

# GM525

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, JESSE SOUKI.



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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR  
RICHARD C. LIM  
DIRECTOR  
JESSE K. SOUKI  
INTERIM DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

**OFFICE OF PLANNING**

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824

March 24, 2011

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair, House Committee on Water, Land,  
And Housing  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

Subject: Governor's Message No. 525, Nomination of Jesse Souki to the Position  
of Director of the Office of Planning

This letter is in response to your request for information, dated March 18, 2011, related to the subject nomination. As you requested, I am submitting this response to your office by March 25, 2011. Since Friday, March 25, 2011 is a State holiday, I am e-mailing a copy to Dot Fujinaga of your office, with her permission, to be followed up with a hard copy by hand delivery on Monday, March 28, 2011.

I have listed your questions below as they were presented in your March 18, 2011 letter request and my responses thereto, as follows:

*(1) A description of your experience in the field of [enter appropriate field based upon department/agency], or any related field*

I have over a decade of experience in law and public policy and have served in both the public and private sector as a legal and policy advisor on transportation, land use, and environmental law issues.

While earning my master's degree in political science at the University of Hawaii in the field of futures studies, I worked on projects to assist organizations in identifying emerging issues and facilitated the visioning processes for long-range planning and action to work toward their preferred future. I also worked part-time in the State House Chief Clerk's Office, where I developed a working knowledge of Hawaii's legislative process. After graduate school, I served in the office of Senator Daniel K. Akaka in Washington, D.C., where my duties included tracking and developing transportation legislation and policies related to Hawaii.

During law school at the Seattle University School of Law, I worked for the Municipal Research Services Center of Washington, where I provided research support to cities, counties, and municipalities related to municipal law. I also served as a summer law clerk

to the Washington State Department of Transportation, where I provided advice and counsel on transportation issues for the State of Washington, Department of Transportation.

After law school in 2004, I served as a Deputy Corporation Counsel for Maui County, where I advised the Wailuku Redevelopment Agency, planning department, and planning commission. I then joined the law firm of Imanaka, Kudo & Fujimoto, where I advised both private and government clients on land use projects that included industrial, commercial, residential, and resort developments.

Most recently, I served as an attorney for the City and County of Honolulu's proposed 20-mile, 21-station rail transit project, where I provided advice and counsel to clients in the areas of State and federal environmental regulatory compliance, permitting, zoning, and administrative proceedings and litigation related to these areas.

My resume and bio are attached hereto.

*(2) An assessment of your strengths and weaknesses*

A person has many strengths and weaknesses—we are all fallible creatures. One of my strengths is that I am able to see the big picture in a situation. My experience and multidisciplinary education lends itself to finding connections between seemingly disparate elements in complex, dynamic situations. However, the ability to see the big picture can also be a weakness, because I often arrive at a conclusion quicker than the others do in a project, which can cause frustration. I have been able to mitigate this by empathizing with others and trying to see the problem from their perspective. I find that while consensus is not always possible, enlightened discussion brings about better results.

*(3) An assessment of the department/agency's strengths and weaknesses. Please include an explanation of how the department/agency's strengths may be best utilized, as well as how the department/agency's weaknesses may be improved*

The Office of Planning's weaknesses result from drastic cuts in personnel. At its height in the mid-1990s, the Office had approximately 60 employees. Today, the Office has only 23 positions. Because of the lack of general funding, the Office has leveraged federal funding so that about half of these positions are federally funded through the Coastal Zone Management ("CZM") Program. Being an island state, the CZM Program is vital to ensuring Hawaii's public health and safety and preservation of coastal resources; however, these federally funded employees cannot be directly used for other projects such as statewide planning.

Among other duties, the Office is a mandatory party before the Hawaii State Land Use Commission ("LUC"). This is a quasi-judicial process that includes the production of evidence and pleadings related to the district boundary reclassification of large (in scope and size) land use projects. It is vital that the State have a seat at the table in these proceedings. Currently, there are fourteen pending land use boundary amendment

petitions, two important agricultural lands declaratory ruling requests, and several petitions that have been filed but not yet processed with the LUC, all totaling thousands of acres of land. Activity has slowed at the LUC (primarily due to the state of the economy) compared to previous years; however, many more petitions will be filed as the economy improves. Given that approximately 95 percent of land in the State is roughly divided equally between agricultural and conservation, more petitions are sure to come. The Office currently has just one planner assigned to this task, and one manager temporarily assigned from her other tasks. This is not nearly enough staff to address issues of such gravity to the State.

The Office's strength is its employees. Planners work hard to get the job done. They are smart, productive, and like their work. However, I worry about the long-term impact staff shortages will have on employee morale and the ability for the Office to effectively coordinate with State agencies, petitioners, and affected counties.

*(4) An overall vision for the department/agency, specifically what goals can be accomplished within the next four years and what types of annual benchmarks can be used to evaluate the department/agency's progress towards those goals*

The New Day Plan is the cornerstone of this Administration. It is consistent with both the Hawaii State Planning Act and the Hawaii 2050 Plan. The Office of Planning envisions being a valuable resource to the Administration's implementation of the New Day Plan and a major stakeholder in guiding the land use planning of the State of Hawaii. In addition, the Office of Planning envisions being the facilitator of statewide planning in cooperation with federal, State, and county agencies; higher learning institutions; and the community.

The Office of Planning's mission is set forth in its enabling statute under Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS") § 225M-1, and provides as follows:

[The] office of planning [is] to assist the governor and the director of business, economic development, and tourism in maintaining an overall framework to guide the development of the State through a continuous process of comprehensive, long-range, and strategic planning to meet the physical, economic, and social needs of Hawaii's people, and provide for the wise use of Hawaii's resources in a coordinated, efficient, and economical manner, including the conservation of those natural, environmental, recreational, scenic, historic, and other limited and irreplaceable resources which are required for future generations.

The objectives of the Office are further defined under HRS 225M-1, as follows: "(1) Fix responsibility and accountability to successfully carry out statewide planning programs, policies, and priorities; (2) Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of the executive branch; (3) Ensure comprehensive planning and coordination to enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawaii."

