companion:

Package:

**Current
Referral:**

CPN

CALVIN K.Y. SAY
SPEAKER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813



The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members
Senate Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker and Members:

I fully support the confirmation of Representative Mina M. Morita to the office of Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

Representative Morita is eminently qualified for the office due to her twelve years of experience as Chair of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee. During her tenure as Chair, she has educated herself and worked diligently to become an acknowledged expert in energy and utility regulatory issues. She is especially interested and versed in renewable energy issues, which will become increasingly significant for the environmental and economic future of Hawaii.

Representative Morita also is balanced in her legislative work. I have found that Representative Morita is willing to listen to all sides of an issue and then make an informed decision for the overall best interest of the public. She definitely is not a rigid extremist. She treats everyone and all interests fairly and courteously. These qualities are necessary for a person who sits on a regulatory board that affects the entire State.

In sum, Representative Morita will be a positive addition to the Public Utilities Commission. I am confident that she will serve the public well. She will be one of the leaders who will guide Hawaii into a better future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Representative Morita.

Very truly yours,

CALVIN K.Y. SAY, Speaker
House of Representatives
State of Hawaii

c.: ✓ The Honorable Mina M. Morita

REP. EZRA R. KANOHO (Ret)

2755 Kapa St., Lihue, Hi. 96766 Tel. (808) 245-2236 E-mail ezkanoho@gmail.com

March 6, 2011

TO: **THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

The Honorable , Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

The Honorable Brian T Taniguchi. Vice Chair

The Honorable Committee Members

RE: **Supporting Testimony** for Hearing on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 10 a.m.

Re **GM No. 523** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities

Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee Hermina Morita. for a term to expire June 30, 2011.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am most pleased to provide **testimony in very strong support** towards the confirmation of State Representative Hermina A. Morita as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

I have had the honor and pleasure of serving with Rep Morita in the State House of Representatives for 10 years; and as a Consultant for Hawaii BioEnergy have continued to work closely with her on energy issues since my retirement from the legislature in Nov. 2006 She served with distinction on the Kauai Planning Commission from 1990 to 1993 and the Kauai Police Commission from 1993 to 1996 when she was elected to office.

Based on my close association, personal observation and knowledge of her capability and work ethic, it is my humble belief that Rep. Morita will very effectively fulfill the duties and responsibilities of PUC Commission Chairperson because:

1. She possesses and has demonstrated ingrained characteristics of diligently applying her skills and talents with maximum effort to excel in all that she does:
2. Her honesty and integrity, willingness to take time and effort to do her "homework", and ability to understand and analyze complex issues;
3. She has always been sincere and fair with the strength and courage to act gracefully on her convictions—attributed to values developed in her upbringing and schooling.
4. I am confident that she will render just decisions which will appropriately balance the need to establish satisfactory levels of service at lowest-reasonable rates for consumers while addressing the need for the solvency of providers along with an appropriate return on investment.

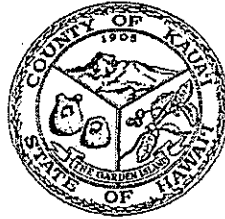
It must be noted that over the years Rep. Morita and I have taken opposite positions on many issues. That we have remained good friends with deep mutual respect and aloha is indeed a tribute to her willingness and ability to work with others to achieve common goals.

I sincerely believe that Rep. Hermina Morita deserves, and I therefore ask your favorable consideration and vote on her Gubernatorial appointment as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

Respectfully,

Rep. Ezra R. KanoHo (Ret)

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Gary K. Heu
Managing Director

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite 235, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4900 FAX (808) 241-6877

TESTIMONY FROM KAUA'I MAYOR BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m.

**GM 523, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE HERMINA MORITA
TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor of the County of Kaua'i, submitting testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission.

Ms. Morita has extensive experience as a legislator who has served in the Hawai'i State House of Representative since 1996. Currently, she serves as the Chair of the House Committee on Energy Environmental Protection and is also a member of the Water, Land Use & Ocean Resources, Housing and Judiciary and Consumer Protection Committees. Over the past 15 years, she has worked on numerous laws regarding Hawai'i's energy policies and has been a long time advocate for the use of renewable energy.

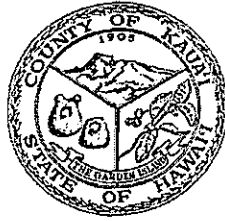
Her willingness to serve on this board for the term ending on June 30, 2014, exemplifies her commitment to serving the citizens of our State.

Ms. Morita has been an active leader in the community and formerly served on the County of Kaua'i Planning Commission and Police Commission. She will be an asset to this commission, given her strengths and passion for making Hawai'i less dependent on oil and more energy efficient.

Mahalo nui loa for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Ms. Morita.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



George K. Costa
Director

Gary K. Heu
Managing Director

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

4444 Rice Street, Suite 200, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4946 FAX (808) 241-6399

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Twenty Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

Conference Room 229

March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m.

By:
Glenn H. Sato
Energy Coordinator
County of Kauai

**GM 523, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE HERMINA MORITA
TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

To: Honorable Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, and Members of the
Committee:

The County of Kaua'i, Office of Economic Development strongly supports the Governor's nomination of Representative Hermina Morita to the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.

Representative Morita has been a leader in Hawai'i's movement towards energy sustainability and has been a champion supporter of responsible energy efficiency and renewable energy legislation. The Kaua'i Energy Office, based in the Office of Economic Development has worked with Representative Morita in strengthening both the offices of the Public Utilities Commission as well as the Consumer Advocate to further the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiatives. Although we will miss her leadership on the House level, we understand that she will be just as effective as a member of the Commission.

As a Kaua'i district representative, she tirelessly involved herself with community issues impacting everyone on the island. On these many occasions to share views and discuss issues, Representative Morita has always been open to listening to differing viewpoints and in sharing her perspectives on many difficult issues. Her past experiences serving on the Kaua'i County Planning Commission, the Kaua'i County Police Commission and as a participant in many focus

groups and community collaboratives underscores her dedicated involvement at many levels of community service and involvement. She is truly a community leader and a public servant.

The energy community in the state still has much more work ahead of us in diversifying the state's energy portfolio to become less reliant on oil. Both energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives are critical in these efforts and Representative Morita has the necessary qualifications to complement the knowledge and backgrounds of the two sitting commissioners and will strengthen the Commission moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this supporting testimony.



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065

March 9, 2011

Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
The Senate
State of Hawaii

Testimony of
Honolulu City Council Chair Nestor Garcia
GM 523
Regular Session 2011

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee:

Thank for you this opportunity to offer testimony in support of Hermina Morita as Chair of the State Public Utilities Commission.

It was my distinct honor and privilege to serve with Ms. Morita during our public service in the House of Representatives. As vice chair to her chairmanship on the Committee for Energy & Environmental Protection, I witnessed firsthand how she demonstrated fairness and firmness with regard to all of the legislation that came before her committee. Additionally, she has the ability to clearly articulate her reasoning behind every decision, which was always based on a thorough examination of the core issues.

I am confident she will bring that same approach to the work at the commission, and I feel that her experience in the House of Representatives brings with it a "big picture" view of the tremendous responsibility that would face her, should she be confirmed by the Senate to sit on the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nestor Garcia".

Nestor R. Garcia, Chair
Honolulu City Council

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday March 9, 2011

Governor's Message 523:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Testimony of Carlito P. Caliboso

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

I fully support and recommend the nomination, appointment and confirmation of HERMINA MORITA to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Ms. Morita for almost eight years since I've been on the commission myself, and since she has been Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. Ms. Morita has demonstrated knowledge, openness, understanding, wisdom, reasonableness, and an even temperament that has served the State well in her current position. These qualities will allow her to continue to serve the State well as a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Accordingly, I fully support Ms. Morita's nomination and fully recommend her confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,



Carlito P. Caliboso
PO Box 4203
Honolulu, HI 96812
ccaliboso@gmail.com



GM 523

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee,
HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014**
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

March 9, 2011

10:00 a.m.

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** the nomination of Hermina Morita as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

As Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, Ms. Morita has exhibited an intricate understanding of the responsibilities and functions of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Ms. Morita has been a major advocate for renewable and clean energy programs, and her energy initiatives represent the type of innovation that is needed at the PUC, which has jurisdiction over much of the Hawai'i's energy resources.

Moreover, Ms. Morita has an exemplary record of public service, having demonstrated the ability to respond to the concerns of her constituents while making difficult decisions. In addition to serving in the State House of Representatives since 1997, Ms. Morita has also sat on the Kaua'i County Planning Commission and Kaua'i County Police Commission.

Ms. Morita will bring the critical perspective of the practical needs of the people and the government to the PUC. Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS GM 523. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony.



March 9, 2011

The Honorable Roslyn Bake, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee!

I am writing to express my and my Board of Director's unwavering support of GM #523 for Hermina Morita's nomination to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

As President and CEO for Enterprise Honolulu and a life long resident of Hawaii who's family ties run deep in public service, this endorsement comes from the core of who I am. In the past year I've had the privilege of serving on many boards. One such board was assembled to address the issue of building a model healthy and sustainable community, the modern ahupua'a. Many of our meetings included discussions of values and in one meeting a board member made the following statement "I don't know about values, but I do know about policy and governance. And to build a healthy community we must have good policy and values."