With the above in mind, the Office is considering pursuing the following goals. Whether these goals will actually be pursued depends on the allocation of resources to the Office:

State comprehensive planning and program coordination (HRS § 225M-2(b)(1))

- *Goal:* Work with State agencies to ensure that State expenditures are in accordance with, or in furtherance of the goals and objectives of the Administration's goals and objectives (HRS § 225M-4). Establish a system of self-reporting.  
*Metric:* Agency compliance.
- *Goal:* Work with agencies on formulation and revision of State functional plans, which define, implement, and conform with the overall theme, goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines of the Administration (HRS § 226-52).  
*Metric:* Completed action plans.
- *Goal:* In consultation with counties and other stakeholders, develop technical guidance on general plan development and updates, including advice on how to write a general plan that expresses a community's long-term vision, fulfills statutory requirements, and contributes to creating a community people can call "home."  
*Metric:* Completed guidance and education of users.

Strategic planning: Planning coordination and cooperation (HRS § 225M-2(b)(2), (3))

- *Goal:* Create a support network within the Administration to identify and analyze significant issues, problems, and opportunities confronting the State, and formulating strategies and alternative courses of action.  
*Metric:* Formation of network.
- *Goal:* Leverage federal funding to support policy research, analysis, and recommendations on existing or potential areas of critical State concern.  
*Metric:* Receipt of federal funding.
- *Goal:* Complete food security study under grant from Economic Development Administration and develop policies and initiatives based on that study in coordination with the Department of Agriculture.  
*Metric:* Change in related programs.

Statewide planning and geographic information system (HRS § 225M-2(b)(4))

- *Goal:* Hire recently vacated Geographic Information Systems ("GIS") Manager position.  
*Metric:* Successful completion of hiring.

- *Goal:* Increase capacity and robustness of GIS system.  
*Metric:* Obtain a larger server, better software, and more GIS layers.

Land Use Division (HRS § 225M-2(b)(5))

- *Goal:* Gain budget approval from legislature to fund two existing land use planner positions to assist Land Use Division.  
*Metric:* Budget appropriation and successful completion of hiring.
- *Goal:* Hire recently vacated Planning Program Administrator position.  
*Metric:* Successful completion of hiring.
- *Goal:* Restore one secretary.  
*Metric:* Successful completion of hiring.
- *Goal:* Streamline the Office's participation in the district boundary amendment process at the LUC, by working with applicants early in the process, providing clear and consistent guidance on meeting statewide goals and objectives, and allowing flexibility in meeting those goals and objectives.  
*Metric:* The LUC process is dynamic and subject to external forces; however, the speed and predictability at which a petition moves through the process would be indicative of improved streamlining.
- *Goal:* Review land use law and partner with stakeholders to recommend streamlining legislation to legislature.  
*Metric:* Adopted legislation that enhances land use process predictability while providing efficient measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on human and natural resources.

Coastal and ocean policy management (HRS § 225M-2(b)(6))

- *Goal:* Hire recently vacated CZM Program Manager.  
*Metric:* Successful completion of hiring.
- *Goal:* Encourage implementation of studies prepared by the CZM Programs by reestablishing relationships with counties, through recommended legislation, and through recommended policy changes across State agencies.  
*Metric:* Changes in programs.
- *Goal:* Complete 5-year Ocean Resource Management Plan, which includes study sea level rise issues caused by global climate change.  
*Metric:* Completion of plan and implementation of recommendations.

Regional planning and studies: Regional, national, and international planning (HRS § 225M-2(b)(7), (8))

- *Goal:* Obtain a general fund planner position for statewide planning.  
*Metric:* Successful budget appropriation.
- *Goal:* Establish one federally funded planner position to work on federal Economic Development Administration grant work.  
*Metric:* Successful budget appropriation.
- *Goal:* Evaluate and participate in formation of Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership between Pacific territories (Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa) and Hawaii.  
*Metric:* Establishment of Partnership or sub-region.
- *Goal:* Participate in National Ocean Council policy formation in cooperation with State agencies and public stakeholders.  
*Metric:* National Ocean Council policy recommendations that include Hawaii's unique position in the Pacific Region.

*(5) The department/agency's top budgetary priority for the biennium*

Restoring staff is the number one priority for the Office. Because of the former governor's Reduction-In-Force program, six out of sixteen people working in general fund positions were laid off in the Office. These layoffs have negatively affected the Office's ability to carry out its mission and greatly increased the amount of work for remaining staff—this situation is not sustainable over the long-run.

The Office is appreciative of the House's restoration of funds for two unfunded general planner positions. As mentioned above, we have just one planner and one manager on temporary assignment working on quasi-judicial petitions and other matters before the LUC. This is simply not enough staff to adequately coordinate and then represent the State's interests. In addition, this has resulted in no planners for statewide planning projects.

The Office is also appreciative of the House's restoration of a planner position for statewide planning projects and a secretarial position. However, just one dollar was allocated to these positions. The planner is needed for statewide planning projects. The secretary supports the land use division in their work drafting legal petitions and motions. We currently have no planners for statewide planning projects and one secretary to support the entire office.

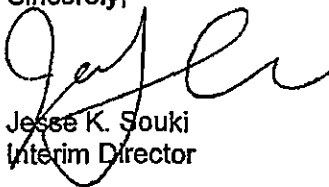
*(6) An assessment of the department/agency staff's morale, including the turnover rate for personnel*

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Page 7  
March 24, 2011

The morale in the Office is as good as can be expected. The people in our office are dedicated to their work and often work at home or after hours without compensation or expectation. Several of the staff have taken on multiple roles; still, some core functions of the Office go unmet. In particular, statewide planning programs, interagency strategic planning, and related priorities have been placed on the backburner. Recently, the CZM Program Manager, the GIS Manager, and the Land Use Division Administrator have retired. The Office is in the process of filling those positions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jesse K. Souki  
Interim Director

**Attachments**

c: The Honorable Malama Solomon  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga  
The Honorable Pohai Ryan  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro  
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda  
The Honorable Sam Slom  
Andrew Aoki, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Debbie Shimizu, Legislative Liaison



Leonardo M. Rapadas  
Attorney General



Barbara P. Cepeda  
IV-D Director/Deputy  
Child Support Enforcement Division

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**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY  
GENERAL**

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March 14, 2011

Senate Committee on Water Land and Housing  
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice-Chair

RE: Jesse Souki (Gubernatorial Nominee)  
**GM-525: Consideration/Confirmation as Office of Planning Director**

Dear Chairpersons/Committee Members:

I hereby submit my **highest personal recommendation** for Mr. Jesse Souki towards his confirmation for directorship of the Hawaii Office of Planning.