To me that very statement was a strong illustration of where we've allowed ourselves to go in society today. I chimed "good policy and governance is vital to the health of community, however, policy and governance is really low bar, and values are high bar. The value that I was honored to be taught was aloha and so I have an illustration. Policy and governance says that I must throw this rubbish away in the rubbish can, aloha says, I will pick up this rubbish even though I didn't put it there".

Why is this so important to the confirmation of Mina? Because I believe that the best policy and governance comes as a result of our values, not just isolated decisions but rather integrated knowledge that assesses how our decisions affect the welfare of our community and how we belong. The PUC has the monumental task of making these types of decisions. As Mina and I have worked together Mina exemplifies this approach and awareness.

For these reasons, I strongly and humbly request her confirmation as a PUC Commissioner.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pono Shim
President & CEO
Enterprise Honolulu, Oahu Economic Development Board





The Hawaii Business League

Century Square 1188 Bishop St., Ste 1003 Honolulu, HI 96813-3304
Phone: (808) 533-6819 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 533-2739

March 9, 2011

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons
President

Subject: GM 523 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Hawaii Business League, a small business service organization we are here to support the nomination of Hermina Morita as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

Over the years we have dealt with Ms. Morita in her capacity as a Representative in the State House and we have found that although there have been occasions where we have not agreed, she was nevertheless, willing to listen to the other side, process those thoughts and attempt to establish a balance. This is particularly true for interests both big versus small and we think that those qualities speaks well for someone who is going to serve in this capacity. After all, many of those that are regulated are "giants" in the

industry but those that they serve are the "little guys" and to that extent this necessitates a person that is open, fair and is able to separate fact from fiction.

We believe that Ms. Morita is able to do that and as a result, we are most honored to be able to support her nomination as Chair.

Thank you.

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
March 9, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Madeleine Austin
Vice President, World Business Academy

Statement in Strong Support of Governor's Message No. 523, Nominating
Hermina Morita as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, and Members:

The World Business Academy strongly supports the nomination of Representative Hermina Morita to chair the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Representative Morita would bring unparalleled expertise, leadership, and vision to the PUC at a time when the PUC's ability to fulfill its proper role has never been more critical to the State's ability to achieve a clean energy future and eliminate our dangerous dependence on imported oil that is undermining our economy and destroying our planet and our keiki's future.

During her 14 years in the legislature, she has been a strong leader on energy and environmental issues long before it was politically popular to do so. She has represented her constituents while advancing the interests of the State as a whole. As chair of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, she has demonstrated her commitment to fair and impartial decisionmaking after respectfully listening to competing interests during a full and fair hearing.

The World Business Academy strongly urges the State Senate to advise and consent on the nomination of Representative Hermina Morita as Chair of the PUC.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

The World Business Academy is a nonprofit organization founded in 1986 with the mission to inspire and assist business to take responsibility for the whole of society. Through its publications, Energy Task Force, EconForecast committee, and network of business leaders, it promotes policies and initiatives to fight climate change and create a fair and just economy based on clean energy.

Respectfully submitted,

Madeleine Austin
Vice President, World Business Academy
2600 Pualani Way #3401
Honolulu, HI 96815
(808) 926-1711



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Ph: (808) 543-9311 Fax: (808) 543-9458
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SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE VICE CHAIR BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 523: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Testimony in Strong Support

**By Glenn Hong, President, and Roy Catalani, Vice President, Young Brothers, Limited
March 9, 2011**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 523 concerning the Governor's nomination of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Hawaii ("**PUC**"). **We submit this testimony in strong support of Representative Morita's nomination.**

Representative Morita has an ideal combination of leadership and experience in energy, utility and environmental issues. She was first elected to the Hawaii State House of Representatives in 1996 and she currently serves as the Chair of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and is a member of the Water, Land Use & Ocean Resources, Housing, Judiciary, and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committees. She is a recognized legislative leader for energy, utility and environmental issues and has worked on numerous laws regarding the State of Hawaii's policy on these issues. She has been a longtime advocate for the use of renewable energy as a pathway to peace, economic stability and social justice. Importantly, she has also has private sector managerial experience as business manager of Kong Lung Co. and as business and property manager for Makawae Partners.

The Administration has stated, "The PUC is a key to Hawaii's energy future and connecting our islands so we can build a sustainable economy." We agree and further agree with Representative Morita when she says, "The PUC is a critical economic driver for the State and its decisions affect all residents and businesses throughout Hawaii" because it "oversees essential services such as electricity, the state's communications, and barge-cargo system throughout our islands." More specifically, we believe that, in building a sustainable economy, we must recognize that responsible economic growth and, for example, the development of local energy sources and local agriculture require the development and support of healthy utility infrastructure, including energy, communication and water transportation system grids, in the public interest. To accomplish such development in these regulated industries, we believe the State, working with its administrative agencies and private industry, must develop a clear and predictable vision and plan so that both public and private sector players (a) understand what we're working towards and (b) support and achieve substantial and appropriate private investment in the infrastructural systems that support a sustainable economy. With appreciation for the role that her predecessors and colleagues have played in these issues, we believe that Representative Morita will bring the credibility, knowledge and proactive leadership to the Commission so that it may realize its full potential as a "critical economic driver".

In short, Representative Morita's extensive experience and strong leadership skills make her an excellent choice to lead the PUC and undertake responsibility for complex and crucial issues and challenges under the PUC's jurisdiction. We respectfully request that you recommend approval of her nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment of Governor's Message 523.



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION
ON GM 523 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
HERMINA MORITA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2014.**

Thank you Chair Baker and committee members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association with over 400 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

HTA supports the confirmation of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Representative Morita's long service with the State Legislature will serve the PUC well, especially in their evolving areas of interest gaining purview over energy matters.

We have been associated with Representative Morita these many years and know her to be knowledgeable and dedicated; important characteristics for a state agency. However, her flexibility and compassion is even more important for the people and industries the PUC is obligated to serve.

Thank you.

**Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hearing
Wednesday, March 9, 2011, Room 229, 10:00 a.m.**

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair



Testimony for GM523, Hermina Morita for Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My testimony is in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 512, Hermina "Mina" Morita for the Public Utilities Commission. My name is Lynn McCrory and I am the President of PAHIO Development, Inc. We are a locally owned and operated time-share development company on the island of Kauai.

Mina brings to government years of experience in supporting and understanding the environmental and energy resources issues for Hawaii. Her position as Chair of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee for the last several years has added the skills of working with many entities to move toward a more sustainable Hawaii. Mina consistently has shown her strength and attention to detail in whatever she does. This focused detailed approach will be very important at the PUC. In addition, she brings all of this to the position along with a positive attitude, and a sense of humor.

My experience in working with Mina goes back at least 15 years. It would be hard for me to find a more comprehensive individual who could couple the passion and skills learned in working on environment and energy issues with the ability to work with a large number and variety of people and issues. The State of Hawaii will benefit from the leadership that will be provided by Mina Morita.

I humbly ask for your consideration to SUPPORT GM523. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

PAHIO DEVELOPMENT, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynn P. McCrory".

Lynn P. McCrory
President

 **First Hawaiian Bank**
999 Bishop Street Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Presentation to the Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities

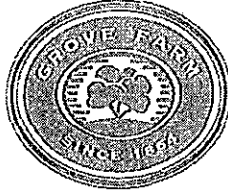
Wednesday March 9, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities

I am Neal Okabayashi and I submit this testimony as an individual and not on behalf of First Hawaiian Bank. I support the confirmation of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission.

I had the opportunity and privilege to interact with Ms. Morita during her tenure as chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. I always found her to be open, honest and fair, as well as responsive to the needs of the banking industry with a balance for environmental concerns. That balance is critical because without striking a balance between needs which may appear to compete but perhaps may be more accurately described as divergent, Hawaii would tilt too dramatically in one direction and impair our economy or environment. She carefully considered my views, and while she did not always agree with me, her responses were carefully thought out and tempered and balanced. It is that spirit of balance that has led her to exhibit the independence that is vital to a vibrant PUC.

In summary, she has displayed good judgment, the ability to balance various viewpoints while maintaining the core of her beliefs. I believe these qualities are helpful to the PUC and accordingly, I fully and unconditionally support her nomination.



TESTIMONY OF
Warren H. Haruki
President & CEO - Grove Farm Company, Inc.
Executive Chairman & Interim CEO – Maui Land & Pineapple Company

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Wednesday, March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE-CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

GM No. 523 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Hermina Morita, for a term to expire 6/30/2014

I am pleased to offer testimony in strong support of the nomination of Hermina Morita to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Morita for a number of years on various projects relating to renewable energy throughout the State of Hawaii. I have been able to observe first hand the way her legislative leadership, strong intellect and integrity have positively impacted residents throughout the State. Ms. Morita has honed her ability to listen and be open-minded while never wavering in her commitment to serve the people of Hawaii.

Ms. Morita has served her constituents on Kauai well for many terms and having myself served on government boards, I am confident that Ms. Morita will be an involved and strong contributor to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). She will bring her approach of engaging in respectful discussion, efficiently analyzing facts and looking out for the interests of Hawaii's residents in fulfilling her role on the Commission. Her passion and commitment to improving Hawaii's energy situation will make her an ideal candidate to serve on the PUC.

I respectfully request that you confirm Ms. Morita to the Public Utilities Commission and thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
March 9, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Sharon Y. Moriwaki
Co-Chair, Hawaii Energy Policy Forum
Associate Director, Social Sciences Public Policy Center

Statement in Strong Support of Governor's Message No.523, Nominating Hermina
Morita as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, and Members:

The Hawaii Energy Policy Forum strongly supports the nomination of Representative Hermina Morita to chair the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

During her 14 years at the State Legislature, Representative Morita has been a leader on issues of the environment and energy independence. She recognized the importance of establishing a clean energy future for Hawaii long before it was topical or fashionable. Through seven legislative terms she has maintained her interest and devotion to clean energy so that, today, as Chair of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, she is the established expert on energy issues.

Her work has impact far beyond the particular interests of her district and constituents; she has been instrumental in establishing the best policies for the state as a whole. She is the model of a legislator who can represent her district and keep the needs of the state in mind at the same time. Indeed she has been willing to take politically unpopular positions because of her understanding of the needs of Hawaii's energy system that go far beyond the next election cycle.

We have no doubt that Representative Morita will lead the PUC in making strong, sound, and fair decisions that will advance our goals of achieving a clean energy future for our state. Her leadership and actions at the Legislature in recognizing the appropriate role of the PUC and recognizing the importance of supporting its reorganization /revitalization provide further evidence of her excellent qualifications to serve as chair.

Representative Morita will also bring a refreshing perspective to the PUC. She can provide Neighbor Island as well as Native Hawaiian perspectives. A true keiki o ka aina, having attended Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawaii, she also has experience in various levels of government, starting on the Kauai County Planning Commission and Kauai Police Commission before her election to state office.

Representative Morita, as Chair of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee, has been an ex- officio member of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum. She

has taken this membership seriously, attending regularly and participating in seminars and briefings. She has shared the legislative perspective and has always been open to listening and discussing, and taking advantage of the possibility to learn from Forum members and invited speakers -- working toward formulating, testing, and refining energy policy.

For all these reasons, the 45 members of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum strongly urge the State Senate to advise and consent on the nomination of Hermina Morita as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Hawaii Energy Policy Forum, based at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, is a unique experiment in collaborative energy planning and policymaking. It is a collaborative forum for sharing ideas and information, recommending and advocating policies and initiatives, and promoting civic action to achieve Hawaii's preferred energy future. Its 45 members include representatives of utilities and renewable energy associations, environmentalists, academic experts and federal, state, and local government legislative and administrative representatives. All forum policy pronouncements are a result of this unique collaborative process.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 523: APPOINTMENT OF
REP. HERMINA MORITA TO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: SolarCity

Hearing on March 9, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., Room 229

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

SolarCity supports the confirmation of Representative Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission.

SolarCity is a full service provider of photovoltaic (PV) solar power systems for homeowners, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and government entities. SolarCity is the nation's leading solar service provider, with more than 1,100 employees, and is installing PV systems on numerous residential and commercial rooftops in Hawaii.

Representative Morita is recognized as one of the State's experts on energy policy. As a result of her experience as the Chairperson of the House Energy and Environmental Protection for many years, she understands the issues pending before the PUC that will affect the solar industry. As a member of the PUC, Representative Morita will be able to help the State meet its renewable energy goals while protecting ratepayers and consumers and creating local green jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's appointment of Representative Morita to the PUC.

Respectfully,

Sanjay Ranchod
Director of Government Affairs



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

March 9, 2011
10:00AM

Senate
COMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION

Mark Duda
President

GM 523

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) strongly supports the appointment of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission.

Throughout her tenure as a State legislator, Representative Morita has been an advocate for renewable energy, and has helped to lay the foundation for Hawaii's clean energy future. As Chair of the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee, Representative Morita has passed keystone legislation that advances Hawaii's goal of ending its crippling addiction to imported fossil fuels.

Rep. Morita's energy policymaking experience will serve her well as a Chair as the PUC continues to address an unparalleled number of major energy policy dockets, the outcomes of which will have a huge effect on Hawaii's ability to reach its clean energy goals, and will set the tone for many other rulings across the nation. Ensuring that these proceedings occur under the guidance of a Commission that truly understands their importance is critical to Hawaii's energy and economic future.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Mark Duda
President, Hawaii Solar Energy Association

About Hawaii Solar Energy Association

Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) is comprised of installers, distributors, manufacturers and financers of solar energy systems, both hot water and PV, most of which are Hawaii based, owned and operated. Our primary goals are: (1) to further solar energy and related arts, sciences and technologies with concern for the ecologic, social and economic fabric of the area; (2) to encourage the widespread utilization of solar equipment as a means of lowering the cost of energy to the American public, to help stabilize our economy, to develop independence from fossil fuel and thereby reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change; (3) to establish, foster and advance the usefulness of the members, and their various products and services related to the economic applications of the conversion of solar energy for various useful purposes; and (4) to cooperate in, and contribute toward, the enhancement of widespread understanding of the various applications of solar energy conversion in order to increase their usefulness to society.

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Wednesday, March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 229

**Statement on Governor's Message No. 523
Nomination of Hermina Morita to the
Public Utilities Commission**

by Robert A. Alm
Executive Vice President
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI,
VICE CHAIRS, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

It is my honor to support the nomination of Hermina Morita to be a member and Chair of the Public Utilities Commission. She is one of the most knowledgeable individuals in Hawaii on the key issues facing the PUC and given the urgency of many of those issues, her ability to "hit the ground running" is critical.

When I joined Hawaiian Electric, one of the first people I visited was Representative Morita. She gave me blunt and straightforward counseling about how she saw the utility and what she believed were public expectations for the company. She did so without animosity and with a great deal of passion. That has not changed over the years. She is extraordinarily forceful on the issue of getting us off oil and on to renewable energy.

Which leads to the number one reason why she should be in this position; there is simply no person in Hawaii who knows more about energy than Mina Morita. She has been studying, researching and discussing energy issues with experts from here and around the world for years. Her consistency on this issue is extraordinary. In the process, she has come to understand Hawaii's truly unique opportunities in renewable energy and it has been her mission to get all of us on board.

Mina Morita also brings another key strength to this position and that is that she is a neighbor islander. That is a critical perspective on a number of issues including transportation, telecommunications and energy. These issues simply are not the same on our neighbor islands and making sure the perspective of neighbor islanders is incorporated into decision-making is critical.

I was recently asked by our Board of Directors how Hawaiian Electric should feel about her appointment. My response was that it would depend on how well we adhere to our clean energy commitments. If we meet our commitments, we will get fair treatment. If we don't, look out because she knows exactly how to get our attention.

Again, I would strongly urge your confirmation of Hermina Morita to be a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection

By Michael Yamane, P.E.
Engineering Manager
Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Pahee Street, Lihue, Hawaii, 96766

Wednesday, March 9, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room #229

GM 523 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014. (Replaces GM522)

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair,
and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, we are honored to submit testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission.

As you all are aware, KIUC is the only electric cooperative in the State of Hawaii, and the only electric utility serving the people on the island of Kauai. Unlike the for-profit, investor-owned, and much larger utility companies in Hawaii, KIUC is member-owned, its shareholders and ratepayers being one in the same.

Mrs. Morita has extensive knowledge in the energy sector and has thorough knowledge of electric cooperatives. She has been open-minded and willing to listen to our concerns as the first electric cooperative in the State of Hawaii. She has also been able to distinguish an electric cooperative model from a traditional investor-owned model. KIUC believes that Mrs. Morita is fair and educated on what an electric cooperative is all about, and KIUC looks forward toward working with her in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

March 9, 2011, 10:00 A.M.

Room 229

(Testimony is 1 page long)

**TESTIMONY OF IN SUPPORT OF GM 523, HERMINA MORITA AS
COMMISSIONER ON THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports the nomination of Hermina Morita as a commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a term to expire June 30, 2014.

Representative Hermina Morita has the right vision, motivation, and skill set for the challenging task of PUC commissioner. Rep. Morita understands energy policy inside and out, and fully grasps the urgency of Hawai'i's energy challenges. Rep. Morita is a capable decision maker, often immersing herself in the subject matter and seeking to comprehend every angle of it. As a neighbor islander and energy policy expert, she will provide new perspective and balance on the commission. Perhaps most importantly, Rep. Morita is intent on ending Hawai'i's dependency on imported oil and turning energy from an economic drain to an economic driver.

Rep. Morita has been a leading force behind much of the energy policy advanced in Hawai'i over the past decade. She was instrumental in establishing the barrel tax in 2010 (Act 73 of 2010) to fund clean energy programs—a policy with widespread public support despite its cost. Rep. Morita was also a key advocate in passing measures that set a binding, enforceable limit on Hawai'i's greenhouse gas emissions (Act 234 of 2007), establish the public benefit funds administrator for energy efficiency programs (Act 162 of 2006), increase renewable energy tax credits (Act 240 of 2006), and require solar water heaters on most new homes (Act 204 of 2008). Her thorough understanding of Hawai'i's energy policy will serve her well as a PUC commissioner.

As Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection for over the past decade, Rep. Morita has distinguished herself as an intelligent, accessible, and fair decision maker. Blue Planet supports her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Fax Submittal: 586-6659
Email Submittal: CPNTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony by
Castle & Cooke Renewable Energy
March 7, 2011

Before the Senate Committee on
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTETION

March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m.
Room 229

In Support of GM 523

CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, HERMINA MORITA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2014

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection.

We support the efforts of the State Administration and Senate to fill the vacant
position on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to address the many issues
before them, especially in the renewable energy area.

We support the nomination of Representative Hermina Morita as she has the
experience and perspective to serve on the PUC. And in particular, her
understanding and insights on the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiatives and
Renewable Energy alternatives that will be important in reducing our reliance of
fossil fuel.