I have been acquainted with Mr. Souki in both personal and professional capacities for over ten years. I have known him to be a dedicated public servant who had been a great asset to every organization to which he associations. I am sure he will be the same for the Hawaii Office of Planning.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raul Galman".

Raul Galman  
Assistant Attorney General

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING  
ON  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 525

April 13, 2011

RELATING TO JESSE SOUKI FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE  
DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** for the nomination of Mr. Jesse Souki as the Director of the Office of Planning.

I have known Mr. Souki for over 4 years while, and since, Mr. Souki was an attorney in the Department of the Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui. During his tenure there, I had the opportunity to work directly with Mr. Souki on matters related to land transactions, entitlements, and enforcement of County requirements. Mr. Souki was always an advocate for the interests of the County and mindful of finding solutions to accomplish the goals of his clients and the public while working within the confines of the statutory and (Maui County) Code requirements. I believe this approach will be valuable in the future of the Office of Planning and critically necessary in the future director.

As Hawaii moves out of the economic down cycle that has plagued the State for the last 4-5 years, visionary leadership in the area of development and re-development will be essential to spur economic growth, sustain our financial viability as a State, and ultimately, create the new "structure" that is Hawaii. I believe such leadership will need to work with planners, businesses, government leaders, financiers, and the public-at-large to steer Hawaii through to our next phase of evolution. Mr. Souki can fill that need. I have worked with Mr. Souki in the past and know that he can bridge the gap with all constituencies. The Office of Planning can become the guide for coordinating the various interests and stakeholders. Mr. Souki has my support to be the point of the spear in guiding the future development in Hawaii.

I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing to also support his selection by voting favorably on his nomination and advancing G.M. 525 for full Senate confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.



HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



KAKA'KO  
KALAELOA

Neil Abercrombie  
Governor

C. Scott Bradley  
Chairperson

Anthony J. H. Ching  
Executive Director

461 Cooke Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
96813

Telephone  
(808) 594-0300

Facsimile  
(808) 594-0299

E-Mail  
contact@hcdaweb.org

Web site  
www.hcdaweb.org

STATEMENT OF

ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Thursday, April 14, 2011

1:20 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

**G. M. 525 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
OFFICE OF PLANNING, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, JESSE SOUKI FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE  
DECEMBER 1, 2014.**

During my tenure as the Executive Officer of the State Land Use Commission (LUC), Jesse Souki appeared before the LUC on several occasions as a member of both the County of Maui and the City and County of Honolulu's Corporation Counsel offices and as an attorney with the law firm of Imanaka Kudo and Fujimoto. In all of those capacities, I found Mr. Souki to be an accomplished and credible representative of the County of Maui, the City and County of Honolulu and his private practice clients.

It is my belief that the skills and experience that served the County of Maui, the City and County of Honolulu and his clients well will be put to good use with the Office of Planning. Given his experience in addressing land use issues throughout the State and his understanding of the laws at the county and state level, I believe that he has the ability to serve with distinction at the Office of Planning.

Please therefore accept my full support for his nomination as the Director of the Office of Planning. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 7TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041  
DEPT. WEB SITE: www.honoluluapp.org • CITY WEB SITE: www.honolulu.gov

PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR



DAVID K. TANOUE  
DIRECTOR

JIRO A. SUMADA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 14, 2011

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Water,  
Land, and Housing  
State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members:

Subject: **GM525**  
Confirmation of Jesse Souki as  
Director of the Office of Planning

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **strongly supports** the nomination of Jesse Souki as the new Director of the Office of Planning.

We have worked with Mr. Souki in his most recent position as a deputy Corporation Counsel of the City and County of Honolulu. He has counseled the DPP on various department matters and has represented the City at the State Land Use Commission on a number of district boundary amendment petitions. We found him to be knowledgeable, both on legal issues and on planning matters. He has impressed us as being highly competent and as having a professional background that well prepares him to lead the State Office of Planning. Please confirm Mr. Souki.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on GM525.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Tanoue", is written over a horizontal line.

David K. Tanoue, Director  
Department of Planning and Permitting

DKT:jmf

Gm525-Souki-rh.doc



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING  
Thursday, April 14, 2011  
1:20 p.m., Conference Room 225

GM 525 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon, 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.

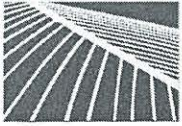
I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of the nomination of **Jesse Souki** to serve as the Director for the Office of Planning.

Mr. Souki has made himself available to meet and talk with many different organizations and groups. I have been in three such meetings and in each case, I felt he is a bright, thoughtful, and sincere person who is approaching this appointment with a very positive attitude and seems very committed to doing a good job. I think he intends to look after the overall public interest.

He has an impressive educational and legal background. His family has roots on Maui and will bring a neighbor island perspective to the position, which is very important. He has pledged to reach out to the counties. I feel he is an excellent choice and will bring many positive experiences and qualities to the Office of Planning.

Hawaii LECET respectfully asks your favorable consideration of the nomination of Jesse Souki.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



# PBR HAWAII & ASSOCIATES, INC.

April 13, 2011

## PRINCIPALS

THOMAS S. WITTEN, ASLA  
*President*

R. STAN DUNCAN, ASLA  
*Executive Vice-President*

RUSSELL Y.I. CHUNG, FASLA, LEED<sup>®</sup> AP  
*Executive Vice-President*

VINCENT SHIGEKUNI  
*Vice-President*

GRANT T. MURAKAMI, AICP, LEED<sup>®</sup> AP  
*Principal*

W. FRANK BRANDT, FASLA  
*Chairman Emeritus*

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**SUBJECT: GM-525 NOMINATION OF JESSE SOUKI AS THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing:

I am a planner with approximately 20 years of experience in planning in Hawai'i. I support Jesse Souki's nomination as Director of the Office of Planning. Mr. Souki is very knowledgeable and well versed in the land use planning process. I believe Mr. Souki will provide great leadership and direction as the Director of the Office of Planning.