On behalf of Castle & Cooke Renewable Energy, we respectfully request your
consideration and urge you to approve her nomination to the PUC.

HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

46-040 Konane Place #3816, Kaneohe, HI 96744 – Telephone/FAX: 247-7753 – Email: wsb@lava.net

Officers

President
Warren S. Bollmeier II

Vice-President
John Crouch

Secretary/Treasurer
Cully Judd

Directors

Warren S. Bollmeier II
WSB-Hawaii

Cully Judd
Inter Island Solar Supply

John Crouch
SPSI, LLC

Herbert M. (Monty) Richards
Kahua Ranch Ltd.

TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

GM 523,

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

March 9, 2011

Chair Baker, and Vice-Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am Warren Bollmeier, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance (“HREA”). HREA is an industry-based, nonprofit corporation in Hawaii established in 1995. Our mission is to support, through education and advocacy, the use of renewables for a sustainable, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, economically-sound future for Hawaii. One of our goals is to support appropriate policy changes in state and local government, the Public Utilities Commission and the electric utilities to encourage increased use of renewables in Hawaii.

HREA **strongly supports** the nomination of Representative Hermina Morita to join the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission as its Chair. We urge you to advise and consent on her nomination. We offer the following comments in support.

- (1) Strong History of Policy Leadership. Rep. Morita has long and strong history of demonstrating leadership in energy and environmental policy for the state including:
 - Recognition early and often in her 14 years in the House that proactive policy to encourage renewable energy and energy efficiency was both akamai and pono. Her leadership resulted in numerous laws, including the renewable energy technologies income tax credit, net energy metering, renewable energy portfolio standards, Pay As You Save® for on-bill financing of solar hot water systems, and the mandate for solar hot water systems on new construction of single-family homes.
 - Continuous support for and participation as an *ex officio* member Hawaii Energy Policy Forum, including creation of the Forum’s preferred energy future and 10-Point plan, and its collaborative examination of key energy issues.
 - Participation on the Agricultural and Energy Standing Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators, which has facilitated her sharing of policy issues among various state leaders.
- (2) Transition to the Commission. Given the state’s clean energy objectives, we believe Rep. Morita’s strong policy background and political experience will bode her well as Chair. The Commission will benefit from:
 - Her intimate knowledge of Hawaii’s energy policy and policy-making processes as she “works” on the “implementation-side” of policy.
 - Her familiarity and experience with a wide-range of perspectives (utility, industry, environmental, economic, cultural, community) as complex issues are investigated with key stakeholders.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



TO: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony Supporting GM 523 Relating To Confirmation of Nominee
Hermina Morita to the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.

Testimony is 1 page long.

HEARING: Wednesday, March 9, 2011 10:00 a.m., Room 229

Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

I appreciate this committee's consideration of GM 523, and welcome this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Mina Morita to the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.

My name is Larry Gilbert, and I am the Managing Partner and Chief Executive of Kairos Energy Capital LLC. Kairos Energy Capital is a Hawai'i merchant bank that focuses entirely on providing and arranging funding for renewable energy projects. We have become one of the leading experts in Hawai'i in solar project financing. Notable financing which we have completed include solar panels on all of the Neighbor Island airports for the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation (one of the largest solar project financings done in Hawai'i) and the refinancing of the Hawi Wind Farm on the Big Island.

I have known Rep. Morita for several years in her capacity as Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. During that time, I come to know and respect Rep. Morita's deep knowledge and expertise in the policies surrounding Hawai'i's energy and environmental needs, and her commitment to understanding and balancing the many competing interests to achieve outcomes which are the best for all of Hawai'i's people, and for its future.

I strongly support the nomination of Rep. Morita to the PUC, and urge you to recommend her confirmation to the full Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Larry Gilbert
Managing Partner
Kairos Energy Capital LLC
55 Merchant Street, Suite 1560
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel 808 457-1600
Email: LGilbert@kairosenergycapital.com

**THE SOLAR
ALLIANCE
MEMBER
COMPANIES**



- Applied Materials
- Borrego Solar
- BP Solar
- Community Energy
- Element Power
- First Solar
- enXco
- Kyocera
- Mainstream Energy
- Mitsubishi Electric
- Oerlikon Solar
- Petra Solar
- Q-Cells
- Sanyo
- Schott Solar
- Sharp Solar
- SolarCity
- Solaria
- Solar Power Partners
- Solyndra
- SunRun
- Sungevity
- SolarWorld
- SPG Solar
- SunEdison
- SunPower
- Suntech
- Tioga Energy
- Trinity Solar
- Unirac
- Uni-Solar

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Testimony in Support of GM 523: Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission
being heard on March 9, 2011 at 9a.m. in Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

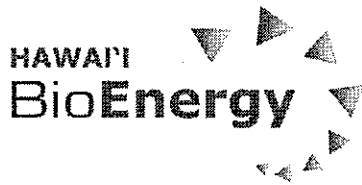
The Solar Alliance¹ supports the confirmation of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission. As the Chairperson of the House Energy and Environmental Protection for many years, she understands the pressing issues that are before the Public Utilities Commission and the Solar Industry. This experience will serve her well as a commissioner, as she and the other commissioners guide our State to meeting its goal towards a more renewable future and at the same time protecting the interest of consumers in the State.

Therefore, we request that you support her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this appointment.

¹ *The Solar Alliance is a state-focused alliance of solar manufacturers, integrators, and financiers specifically working with state administrators, legislators, and utilities to establish cost-effective solar policies and programs. Our experience in Hawaii includes, but is not limited to, (i) being an intervenor in the Public Utilities Commission's ("PUC") Feed-in Tariffs Investigation; (ii) having a member be an intervenor in the Commission's Intra-Governmental Wheeling Docket; (iii) having a member serve on the Generating Committee of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative; (iv) having a member serve on the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum since it convened in 2003; and (v) having our members taking an proactive in bringing photovoltaic ("PV") energy to Hawaii at a reasonable price.*

**Working with the
states to develop
cost-effective PV
policies and
programs.**



TESTIMONY OF
Joel K. Matsunaga
Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President
Hawaii BioEnergy, LLC
1100 Alakea Street, 30th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Wednesday, March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

GM No. 523 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, gubernatorial nominee, Hermina Morita, for a term to expire June 30, 2014.

I am pleased to offer testimony in support of the nomination of Hermina Morita to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Ms. Morita over the past several years on legislative issues as well as various projects relating to renewable energy on Kauai and throughout the State of Hawaii. During that period of time, I have been able to observe first hand her deep commitment to the State and her willingness to involve herself in public service. She has demonstrated her willingness to allow people the opportunity to present their side on issues, her openness to others' ideas, and her ability to make well-reasoned decisions. She has a strong intellect, leadership and analytical abilities as well as the ability to listen, be open-minded and work well with others.

Having spent many years working before the Public Utilities Commission and within its regulatory processes, I am confident that Ms. Morita will be an effective and strong contributor to the Public Utilities Commission. She will bring her approach of reaching out to the community, engaging in open discussion and looking out for the interests of Hawaii's residents in fulfilling her role on the Commission. Moreover, Ms. Morita's extensive knowledge of energy and related issues will be particularly useful to the Commission, given Hawaii's movement toward more sustainable forms of energy.

I respectfully request that you confirm Ms. Morita for the Public Utilities Commission and thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.



March 3, 2011

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Via email to CPNTestimony @Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: GM 523
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial
Nominee HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Hearing: March 9, 2011 at 10:00am

Dear Senator Baker,

My name is Sheldon Char and I am an Executive with Keahole Solar Power, LLC (KSP). KSP is a Hawaii based, clean energy company that focuses on project development, power generation, and technology innovation. We are best known for building and operating the Holaniku MicroCSP project at the Natural Energy Laboratories of Hawaii. Our company goal is to help Hawaii achieve its Clean Energy Initiative by developing solar power farms which reduce the use of fossil fuels and improve Hawaii's energy security.

We are writing today to support the confirmation of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission. We believe the experience and background of Hermina Morita makes her highly qualified to be the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission. We strongly support the confirmation of Hermina Morita to this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Char
Executive

THE GAS COMPANY

P.O. Box 3000
Honolulu, Hawaii 96802-3000
www.hawaiigas.com

March 3, 2011

To: Chair, Senator Rosalyn Baker
Vice-Chair, Senator Brian Taniguchi
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

Re: **GM 523: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Hermina Morita's appointment to serve as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

My name is Stephanie Ackerman and I am the Vice President of Public Policy & Communications at The Gas Company.

Hermina Morita has served the people of Hawaii as a dedicated public policy maker and community leader for more than twenty years.

I have known and had the opportunity to work with Ms. Morita since she was elected to the state legislature in 1996, and witnessed her rise from a junior lawmaker to her current position as the chair of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection. Over the years, she has worked hard to understand the issues related to energy and the environment. I have the utmost respect for her knowledge of the subject matter. More importantly, I admire her holistic approach in making sure that as we shape public policy to move Hawaii toward a more sustainable future, we do it responsibly, fairly, and pragmatically, with thoughtful consideration of impact to consumers and the residents of our state.

Ms. Morita's vast experience working with public utilities, her passion for responsibly improving Hawaii's energy and environmental policies, and her commitment in serving the people of Hawaii will make her an effective leader of the PUC.

Please confirm Ms. Hermina Morita's appointment.