I respectfully request that the Members of the Senate support Mr. Souki's nomination as Director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

PBR HAWAII & Associates, Inc.

Grant T. Murakami, AICP, LEED AP  
Principal

## **HONOLULU OFFICE**

1001 Bishop Street, Suite 650  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-3484  
Tel: (808) 521-5631  
Fax: (808) 523-1402  
E-mail: sysadmin@pbrihawaii.com

## **KAPOLEI OFFICE**

1001 Kamehaha Boulevard  
Kapolei Building, Suite 313  
Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707-2005  
Tel: (808) 521-5631  
Fax: (808) 535-3163



Testimony of C. Mike Kido  
External Affairs  
The Pacific Resource Partnership

State of Hawaii  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

GM 525 Consideration and Confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, Jesse Souki  
Thursday, April 14, 2011  
1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

My name is C. Mike Kido, External Affairs for the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Carpenters Union.

PRP supports the nomination of Jesse Souki as the Director for the Office of Planning.

Mr. Souki has experience working on land use matters in both the public and private sectors.

Most recently, he served as an attorney for the City and County of Honolulu's proposed rail transit project, where he provided advice and counsel to clients in the areas of state and federal environmental review, permitting, zoning, and administrative proceedings and litigation related to these areas.

Before joining the City, he served as a Deputy Corporation Counsel for Maui County, where he advised the planning department and planning commission. He then joined the law firm of Imanaka, Kudo & Fujimoto, where he advised both private and government clients on land use projects that included industrial, commercial, residential, and resort developments. He represented clients before the state Land Use Commission and state and federal courts in land use related matters. Prior to law school, he served in the Office of Senator Daniel K. Akaka, where he worked on matters related to transportation and other issues.

Mr. Souki's specialties include environmental and natural resources regulatory compliance, including drafting and reviewing documents related to the National Environmental Policy Act, State Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and related municipal, state, and federal environmental regulations.



PRP believes his experiences makes him particularly qualified for this position and would like to kindly ask for your favorable consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for Mr. Jesse Souki as the Director for the Office of Planning.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
Mayor

WILLIAM R. SPENCE  
Director

MICHELE CHOUTEAU McLEAN  
Deputy Director



COUNTY OF MAUI  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

April 13, 2011

**MEMORANDUM:**

**TO:** THE HONORABLE DONAVAN DELA CRUZ, Chair  
THE HONORABLE MALAMA SOLOMON, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

**FROM:** TRISHA KAPUA'ALA, Staff Planner *Trisha Kapua'ala*  
COUNTY OF MAUI, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
Zoning Administration and Enforcement Division

**RE:** **GM-525** – Consideration and confirmation as the Director of the  
Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI –  
**SUPPORT**  
Hearing Date: Thursday, April 14, 2011  
Hearing Time: 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room: Hawaii State Capital, Room 225

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Trisha Kapua'ala, and I have been a Staff Planner with the County of Maui's Department of Planning, Zoning Administration and Enforcement Division, for the past nine (9) years. I had the distinct honor of working with Jesse in 2006, on various land use and special management area enforcement matters. Initially, I was very impressed with Jesse's knowledge and ability in interpreting laws, with sound judgment and all practicality. What's more impressive, was Jesse's passion for the land and the people—on the island where he was born and raised. That passion is what ultimately caused Jesse to leave his hometown, onto practice law on a more grandiose, macro-scale. Despite all of Jesse's wonderful accomplishments and honors within his professional career, if you look past the Juris Doctorate degree, physically fit frame and stylish glasses—into the heart of the man—you will see a "local boy" who not only understands, but knows, the heartbeat of the people. He is sensitive to the many needs of this multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, uniquely complex island state, and that is why I am supporting Jesse to be the next Director of the Office of Planning.

Mahalo a nui for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this, you may contact me directly at Trisha.Kapuaala@mauicounty.gov or 270-8008.

The Senate  
Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
April 14, 2011  
1:20 p.m., Room 225

Statement of the Hawaii Carpenters Union on **GM 525**, on the  
Confirmation of Jesse Souki as the Director for the Office of Planning

The Hawaii Carpenters Union **supports** the confirmation of Jesse Souki as the Director for the Office of Planning. His professional experience, education and consciousness of his roots in Hawaii, will serve the State well.

As an attorney in both private and government practice, he has specialized in planning, environmental and government entitlement matters. Through this experience he has built a strong foundation not only in the law and current issues, but the workings of government.

Mr. Souki will be able to clearly communicate with agencies of the administration and the branches of government, advancing the process of comprehensive planning that our State needs. His past and recent work on mass transit, and transportation in general is a plus, given the issues and opportunities of the day.

In addition to his professional abilities, Mr. Souki brings a balanced, thoughtful approach to both immediate tasks and long term planning. Thank you for your consideration of our support for his confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning.



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 24, 2011

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair, Water, Land and Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 202  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**GM525: Testimony in Support of Jesse Souki**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

I am writing to express my support for Jesse Souki who has been nominated for Director of the Office of Planning. As his resume indicates, Mr. Souki has an extensive land use and planning background. He has worked at all levels of government: federal, state and local and has private sector experience as well, practicing law at a major local firm. He also has experience in all three branches of government.

This broad range of experience will serve Jesse well in a position where vision is key. His commonsense and intelligence will guide him to what outcomes are desirable and his understanding of the workings of government will give Jesse a keen sense of what is possible. The Governor made an excellent choice in his nomination for Director of the Office of Planning.

I unreservedly endorse Jesse for this position. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

**Karl Rhoads ~ Chair, Committee on Labor and Public Employment**  
**Vice Chair, Committee on Judiciary**  
*District 28: Palama, Chinatown, Downtown, Lower Makiki, Sheridan*  
State Capitol, Room 326 – Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: 586-6180 – Fax: 586-6189  
E-Mail: [reprhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reprhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Souki Testimony 032411/Miscellaneous 2011

TESTIMONY OF  
NIKKI T. SENTER

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING  
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION 2011

April 14, 2011 1:20 PM  
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY ON **GOV. MSG. NO. 525** RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE JESSE SOUKI FOR DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Malama Solomon and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of the confirmation of Jesse Souki as Director of the Office of Planning.