Lance N. Tanaka
Manager, Government & Public Affairs



Tesoro Hawaii Corporation
91-325 Komohana Street
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707-1713
808 547 3111
808 547 3145 Fax

March 7, 2011

TO: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

SUBJECT: GM 523, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, gubernatorial nominee HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Hearing of the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Committee members:

My name is Lance Tanaka, government and public affairs manager for Tesoro Hawaii Corporation. On behalf of Tesoro Hawaii, I thank you for this opportunity to present written testimony in support of gubernatorial nominee Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission.

In her role as chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, Representative Morita has proven to be principled in her vision of a clean energy future for Hawaii. At the same time, she has shown to be practical, willing to perform the necessary due diligence on issues, and open to engaging all stakeholders in these critical discussions. These traits will continue to serve her well in the Public Utilities Commission.

Therefore, I respectfully urge your committee to find in favor of Hermina Morita's confirmation, gubernatorial nominee to the Public Utilities Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance N. Tanaka".

Lance N. Tanaka
Manager, Government & Public Affairs
Tesoro Hawaii Corporation



The REALTOR® Building
1136 12th Avenue, Suite 220
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Phone: (808) 733-7060
Fax: (808) 737-4977
Neighbor Islands: (888) 737-9070
Email: har@hawaiirealtors.com

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: G.M. 523, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

HEARING: Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee.

I am Berton Hamamoto, 2011 President, submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association of REALTORS® ("HAR,") the voice of real estate in Hawaii, and its 8,500 members. HAR **supports** G.M. 523 which considers and confirms Hermina Morita as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission.")

Ms. Morita, through her numerous years in the Hawaii State House of Representatives, has shown an ability to work with a diverse set of individuals and organizations. Moreover, serving as Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, she has demonstrated her experience and knowledge on energy and environmental issues.

Ms. Morita is an individual who would channel constructive leadership with positive result-oriented direction in guiding the Commission. Her experience with the Kauai County Planning Commission, Kauai Police Commission, Hanalei Community Association, and volunteer interpreter for the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, provides a solid and well-rounded base for the Commission.

For the above reasons, HAR requests the Committee's favorable consideration and approval of Ms. Morita as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

Sincerely,

HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Berton Hamamoto".

Berton Hamamoto, ABR, CRB, CRS
2011 HAR President

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The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Wednesday, March 9, 2011; 10:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 523
HERMINA MORITA
FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

The ILWU Local 142 strongly supports G.M. 523 and the confirmation of **Hermina Morita** for the Public Utilities Commission.

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is a quasi-judicial body that regulates public utilities in the State. As such, the PUC is charged with looking out for the public's interests related to services needed by the general public. These services include power, telephone, sewer, and, for our island community, transportation between the islands.

Ms. Morita is well suited to serve on the PUC. Born and raised on the island of Lanai and a long-time resident of Kauai, Ms. Morita understands rural life and the challenges of ensuring that the needs of those in less-populated communities are addressed. For almost 15 years, Ms. Morita has represented the residents of Hanalei, Anahola, Kealia, Kapaa and Waipouli in the House of Representatives and has served as chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. She is widely viewed as a consistent and strong supporter of environmental issues.

As the price of oil steadily increases, Hawaii is on the brink of becoming less dependent on fossil fuels and fast developing renewable energy sources. Having someone like Ms. Morita, so committed to the environment and energy self-sufficiency, serving on the PUC will help Hawaii reach its stated goal of renewable energy use at 40% by the year 2030.

Ms. Morita's close familiarity with the neighbor islands will be crucial as the PUC considers shipping and transportation needs of the residents of those islands. Concerns over cost and availability are sure to be of concern for Ms. Morita who has lived on two of those islands and understands the challenges faced by residents not living on Oahu.

Moreover, Ms. Morita has the temperament needed to maneuver among differing points of view. Despite her clear desire to protect the environment, Ms. Morita is able to consider all factors and make rational decisions. She is civil to those with opposing views and open-minded in her deliberations.

The ILWU urges confirmation of Hermina Morita for the Public Utilities Commission. Thank you for considering our views.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2011

TIME/DATE: 10:00 A.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 523 – “SUBMITTING
FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, HERMINA MORITA, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2014”

TO SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR AND
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION:

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 50, appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Governor's Message No. 523 – Gubernatorial Nominee, Hermina Morita, to the Public Utilities Commission. My name is Lynn Kinney, and I am the Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of the District Council 50, an organization that is comprised of four (4) unions, the Painters, Local Union 1791; the Glaziers Architectural and Glass Metal Workers, Local Union 1889; the Carpet Linoleum and Soft Tile, Local Union 1926; and the Drywall, Tapers Finishers, Local Union 1944, representing approximately 2000 members throughout the State of Hawaii.

I am writing in strong support of Ms. Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission. Ms. Morita possesses a wealth of experience. She has over 10 years of experience as a State Representative and has chaired the House Energy and Environmental Committee. Her progressive insight in the areas of energy policies and renewable energy has made a tremendous and significant impact throughout the state, reducing Hawaii's dependency on fossil fuel.

For these reasons stated above, I humbly ask that you confirm Ms. Hermina Morita to Public Utilities Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony of Clyde T. Hayashi
Director
Hawaii LECET
1617 Palama Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 229

GM 523 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Clyde Hayashi and I am the director of Hawaii LECET (Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust). Hawaii LECET is a partnership between the Hawaii Laborers' Union, Local 368 and our union contractors.

I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of the nomination of Hermina Morita to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Ms. Morita for years and she has served Kauai well in the Legislature. I have always found her to be concerned, accessible, and thoughtful.

In the area of energy, Ms. Morita has been a leader, both at the Legislature and on Kauai. She is extremely knowledgeable and many have considered her the energy "expert" at the Legislature.

She has been passionate about the need for Hawaii to move towards energy independence. We face an inevitable rise in oil prices and a decrease in oil supplies. If we are to avoid potential economic disaster, we must act quickly. I feel Ms. Morita is the right person to serve us on the Public Utilities Commission.

Hawaii LECET respectfully asks your favorable consideration of the nomination of Hermina Morita.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
TESTIMONY OF PRESIDENT SOULEE STROUD

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 523
SUPPORTING THE CONFIRMATION OF

HERMINA MORITA
TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Wednesday; March 9, 2011; 10:00 am; Room 229

Aloha Madam Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection. I am Soulee Stroud, President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs here to support the confirmation of HERMINA MORITA to the Public Utilities Commission.

The role of the Public Utilities Commission is essential to the well-being of the citizens of Hawaii as it holds regulatory power over franchised public service companies with regard to rates, tariffs, charges and fees. It determines rates of allowable earnings, issues guidelines concerning management of franchised or certified utility businesses and acts on requests for the acquisition, sale, disposition or other exchange of utility properties including mergers and consolidations. Utilities touch our lives daily wherever we go, and the PUC is the regulator to assure that we are served with fairness and balance.

As a member of the House of Representatives, HERMINA MORITA has shown skill, knowledge and compassion in her legislative work. It has been a pleasure to work with her and we will miss her wise counsel, but feel assured that her work ethic fits well on the Public Utilities Commission and urge her confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today.

Contact: Jalna Keala at jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net

R. Brian Tsujimura
745 Fort Street, 17th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
rtsujimura@imanakakudo.com

February 22, 2011

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of GM 523: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire June 30, 2014

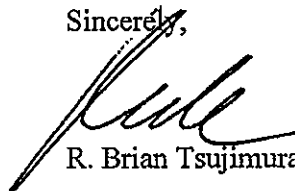
Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Hermina Morita as gubernatorial nominee for the Public Utilities Commission. I heartily endorse and support the nominee. I have known Mina for many years and can attest to her knowledge of the industries regulated by the PUC and can also attest to her ability to act fairly when dealing with those industries.

I have represented many different regulated industries, including water and sewer companies during my stint as president of AMFAC Development Corp. and our development of Kaanapali, Maui; as a representative of BHP and its successors when it operated the petroleum facilities at Kalaeloa; and as a representative currently of both AES and General Motors. I have had the opportunity to interact with Mina in all of these issues from electricity and renewable energy to the water and sewer issues. I have always found her to be open to discussion and eager to learn more about the issues facing our state and the solutions. She is not prone to acting purely out of policy concerns, and instead brings a dose of reality to the issue which is refreshing. I believe she will bring the same attitude and acumen to the PUC.

I ask for your support of her nomination and wholeheartedly and unequivocally endorse her nomination.

Sincerely,



R. Brian Tsujimura

RBT:ay

Sandra-Ann Y.H. Wong

Attorney at Law

A Law Corporation

1050 Bishop Street, #514

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 537-2598 email: sawonglaw@hawaii.rr.com

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Testimony in Support of GM 523: Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission
being heard on March 9, 2011 at 9a.m. in Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sandra-Ann Y.H. Wong. I am an attorney that has practiced before the Public Utilities Commission for the last 18 years. I support the confirmation of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission. As the Chairperson of the House Energy and Environmental Protection for many years, she is aware of the pressing issues that are before the Public Utilities Commission. This experience will serve her well as a commissioner, as she and the other commissioners guide our State to meeting its goal towards a more renewable future and at the same time protecting the interest of consumers in the State.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you support her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this appointment.

Melissa T. Pavlicek
c/o 841 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 447-1840

March 7, 2011

Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice-Chair, Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hearing: Wednesday, March 9, 2011 @ 10:00a.m., CR 229

Re: GM523: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a Term to Expire June 30, 2014.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Melissa Pavlicek. I am an attorney and a small business owner in Honolulu. I have known Representative Hermina Morita for nearly ten years, often working with her on a weekly or sometimes daily basis during the legislative session. I am writing to support her confirmation as the chair of the state Public Utilities Commission.

Representative Morita has distinguished herself as a legislator of the highest integrity and as a diligent "student" of public policy and energy matters. I have had the privilege of both agreeing and disagreeing with her on occasion over legislative matters. In all cases, she was fair-minded, open to new information and willing to listen. We have developed a working relationship based on my respect of her abilities, her good character and her outstanding commitment to the future of the state. I have seen her under intense pressure and observed her in both public forums and in private meetings. Her diligence, intellect and the highest standards of transparency and public engagement will be assets to the Public Utilities Commission's work.

In addition to her legislative service and her role as the House Energy Chair, she is committed to the broader community. She is an advocate of public education and charter schools. She supports initiatives that benefit women, children and underserved communities. She is tireless and even-handed. While some of these experiences may not directly bear on a PUC docket, I believe that they will inform her consideration of the impacts of PUC decisions and add to her capabilities.

Please confirm her appointment.

ROSEHILL & ASSOCIATES

1088 Bishop Street, Suite 1010
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Testimony Before the Committee on Commerce And Consumer Protection
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
10:00am
Conference Room 229

RE: GM 523

Chair Baker and members of the committee:

I would like to support the nomination of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission.

My name is Linda Rosehill. As a long time lobbyist representing Kauai Island Utility Cooperative and previously Kauai Electric I have worked extensively with Representative Morita throughout her term as Chair of the Energy And Environmental Protection Committee. She is fair, reasoned and thorough having acquired throughout the years an extensive knowledge from which to base her decisions. She is a hard and diligent worker; questions extensively and I believe will provide clear direction for the PUC.

I urge your support of her nomination.

Harold Bronstein

Attorney and Counsellor at Law

P.O. Box 3064, Lihue, Hawaii 96766 • Phone (808) 245-1997
Fax (808) 245-8929

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chairperson, Commerce and Consumer
Protection Committee
The Senate
Hawaii State Legislature
Regular Session, 2011
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

via EMAIL

Re: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation
to the Public Utilities Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Hermina Morita for
a term to expire 6/30/2014

Dear Chairperson Baker and Members of the Commerce and Consumer
Protection Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the
Governor's nomination of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities
Commission.

I have known Ms. Morita both personally and professionally for
approximately twenty five (25) years, and I unequivocally support
her appointment to the Public Utilities Commission. I further
support the Governor's choice of Ms. Morita as the PUC's
Chairperson.

HRS 269-2 states in part:

In appointing commissioners, the governor
shall select persons who have had experience in
accounting, business, engineering, government,
finance, law, or other similar fields.

Ms. Morita is extremely well qualified to serve on the Public
Utilities Commission, and specifically to serve as its Chairperson.
Prior to her election to the State legislature, Ms. Morita had
extensive experience in managing small businesses in both the
tourism and construction industries. Moreover, her current

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chairperson, Commerce and Consumer
Protection Committee

March 8, 2011

Page 2

knowledge of the relevant law and issues affecting the PUC, as well as her fourteen (14) years in the legislature have provided her with a very sound foundation for understanding the administrative, investigatory, and quasi-judicial functions of the PUC.


Ms. Morita is not only honest, bright and hard working, she is a consensus builder who has the necessary skills to organize people and to make tough decisions. As a practical matter, I have found Ms. Morita to be an extremely good listener, who is very respectful of all persons, most importantly those with whom she may have a differing opinion. Simply put, her "judicial" temperament is outstanding.

Ms. Morita's reputation in her district and throughout the State is also excellent. Her working knowledge of the issues and related problems that may come before the PUC is very sound, and both as an individual and as a legislator she has always championed legislative policy that served the "public interest".

Ms. Morita is a self starter and a proven leader who is not afraid to make hard decisions. Ms. Morita poses all the skills necessary for the successful administration and management of the PUC, including its investigatory role in regulating public utilities, and most importantly, Ms. Morita has an excellent judicial temperament which will serve the PUC's quasi-judicial function quite well.

I would respectfully urge the members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection to affirm Ms. Morita's nomination to the PUC, as Ms. Morita's appointment to the PUC is in the best interests of the PUC and the State of Hawaii.

Very truly yours,



HAROLD BRONSTEIN

HB:tes

cc: The Honorable Hermina M. Morita

Dear Chair Baker and Vice-Chair Taniguchi:

I strongly support the nomination of Representative Hermina Morita as chair of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

Representative Morita has been a leader on energy independence and has long supported a clean energy future for Hawaii. As Chair of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, she is a recognized expert on energy and has been instrumental in establishing forward-looking energy policy for our state.

She has been willing to take politically unpopular positions in support of energy for the benefit of the state as a whole, and for that she is greatly admired in the community. Her leadership in that regard demonstrates her clear qualification to serve as chair of the PUC.

I am a member of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum and I agree with and join in their statement in support of Representative Morita's nomination. I have had the opportunity to work with Representative Morita on various energy events and issues, and based on my experience with her I am confident she will be a good leader for the PUC and will make strong, sound and fair decisions in that role.

I therefore urge the members of the Committee to promptly confirm Representative Morita as chair of the PUC.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Best,

Jay Fidell
Jay M. Fidell, Esq.
Bendet Fidell

Attorneys at Law, a Law Corporation

841 Bishop Street, Suite 1500, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Phone (808) 524-0544, Fax (808) 521-7739 Direct (808) 566-2105, Cell (808) 780-9254

586-6659

Dante K. Carpenter
3054 Ala Poha Place, No. 401
Honolulu, HI 96818

FAXED
3-8-11
gpc

HAWAII STATE CAPITOL
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
10 AM Wednesday March 9, 2011
Conference Room 229

GM 523 RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, *Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA, for a term to expire on 6-30-2014.*

Chair Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, V. C. Chair Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi and Members:

Good Morning. My name is Dante Carpenter, a resident of O'ahu, and I am in support of Rep. Hermina Morita, the nominee named in Governor's Message 523 for the post of Chairperson, Public Utilities Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2014.

I have known Representative Hermina Morita for several years in her professional capacity, as a community and environmental advocate, and as Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection (EEP).

Representative Morita's political experience includes representing the Island of Kaua'i in the 14th District of Kapa'a-Hanalei for 14 years. She has distinguished herself in the realms of energy and the environment, is the author of the "Bottle Bill" and relentlessly pursues all subject matter in which she is engaged.

Her background, training and personal commitment towards the preservation of the environment has eminently qualified her for the position of Chairperson, Public Utilities Commission.

Please confirm governor's nominee Ms. Hermina Morita. Thank You very much.


Dante K. Carpenter
808.833-8163 (D)

**THE HONORABLE ROSALYN BAKER
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2011
State of Hawaii

March 9, 2011

TESTIMONY OF KEN HIRAKI ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 523

WRITTEN ONLY

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Governor's message No. 523, regarding the appointment of Mina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I respectfully request that the committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to her appointment to the PUC.

I have personally known Mina for over 15 years and also served with her as a colleague while in the Legislature. Mina's career has always been about doing what is right for the people of Hawaii even if it may mean stepping on some toes to get it done. I and many others have always admired Mina's core strength of purpose. Mina was a pioneer in promoting the use of renewable energy at a time when many believed such an idea was nothing but a pipe dream.

In my opinion, Mina is conscientious, humble, and hard-working. She is also an individual of unquestionable character and integrity. During her distinguished legislative career, she has proven herself as a visionary leader who seeks creative solutions to complex problems and listens to all points of view. Without a doubt the leadership qualities she brings to the PUC will serve to benefit the operations of the PUC and the State of Hawaii.

I believe that Mina's qualifications are of the highest caliber, and I request that you support her nomination.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

CARL FREEDMAN

HAIKU DESIGN & ANALYSIS

4234 Hana Hwy., Haiku, HI., 96708
(808) 572-2519

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 9, 2011
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

GM 523 - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CONFIRMATION OF HERMINA MORITA TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

I am Carl Freedman, owner and principal of Haiku Design & Analysis, a small consulting business on Maui specializing in public utility regulatory affairs and long range utility planning.

This testimony is on my own behalf.

Hermína Morita is uniquely qualified to serve as a member of Hawaii's Public Utilities Commission. In her outstanding tenure as Chair of the House Energy and Environment Committee, she has developed an intimate appreciation of the role and duties of the PUC and a sound understanding of underlying pertinent subject matter.

I have faith that Hermína Morita will provide a balanced and sober perspective regarding moving the State forward on important policy initiatives, while giving proper priority to the fundamental need to maintain reliable, economic and universally available essential utility services.

I support confirmation of Hermína Morita for service as a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Freedman

Testimony
Submitted to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
In Support of the Confirmation of Mina Morita (GM523)
as a Member of the Public Utilities Commission
March 9, 2011, 9:00 am
Room 229

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taneguchi, and members of the Committee, my name is Michael Hamnett. I am Executive Director of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii and a Researcher in the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Hawaii. However, I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in favor of the confirmation of Mina Morita as a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

I have conducted research on energy policy and participated in energy policy planning in Hawaii for over 20 years. I have also co-chaired the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum since 2002. These efforts have given me some understanding of the depth of Hawaii's dependence on imported petroleum and the very severe challenges we face in trying to reduce that dependence.