I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Souki when he was an associate in the land use division at the law firm of Imanaka, Kudo & Fujimoto. Mr. Souki exhibits a hard work ethic and is very goal oriented. He is extremely experienced and knowledgeable in Hawaii's land use industry and his legal background helps him analyze situations and issues from a well-balanced business and a legal perspective. His opinions and decisions have always been well-reasoned and sound. Mr. Souki is an innovative, energetic person whose character is exemplary as he is a "lead by example" type of person with high moral and ethical values.

I fully **support** Mr. Souki's confirmation, as he would be an asset to the State as the Director of the Office of Planning.

**From:** [Lustbader, Paula](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support Jesse Souki for confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee  
**Date:** Saturday, March 12, 2011 7:02:44 AM

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To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I had the privilege of being one of Jesse Souki's law professors at Seattle University School of Law. He has stayed in touch with me since he returned to Hawaii. Jesse has impressed me with his tireless work ethic, care and concern for others, and his analytic, organizational, and communication skills.

As a committed public servant, Jesse brings his many gifts to this new endeavor. I strongly support his confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Paula Lustbader  
*Paula Lustbader*  
Professor of Law  
Director, Academic Resource Center  
Seattle University School of Law

901 12th. Avenue, Sullivan Hall  
Seattle, WA 98122-1090

206-398-4021

**From:** [Robert H. Thomas](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM-525 - Hearing 4/14/2011, 1:20pm; Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - SUPPORT  
**Date:** Friday, April 08, 2011 7:25:13 AM

---

Robert H. Thomas  
1003 Bishop Street  
1600 Pauahi Tower  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
[www.inversecondemnation.com](http://www.inversecondemnation.com)  
[rht@hawaiilawyer.com](mailto:rht@hawaiilawyer.com)  
808-531-8031

April 8, 2011

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Re: **GM-525** - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Thomas, and I am an attorney with a private law firm in Honolulu, where I practice land use and eminent domain law. I write in **strong support** of the appointment by Governor Abercrombie of Jesse Souki to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning. I have known Mr. Souki for approximately five years, and respectfully urge the Committee to recommend Senate confirmation.

Mr. Souki has an extensive background in land use law. As an attorney, he has both served the public as a deputy corporation counsel for Honolulu and Maui, and property owners as an attorney in private practice. This background allows him to understand the concerns of the public, and the needs of private property owners, experiences that make him very well qualified to serve as Director of the Office of Planning, the agency which oversees and implements the Hawaii State Plan. Hawaii land use regulations are among the most complex in the nation, and Jesse is one of the few attorneys I know with a comprehensive grasp of the issues and law, and who has a broad perspective.

I have considered him a colleague since the time we served together as faculty on several land use law seminars a few years ago. We devoted our time to these educational programs as public service, in order to educate government regulators, land use planners, and fellow attorneys in the intricacies of Hawaii land use and planning law. I came away from these conferences impressed with Jesse's knowledge and his ability to communicate. Since that time, I have been an avid follower of his blog on land use and environmental law, "Hawaii Land Use Law." He publishes this blog as a public service, without any form of remuneration as far as I am aware. His blog was noted one of the leading land use blogs in the nation by the Zoning and Planning Law Report in 2009, an assessment I wholeheartedly agree with.

In sum, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the appointment of

Jesse Souki, and recommend Senate confirmation. He is very well qualified, and I have no doubt that he will serve the people well.

Very truly yours,

Robert H. Thomas



April 8, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Benjamin A. Kudo  
Imanaka Kudo & Fujimoto  
745 Fort Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Flr.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: **GM-525** - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of  
Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**  
Hearing date: Thursday, April 14, 2011  
Hearing time: 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I humbly ask for your support and the support of your Committee members in considering the appointment of Mr. Jesse Souki as Executive Director for the Office of Planning, State of Hawaii.

I have known Jesse for ten years and can speak to his good character, veracity, trustworthiness and competence for the position and role he has been nominated for. Jesse is a person of high integrity and sincerity in his commitment to make Hawaii a better place for all. Over the past few years, Jesse worked for the Corporation Counsel's Office advising the City on matters pertaining to land use, zoning and planning issues. Prior to that, he worked for my law firm and my land use unit. Jesse is an extremely dedicated and passionate worker, and did a very good job for our clients. He is sincerely interested in land use planning issues and is best suited for his new role at the Office of Planning.

His extensive background in law and land planning gives Jesse a working knowledge of planning efforts in our State.

Based on the foregoing, I highly recommend your favorable consideration of Mr. Jesse Souki for the above position. He is a person who will provide a vision and energy to our State's future growth and prosperity.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your Committee's **support** to confirm this nomination.

April 14, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair and  
Members and of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

From: Henry Eng, FAICP  
HELPS LLC (Henry Eng Land Planning Services)  
237 Kaalawai Place,  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
[HELPSLLC@gmail.com](mailto:HELPSLLC@gmail.com)

Re: **GM-525** Consideration and Confirmation as Director of the Office of Planning,  
**JESSE SOUKI, SUPPORT**  
April 14, 2011, 1:20pm, Conference Room 225

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee

I am writing in support of Jesse Souki's appointment to the position of Director of the Office of Planning.

As former Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting, I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Souki when he was with the Corporation Counsel. He was always ready to assist and advise DPP on legal issues related to land use and zoning. His background in this area will be a significant asset to the Office of Planning in its pursuit of State goals and objectives with respect to land use policy.

His experience in the private will provide added dimension and perspective to the operation of the Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully urge your confirmation of this nomination.

Henry Eng

To WLH [Testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:Testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Sharon Lam](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM-525, Testimony in Support of Nomination of Jesse Souki; Hearing Date and Time: April 14, 2011 at 1:20 PM  
**Date:** Friday, April 08, 2011 4:00:42 PM

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April 8, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Sharon Lam Blanchard

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Hearing date: April 14, 2011

Hearing time: 1:20 PM

Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I had the opportunity to work firsthand with Jesse during his time as a Deputy Corporation Counsel with the City and County of Honolulu. Jesse's dedication to public service, enthusiasm and extensive knowledge of land use in Hawaii will be a great asset to the State. I therefore **support** his confirmation to serve as the director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's **support** to confirm Jesse Souki's nomination.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lam Blanchard

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Hearing: April 14, 2011, 1:20 pm

Conference room 225

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

From: Lyn Flanigan, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Bar Association

RE: Testimony in Support of GM 525; Jesse Souki as Director for the Office of Planning

Aloha. I write in support of the appointment of Jess Souki. Jesse's resume and credentials speak strongly as to his experience and qualifications for this position. I will let other speak to his substantive experience.

I wish to commend him to you based on his leadership and people skills. Jesse has been a volunteer and leader within the Hawaii State Bar Association, serving as program chair and as chair of the Natural Resources Section. In addition, he was selected for the first class of our Hawaii State Bar Association Leadership Institute and the honor was well-deserved. He participated fully and contributed to the programs and the overall success of the institute for all participants.

Jesse is not only capable, he is personable and a pleasure to work with.

I strongly support his confirmation as he has a dedication to public service and with serve the public well.

March 18, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Gale Bracerros

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,

  
Gale Bracerros  
Phone: 808-689-4182

March 18, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Frances Rivero

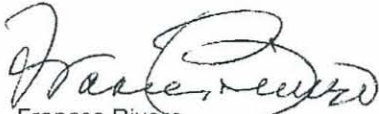
RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frances Rivero".

Frances Rivero  
Phone: 808-689-4182

March 18, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Eileen Lynn

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen Lynn".

Eileen Lynn  
Phone: 808-689-3219

March 18, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Andrew Kona Purdy

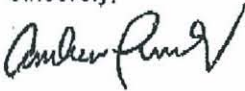
RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Governatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



Andrew Kona Purdy  
Phone: 808-689-4182



March 22, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Anthony Barredo

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



Anthony Barredo  
Phone: (808) 429-8263

March 22, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Sabrina Pantastico

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabrina Pantastico". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and phone number.

Sabrina Pantastico  
Phone: (808) 689-4182

March 22, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Nathan Cantorna

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



Nathan Cantorna  
Phone: (808) 589-6806

March 22, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Stranten Seui-Purdy

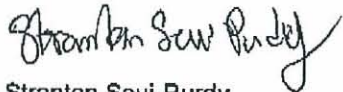
RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



Stranten Seui-Purdy  
Phone: (808) 258-5736

**March 22, 2011**

**To:** The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

**From:** Denise R. Oliveira

**RE:** GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



Denise R. Oliveira, President  
Ewa Beach Community Based Development Organization  
808-781-6850

March 18, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Cal Kimo Sueoka

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



Cal Kimo Sueoka  
Phone: 808-223-6018

March 22, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: LaDawn Rickard

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



NAME: LaDawn Rickard  
Phone: 808-689-0440

March 22, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Michelle Yip

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Yip". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Yip  
808-689-4182



# comec

Yuki Lei Sugimura  
4243 Lower Kula Road  
Kula, HI 96790  
808 878.1888 PH 808 878-4076 Fax 808 870-8047 Cell  
[YukiLei.Sugimura@gmail.com](mailto:YukiLei.Sugimura@gmail.com)

April 8, 2011

**To:** COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

**Fr:** Yuki Lei Sugimura *Yuki Lei Sugimura.*

**Re:** Jesse Souki, Support Letter  
Confirmation for Director of the Office of Planning  
HB1 or SB9

I would **strongly recommend** the confirmation of Jesse Souki to the position of the Director of the Office of Planning. I had the honor of working on a community project with him on Maui and he worked hard, fulfilled commitments and did his best in all his undertaking. He is complete through and communicates to embrace many to get a cohesive job done!

He will do a good job!



THE RESORT GROUP

April 14, 2011

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(via email)

**RE: GM 525 -- Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI.**

Honorable Chairman Dela Cruz,

**The Resort Group and I strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Jesse Souki as the Director of the State Office of Planning (OP).** During my tenure as State Planning Director I had the privilege of working with Mr. Souki on multiple occasions on a wide range of land entitlement and planning issues.

Mr. Souki is a young, enthusiastic and driven leader, who has embraced the areas of land use and planning in his career and in his life. As I have seen in the past, I believe Mr. Souki will make thoughtful and carefully-crafted decisions based on holistic research. Additionally, Mr. Souki has shown the ability to take firm positions in the face of great opposition – which is an essential trait for any individual seeking to Direct OP.

Continually I have been impressed with the depth of both Mr. Souki's knowledge and his character. His calm, self-assured demeanor, mated with a heart-felt compassion and love for the 'aina and the people of Hawai'i all make him a natural leader and ideal candidate to Direct OP.

At a time when the State is facing unprecedented budgetary difficulties, and OP has experienced attrition of its veteran core staff due to retirement, OP will need a committed and energetic leader to transition the Office, reinvigorate the staff, protect its resources and advocate for its mission. I believe Mr. Souki is just that type of leader – one who will safeguard and provide for the integrity of planning, land use, and coastal resource management.

I eagerly look forward to working with Mr. Souki again in the near future.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Abbey S. Mayer  
Vice President, Government Relations

IMANAKA  
KUDO &  
FUJIMOTO

A Limited Liability Law Company

Mitchell A. Imanaka

Benjamin A. Kudo

Wesley M. Fujimoto

Jon M.H. Pang

Richard T. Asato, Jr.

Naomi U. Kuwaye

Nikki T. Senter

Ryan E. Sanada

Nina L. Takamori

Owen T. Iida

Yuko Funaki

Of Counsel

R. Brian Tsujimura

Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. \*

\* admitted to practice only in  
New York and Philippines,  
Former Chairman  
Securities and Exchange  
Commission, Republic of the  
Philippines

Hon. Mario R. Ramil

Former Associate Justice  
Hawaii Supreme Court

April 8, 2011

VIA – E-MAIL TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Testimony on GM 525 – April 14, 2011 at 1:20 PM, Conf Rm 225**  
**Letter in Support of the Confirmation of Gubernatorial**  
**Nominee, Jesse K. Souki, Esq. as Director for the Office of Planning**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in **STRONG SUPPORT** for the confirmation of Jesse K. Souki, as Director of the Office of Planning of the State of Hawaii. Jesse was a senior associate for our law firm and specialized in environmental and natural regulatory compliance. I cannot think of someone who is more qualified to serve in the capacity, and who has the desire, talent and skill sets to serve well.