Participation in the Forum has also given me an opportunity to work directly with Mina Morita. She has developed a wealth of knowledge about Hawaii's energy needs and challenges over her 14 years in the Legislature and seven as Chair of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. During her tenure as Chair of EEP, she has worked closely with energy stakeholders and members of the Public Utilities Commission on energy issues and many of the policy issues being addressed by the PUC are a direct result of legislation sponsored by Representative Morita. Her extensive experience and strong dedication to reducing our dependence on imported petroleum makes her ideally suited to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

Policies and incentives put into place by the Legislature and the Public Utilities Commission are finally starting to result in the development of new renewable energy projects. Proposals are being developed for several very large renewable projects including large wind farms on Lanai and Molokai linked to Oahu's grid by a seabed cable. These will be brought to the PUC for approval and Commissioner will need the depth of knowledge that Mina Morita can bring to the PUC.

I sincerely hope that the Senate will confirm Mina Morita as a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the confirmation hearing in person but thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Michael Hamnett

Written Statement of
BRIAN GOLDSTEIN
Better Place, Inc.

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Wednesday March 9, 2011
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
**GM 523 confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,
HERMINA MORITA**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Better Place works with and coordinates with Hawaii utilities, automobile dealers,
state and county governments, property owners and other stakeholders to deploy an
electric vehicle charging network powered by renewable energy.

We strongly support the nomination of Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities
Commission.

I have known and worked with Ms. Morita for over two years. I have always found Ms.
Morita to be incredibly competent, well-informed, energetic and forward thinking. She
brings a deep understanding of the energy industry and a keen intellect to determining the
best path forward in reaching Hawaii's clean energy goals. Ms. Morita has an excellent
combination of technical and people skills that will lead to a successful tenure at the
PUC.

I strongly support the nomination and urge the committees to approve.

Thank you.
/s/ Brian Goldstein

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011
10:00 A.M.

TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY T. ONO, TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H.
BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 523 – RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF
HERMINA MORITA TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.**

I am submitting this testimony in support of Representative Hermina Morita's appointment as the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

I first had the opportunity to work with Representative Morita when I served as a special deputy attorney general representing the State of Hawaii in the gasoline price-fixing anti-trust litigation. Initially, the purpose of meeting with Representative Morita was to provide her with a status of the on-going litigation. During these briefing sessions, it was obvious that Representative Morita was up to date on issues concerning the importation of oil to Hawaii for purposes or refining it into gasoline and for sale to Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. for power generation. Furthermore, Representative Morita quickly grasped complex antitrust legal and factual issues.

I later had the opportunity to work with Representative Morita with respect to the gasoline price cap legislation that was eventually passed. She once again showed in-depth knowledge of the law and the legislative process.

More recently, I have had the opportunity to interact with Representative Morita as members of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum. Representative Morita shows an intense interest in energy issues that affect this state. She is extremely knowledgeable concerning renewable energy resources, which is one of the most important issues currently before the PUC. Finally, Representative Morita understands and is sensitive to the impact these energy issues have to the consumers of this state.

It is without hesitation that I support Representative Morita's appointment as the Chair of the PUC.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

March 8, 2011

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 523, Hermina Morita – for Public Utilities Commission

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Susan Fujimura. I am here to add my name to the many in support of GM 523, nominating Representative Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

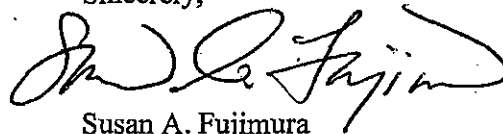
I have known and worked with Rep. Morita for over ten years in the State House of Representatives. As Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, she has proven to a thoughtful, informed and tireless committee Chair, working with all parties toward moving the state forward to a more sustainable, reliable and achievable energy and environmental future.

She has demonstrated her ability to grasp and understand complicated and detailed concepts and issues', addressing each one with a desire and passion to do what is right for the people of Hawaii. I have represented the private sector for over 25 years at the State Capitol, first as the Manager of Government Affairs for Tesoro Hawaii and now as a private consultant. I have worked with Rep. Morita on numerous energy and environmental issues ranging from petroleum regulations, net metering, alternate energy, the barrel tax, environmental regulations and others. I know of no one more knowledgeable, experienced and committed to facing and dealing with the complicated and at times controversial issues facing the PUC, in a fair and balanced manner.

Finally, as a resident of Kauai, born and raised on Lanai, I believe that Rep. Morita will bring a much needed perspective of the Neighbor Islands to the PUC.

I support without reservation Rep. Morita's nomination to the PUC and respectfully request the committee to recommend her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan A. Fujimura". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Susan A. Fujimura

Testimony before Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2010
Conference Room 229

Statement in Support of Governor's Message 523

By Jennifer Lucien

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguichi, and Members of the Committee;

I have known Rep. Morita since 1999 and served as served as her Office Manager and Committee Clerk for the Energy Environmental Protection Committee from 2002-2005. I gladly returned in 2009 and continue to work for her today. I am here on my own accord and was not asked to submit testimony, but I believe I can bring the perspective of working directly with her and my observation from over a decade of interacting with Rep. Morita. There is little doubt you have already received numerous testifiers on her character, expertise, and work ethic, but let me expand:

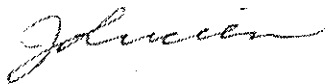
I have seen her tackle important policy changes before most people understood the implications. For example, she educated her committee on the importance of renewable portfolio standards, net-metering and de-coupling, and had the foresight to statutorily require Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative before it became a buzz word. These complex issues require her to not only understand the challenges, but synthesize them into legislation. She continually held briefings to keep all committee members abreast of the pressing issues.

Secondly, she is logical and fair as demonstrated by the countless hours she puts into meeting with affected stakeholders, researching the matters before her, and ultimately making even-handed decisions while treating everyone respectfully in the process.

Thirdly, Rep. Morita operates with integrity and keeps her word. I have never her seen her make false promises, circumvent hard issues, or make decisions based on ego – truly a rarity given her stature and intellect. In keeping with her moral compass, she also manages staff in a compassionate way and demonstrates leadership. You can't help but be inspired to work hard.

The Public Utilities Commission would be very fortunate to have her direction and focus as they endeavor to put into practice many of the policies she authored.

Mahalo nui loa,



Jennifer Lucien

**Testimony In Support of Hermina Morita for
Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hearing on March 9, 2011, Conference Room 229, 10:00 a.m.**

Item: Gubernatorial Nominee Hermina Morita: Governor's Message 523

Dear Senator Baker and Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

It gives me great pleasure to share my strong support for Ms Hermina Morita to serve as the next Chair for Hawaii's Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Over the past ten years, I have seen Ms Morita demonstrate exceptional leadership on a variety of complex issues dealing with Hawaii's energy challenges and stewardship of our unique environment. I have been impressed by her thorough homework and thoughtful analysis of issues and options before developing her position. She is pragmatic and forward-looking; collaborative and independent; always respectful and open-minded; and she is widely respected for her integrity.

Ms Morita has the skill, background and ability to lead the PUC at this critical time of transition. She is deeply committed to effective energy independence for our islands, and she will build the strong team within the PUC and with other local, state and national agencies needed to achieve our clean energy targets.

Ms Morita is an outstanding example of effective leadership. Hawai'i has already benefited greatly from her ability to envision and execute sound energy policy in the Legislature. She will be able to do even more for us as Chair of the PUC.

Please unanimously support Ms. Morita for this key position.

Sincerely
Audrey Newman
PO Box 535
Hoolehua, Hawai'i

**Testimony In Support of Hermina Morita for
Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hearing on March 10, 2011, Conference Room 229, 10:00 a.m.**

Item: Gubernatorial Nominee Hermina Morita: Governor's Message 523

Dear Senator Baker and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I encourage your support of Hermina Morita for Public Utilities Commissioner.

Over the 25 years that I have known Ms. Morita she has matured from a community activist to a freshman representative to a highly professional public servant and statesman. She blends diligence, intelligence, and political savvy with thoughtfulness, integrity and empathy. She has proven herself a leader, able to bring all parties to the table to forge a common innovative vision for Hawaii's energy future. In her role as Representative she has demonstrated her ability to administrate and to manage complex issues. She now has an opportunity to translate Hawaii's vision into the nuts and bolts of regulatory process. Her experience makes her uniquely qualified to guide the PUC.

Being Chairman of the PUC will be an especially challenging job at this time of transition and limited funding. We are lucky to have people like Ms. Morita willing to serve. I thank her and those of you who, like her, work for the public good.

Please give Ms. Morita your strongest support, both now and in the years to come.

Sincerely
Carol Wilcox

George M. Waialeale

910 Kapahulu Avenue #703

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Phone: (808) 737-4466

Email: geedubbyou@aol.com

March 8, 2011

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Governor's Message 523

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission.

Gubernatorial Nominee, Hermina Morita

Chairperson Baker and fellow members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection. I come before you to strongly support the nomination of Hermina Morita as a member of the Hawaii State Public Utilities Commission.

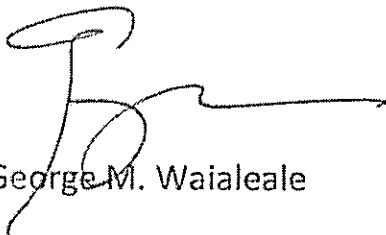
In the past 15 years as a State House of Representatives Hermina Morita represented her district with pride and great leadership. Her interest in energy saving and the environment has made her a leader in these areas.

I believe that in the next decade energy use and savings will be our biggest concern. With Hermina Morita on the State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission we will be in good hands.

In this decade we will enhance our telecommunications system and become the forefront of telecommunications across the United States. I believe this is happen because of Hermina Morita vision and leadership.