I have known and worked directly with Mr. Souki for over 5 years and can tell you that he is not only bright and hardworking, but a totally dedicated professional. You will note in his resume that he has a strong environmental and land use background covering industrial, commercial, residential and resort developments. Jesse also served recently as an attorney for the City & County of Honolulu's proposed 20-mile, 21-station rail transit project and provided advice and counsel to clients in areas of state and federal environmental review, permitting, zoning and administrative proceedings, as well as litigation related to these areas.

In addition, he currently volunteers as the 2011 Chair of the Hawaii State Bar Association's Natural Resources Section and is a member of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. This demonstrated commitment goes far beyond merely practicing law.

I believe that, if confirmed as Director of the Office of Planning, with his understanding, knowledge and deep commitment to the industry, Jesse Souki will have an immediate and long-lasting impact on the industry and the wider community as well.

Thank you very much for your consideration of his candidacy, and should you have any questions with regard to Mr. Souki, do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

IMANAKA KUDO & FUJIMOTO

Mitchell A. Imanaka

MAI:sk  
xc: Jesse K. Souki  
583161.1

TOPA Financial Center  
Fort Street Tower  
745 Fort Street Mall, 17th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 521-9500  
Facsimile: (808) 541-9050  
info@imanakakudo.com



**Jean Godden**  
Seattle City Councilmember

April 13, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Jean Godden  
Seattle City Councilmember

RE: **GM-525** – Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**  
Hearing date: April 14, 2011  
Hearing time: 1:20 PM  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

It is not often that I get a chance to write a letter supporting the confirmation of someone as talented as Mr. Jesse Souki. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Jesse while he was studying and working in Seattle. His commitment and dedication to public service is notable.

While in Seattle, Jesse had the opportunity to work with the Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC). Its mission: support city and county decision making for Washington's 400 plus cities, counties, and municipalities. His work with MRSC helped Jesse develop an even greater understanding of how governments plan and implement public policies on environmental, budgeting and economic development issues, particularly in the face of competing interests.

I believe this experience along with his broad expertise in legal, transportation and land use issues will serve the people of the great State of Hawaii well. Jesse is a true leader. It is without reservation that I recommend him and urge your confirmation of Mr. Jesse Souki as the Director for the Office of Planning.

Sincerely,

  
Jean Godden  
Seattle City Councilmember

City Hall 600 Fourth Avenue, Floor 2, PO Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025  
(206) 684-8807, Fax: (206) 684-8587, TTY: (206) 233-0025  
E-Mail Address: [jean.godden@seattle.gov](mailto:jean.godden@seattle.gov)  
Internet Address: <http://www.seattle.gov/council/godden>  
An EEO employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.



# PBR HAWAII & ASSOCIATES, INC.

April 8, 2011

## PRINCIPALS

THOMAS S. WITTEN, ASLA  
*President*

R. STAN DUNCAN, ASLA  
*Executive Vice-President*

RUSSELL Y.I. CHUNG, FASLA, LEED<sup>®</sup> AP  
*Executive Vice-President*

VINCENT SHIGEKUNI  
*Vice-President*

GRANT T. MURAKAMI, AICP, LEED<sup>®</sup> AP  
*Principal*

W. FRANK BRANDT, FASLA  
*Chairman Emeritus*

## ASSOCIATES

TOM SCHNELL, AICP  
*Senior Associate*

RAYMOND T. HIGA, ASLA  
*Senior Associate*

KEYVIN K. NISHIKAWA, ASLA  
*Associate*

KIMI MIKAMI YUEN, LEED<sup>®</sup> AP  
*Associate*

SCOTT ALIKA ABRIGO, LEED<sup>®</sup> AP  
*Associate*

SCOTT MURAKAMI, ASLA, LEED<sup>®</sup> AP  
*Associate*

DACHENG DONG, LEED<sup>®</sup> AP  
*Associate*

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT: GM-525 NOMINATION OF JESSE SOUKI AS THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing:

I am an urban planner with approximately 30 years of experience in Hawaii. I strongly support Jesse Souki's nomination as Director of the Office of Planning. As a long observer of the Office of Planning, I believe Mr. Souki is one of the most qualified nominees to date.

Mr. Souki is not only an attorney, but has long demonstrated his interest and knowledge of land use planning. It is my belief that Mr. Souki understands that the State Plan and Functional Plans (Chapter 226 HRS) should not be interpreted as providing guidance to maintain the status quo, but instead to plan for the needs of an ever-growing population, while protecting those natural resources that make us Hawaii. I know Jesse well enough to assure you that he has both the intellectual and physical vigor to bring new energy and a different perspective to the Office of Planning.

I respectfully request that the Members of the Senate support Mr. Souki's nomination as Director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Vincent Shigekuni  
Vice President  
PBR Hawaii

## HONOLULU OFFICE

1001 Bishop Street, Suite 650  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3481  
Tel: (808) 521-5631  
Fax: (808) 521-1402  
E-mail: sysadmin@pbrhawaii.com

## KAPOLEI OFFICE

1001 Kapaokila Boulevard  
Kapolei Building, Suite 313  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707-2005  
Tel: (808) 521-5631  
Fax: (808) 535-3163

# Shannon Liana Alivado

41-910 Kakaina Street  
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795  
E-Mail: [shannon.alivado@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.alivado@gmail.com)

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April 14, 2011

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water Land and Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

**GM 525, JESSE SOUKI**, Gubernatorial Nominee

Director, State of Hawaii, Office of Planning

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing, Thursday, April 14 at 1:20 p.m.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and members,

My name is Shannon Alivado and I am writing in **support** of the nomination of Jesse Souki, Esq. to serve as Director of the State Office of Planning. I have known Mr. Souki for over ten years and have had the opportunity to work with him both in Washington, D.C. and also succeed him as a Law Clerk in the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, Maui.

Mr. Souki is intelligent, hard-working, organized and pays close attention to detail. Mr. Souki always puts 110% in all he does. He has a wide range of legal experience in both the public and private sectors, where his focus has been mainly working on land use matters. Most recently, Mr. Souki served as an attorney for the City and County of Honolulu's rail transit project. Prior to joining the City, he served as a Deputy Corporation Counsel for Maui County, where he advised the planning department and planning commission. He then joined the law firm of Imanaka, Kudo & Fujimoto, where he advised both private and government clients on land use projects that included industrial, commercial, residential, and resort developments.