I ask for your support and confirmation of Hermina Morita as a member of the Hawaii State Public Utilities Commission.

Aloha and Mahalo,



George M. Waialeale

Guy Kaniho
73-4341 Kukulu Place
Kailua-Kona, Big Island of Hawai'i, 96740

The Senate
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Wednesday, March 9, 2011
9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 229

RE: GM 523 consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINIA MORITA, for term to expire 06-30-2014

Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker; Vice chair Senator Brian T. Taniguchi and Members:

Good Morning, My name is Guy Kaniho, a resident of the Big Island of Hawai'i and I am in support of Ms. HERMINA MORITA, the nominee named in the Governor's Message 523, for the post of Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, for a term to expire June 30, 2014.

Ms. Morita has served the House of Representatives for 14 years and has become one of the state's experts on energy and environment. Her experience and commitment to advancing clean renewable energy will bring credibility, knowledge and leadership to improve the Public Utilities Commission, all for a sustainable Hawai'i.

Please confirm the governor's nominee Ms. Hermina Morita.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Mahalo,



Guy Kaniho
(808) 938-4806

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Testimony in Support of Nomination of Hermina Morita to PUC, GM 523
March 9, 2011 10:00 am

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Committee Members -

I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** for the Governor's nomination of Representative Hermina Morita for the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Although we will dearly miss her leadership in the House on environmental and energy issues, Representative Morita is a *superb choice* for this very important position.

Please support her nomination and pass GM 523.

Mahalo,

Denise Antolini
59-463 Alapio Road
Pupukea, Hawaii 96712
(808) 638-5594

Aloha Committee members,

Representative Hermina Morita has a long history of close community involvement on Kaua'i giving presentations and sharing her wealth of ever-current and extensive knowledge on alternative, sustainable energy.

Her generous accessibility to the public and solid strength on energy issues would serve the state well and bring a new dimension to the Public Utilities Commission.

I am in strong support of Representative Morita's appointment

Judy Dalton
4330 Kauai Beach Drive
Lihue, HI 96766
808-246-9067

Thomas T Shirai Jr
P O Box 601
Waialua, HI 96791
Email: Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com

March 2, 2011

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
CHAIR: SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER / VICE CHAIR: BRIAN TANIGUCHI

NOTICE OF HEARING
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
10:00AM
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT for GM523 (Submitting for consideration and confirmation the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, HERMINA MORITA for a term to expire 6-30-14)

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi & Committee Members,
I support GM523 regarding Hermina Morita to the Public Utilities Commission. During her tenure in the State House of Representatives, she served as Chairperson of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting GM523. Malama Aina.
Thomas T Shirai Jr

Testimony for CPN 3/9/2011 10:00:00 AM GM523

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist

Organization: I Love Kalihi Valley (ca. 2009)

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/6/2011

Comments:

Chair, CPN Committee

Members of the Committee

We support GM 523 nomination of Rep. Hermina Morita to the PUC as a Governatorial appointee to the PUC for a term to expire 6/30/2014.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide a written testimony in strongest support.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Arvid Tadao Youngquist

Creator and Editor

I Love Kalihi Valley (ca. 2009)

Testimony for CPN 3/9/2011 10:00:00 AM GM523

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Carl Pao Jellings Sr

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: mjellings@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2011

Comments:

I'd hate to think what the Waianae Coast nearshore waters would look like without Representative Morita.

Mahalo Nui

Carl P Jellings Sr

Statement of
Representative Hermina M. Morita

Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Ref: Governor's Message No. 523 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Hermina Morita, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection. Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to appear before you this morning.

Sitting before you this morning is indescribable. I thank Governor Abercrombie and the transition team for their belief and confidence in my ability to serve our communities as a Public Utilities Commissioner, and I am extremely humbled by your consideration of my appointment.

In earlier communications, the Committee requested that I respond to several questions which I submitted in a question/answer format. I hope this statement in the form of a narrative can help give you a better idea of why I believe I am before you this morning.

Like many candidates during a campaign season, when I first ran for the State House over fifteen years ago, I said Hawai'i was overly dependent on the visitor industry and that we must diversify our economy. Of course, I had no clue on how I was going to do that.

In May 1999, I finished my first term as Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection feeling defeated. Saving environmental programs in a downward economy was not a priority in the State's budget. And, my only major bill that survived the Legislature was vetoed by the Governor. Dejected, I felt my committee had no purpose. However, on September 30, 1999, when I read an editorial in the *Honolulu Advertiser* entitled, "Catastrophe is just right around our corner," I received my wake up call.

The article commented on three reports released by the United Nations Environmental Program. The reports found that: (1) Scientists said global warming would cause severe hurricanes, and a rise in sea levels could engulf thousands of ocean-side communities, and (2) tourism run amok is not a long-term economic lifeline for small island nations; rather, it actually threatens the island's environment if it generates too much solid waste, destroys environmental attractions or depletes natural resources.

There is no doubt that Hawai'i's economy is over-reliant on the visitor industry, and we must diversify our economy to become more sustainable. A fundamental change to support economic diversification is stable and predictable energy pricing. So for more

than a decade, as Chair of EEP, I have been working to move Hawai'i toward the development of local, renewable, and clean energy resources. It has not been an easy task to develop the political will, attempting to keep electricity rates and gasoline prices reasonable and convincing Hawai'i's formidable institutions to change their business model.

I believe many people now understand how vulnerable Hawai'i is to fuel and food supply disruption and that volatile pricing can wreak havoc when paying for Hawai'i's energy and food needs.

These are issues that directly affect the household budgets of families or operating budgets of businesses. However, by addressing these serious issues strategically, Hawai'i opens the door for economic development and opportunities. We export over \$8 billion out of state to meet our energy and food needs. By developing local energy resources and farming in Hawai'i, we can recapture what we now send out of state to stay and be reinvested in Hawai'i. Working on energy and food security is one of the most important ways to revitalize Hawai'i's economy to stabilize and "grow" sustainable communities.

Having addressed this issue from the policy side by building strong partnerships with my legislative colleagues, state and federal agencies, renewable energy advocates, the private sector and other various stakeholders, I have had the opportunity to help formulate Hawai'i's energy policy through some of Hawai'i's most important laws such as the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative, renewable portfolio standard, net metering, energy efficiency portfolio standard, the solar water heater mandate and the barrel tax. Not with-standing, I also understand that one of the major barriers to implementation of policy is the regulatory process. Modernizing Hawai'i's regulatory structure to provide the essential services to meet the public's interest and well-being is a huge challenge that I would welcome at this point in my career as a public servant if given the opportunity and privilege to serve.

As evidenced by a 2004 Auditor's management audit of the PUC, a bill which I introduced, and a 2003 study commissioned by the Hawai'i Energy Policy Forum, of which I am an ex-officio member, the role of a Public Utilities Commission has to evolve beyond setting rates ensuring investors a fair and reasonable return, to being a critical factor in the implementation of various policies to achieve a prosperous and sustainable future for Hawai'i.

By acknowledging the challenges of new technologies and evolving business models, an effective Public Utilities Commission, now more than ever, requires a regulatory vision and purpose rooted in a strong principle to serve the economic, environmental and social well-being of the residents and businesses of the State of Hawai'i.

In order to achieve Hawai'i's desired policy goals while assuring the critical regulated services, an effective public utilities commissioner must be a leader who is purposeful, decisive and independent in analyzing the facts. Services such as the delivery of electricity, inter-island cargo, and communications and dissemination of data, must be delivered and aligned with the public's interest and well-being as its core purpose, while earning a reasonable and fair rate of return for these evolving, regulated companies. Again, I hope my tenure as EEP Chair has demonstrated that I have the desired skill set

to help lead the PUC in their critical role in balancing the performance of these regulated companies to serve the public's interest and well-being.

I understand that I may be perceived as only an energy expert, but I have the tenacity and resourcefulness to seek information and expertise to learn more about a subject. Most importantly, I believe my past experiences, in both the private and public sector, have demonstrated that I am an effective facilitator and leader that strives to make good decisions on complex matters.

I know that many times when I talk to family and friends about the regulatory process, their eyes glaze over and I lose their interest; therefore, an important objective for me is to demystify the PUC by communicating its purpose and function in an easily understandable way.

Several months ago, while talking with several State employees who identified a past deputy director as a very good deputy, I asked what qualities made that person a good boss. They told me that this person respected the technical expertise of his staff, was a quick study when briefed on complex and technical issues, and was then able to translate and communicate these issues to legislators and the general public to defend the agency's decision and position. I believe these are important qualities for a PUC Chair to have as the only way for the general public, as well as legislators, to understand the importance of this agency and the work that it does, is through our ability to communicate its purpose and function in an understandable way. Again, I believe I have the communication skill set that can accomplish this objective.

Under Chair Carlito Caliboso's thoughtful and steady leadership, the PUC has been evolving to keep up with changing technology and innovation to meet the state's changing policies and consumer demands. I hope to build on this foundation, in strong partnership with my fellow commissioners, the legislature and the administration to enhance the capacity of the PUC to meet the needs of our State in the most cost effective way.

I hope that I have demonstrated to you that I have a strong and proud record as a public servant and that I try to practice the Hawai'i values that identify us as a special state: aloha (to practice compassion and love), kuleana (take responsibility for one's actions), and malama pono (to do what is right and just). Through these values which we all share, we build stronger families, a better work environment and sustainable communities.

Again, I hope I am worthy of your consideration for an appointment as a Public Utilities Commissioner and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you this morning.