While in Washington, D.C., Mr. Souki and I had the rare opportunity of working for the Hawaii Congressional delegation of the United States Senate. Mr. Souki was regularly recognized for his hard work and worked diligently to meet the needs of constituents, while a staffer in Senator Akaka's office. Later, after attending law school, Mr. Souki moved back to his native Maui to serve as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Shackley Raffetto. As a Law Clerk to Judge Raffetto he conducted research and writing for numerous civil, criminal and probate matters. I was honored to succeed him as a Law Clerk to Judge Raffetto, for he taught me the importance of research and the significant role Circuit Court rulings.

Mr. Souki's experience in both the private and public sectors and in working on the federal, state and local levels makes him an ideal candidate for Director. Mr. Souki will be able to provide the necessary expertise needed, both in legal and practical terms, for the State Office of Planning. Particularly, Mr. Souki will be instrumental in representing the Office of Planning its role as an advisory body to the State Land Use Commission. Additionally, he will be effective in delivering and ensuring the vision of the State Planning Act.

For these reasons, I am in strong support of Mr. Souki and request your favorable consideration of his nomination for Director of the State Office of Planning.

April 6, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Barbra Pleadwell  
1702 Kewalo Street, PH2  
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: **GM-525** - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - **SUPPORT**  
Hearing date: April 14, 2011  
Hearing time: 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

When I see Jesse Souki walking in downtown Honolulu, I see evidence of brain gain and I feel good about our island state. When I consider his position with the Office of Planning, I feel good about our government's capacity to truly serve the public.

I have known Mr. Souki for roughly a decade. During this time he's served Hawaii in Washington DC as a staffer for Congressman Akaka, gone to law school, returned to his hometown Maui County, come to Honolulu as a land use attorney, served the City & County of Honolulu and volunteered in a number of capacities to improve the quality of life in the islands. This man has a tremendous work ethic, and a good heart. We are so lucky to have him.

Mr. Souki's capacity for critical thinking and clear speaking makes him an easy and valuable resource on a number of complex topics. He is generous in sharing his insights, and is quick to research further when he feels he doesn't fully know the answer. And, his humility keeps him straight. In short, he was raised well.

I trust Mr. Souki completely. He inspires this trust each time I see him in action as a public servant, a volunteer, a husband and a friend. His track record shows integrity and uncommon generosity.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's **support** to confirm this nomination.

**BRYAN P. ANDAYA**  
931 University Ave. #202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
Tel. (808) 542-9511  
[bryan@hawaiianbarbecue.com](mailto:bryan@hawaiianbarbecue.com)

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April 8, 2011

Re: Testimony in **Strong Support of GM525** - WLH – 4/14/11 1:20 p.m. Rm 225

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bryan P. Andaya, and I have worked with Mr. Jesse Souki in various capacities for nearly 10 years. I unqualifiedly and strongly support GM525 appointing Jesse to the Office of Planning.

I first met Jesse when he and I practiced law at the firm Imanaka, Kudo, & Fujimoto. In all of my dealings and observations, I have witnessed Jesse as a quintessential professional adept in his field of work, passionate about land use and planning issues, and grasping the broad overall picture as well as nuances of Hawaii's unique land use system.

What truly impressed me about Jesse is his sense of fairness and even-handed demeanor. Jesse always examined all aspects of a problem, even while advocating for a particular position. He would also temper his advocacy with a common sense approach reflecting the concerns of the communities affected. For his tireless passion balanced by an approachable and patient demeanor, I consider Jesse not only a colleague but a role model.

Even after I stopped practicing law, I often consulted with Jesse on various land use and planning matters involving L & L Franchise, where I am now Chief Operating Officer responsible for nearly 200 restaurants including 60 in Hawaii on all islands. I have also taken the role as Administrator of Eddie Flores's real estate continuing education school, a capacity that has allowed me the privilege of working directly with Jesse, where I brought him on as an instructor in 2008.

As Administrator, I review feedback from our students, who are exclusively licensed real estate agents, about their continuing education experience. In six years and over 500 licensees who have taken his classes, I have yet to receive a negative comment about Jesse and have received countless compliments about his knowledge and passion for land use, as well as his easy going demeanor as an instructor that really makes everyone feel at ease and eager to learn. By developing a solid reputation for his knowledge and teaching skill, he has brought credibility to our school and the legal profession.

For these reasons, I proudly support GM525 appointing Jesse as Director of the Office of Planning.

Very truly yours,  
Bryan P. Andaya



**Written Testimony to Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
Relating to GM 525 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Jesse K. Souki as Director of  
the Office of Planning  
Submitted by Mary Lou Kobayashi  
3325C Maunaloa Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96816**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING**

Thursday, April 14, 2011

**GM 525**

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Jesse K. Souki as Director of the Office of  
Planning**

Chair Dela Cruz , Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water,  
Land and Housing.

I support Jesse K. Souki's nomination as Director of the Office of Planning.

I am a long-time employee of the Office of Planning. I am very encouraged by Jesse Souki's initiative to re-invigorate the statewide policy planning and coordination function of the Office of Planning. I am also heartened by his intention to rebuild the land use planning, special plans, coastal zone management and geographic information system programs which were adversely affected by the 2009 reductions-in-force. These programs provide the foundation for a better future for Hawaii by articulating State goals and facilitating coordination among agencies to execute and implement these goals and directions.

His previous positions provide him with the experience and background for this position. He has worked in government and is familiar with public administration principles, practices and procedures. He has worked on land use district boundary amendments and special management area permits which are core elements of the land use and coastal zone management programs under Chapters 205 and 205A, HRS. He has experience in the land use regulatory process at both the state and county levels. Although I have only worked with him since his appointment in February 28, 2011, it is evident that he is well-versed in land use and environmental statutes, processes and procedures. He also studied future studies with Dr. Dator. During the time that he has been in the Office of Planning, he has been very inclusive and consulted and worked with staff in developing recommendations and problem-solving.

He also has a clear commitment to public service.

*Mary Lou Kobayashi*  
Mary Lou Kobayashi  
3325C Maunaloa Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [Piper Hackett](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in favor of [Jesse Souki](#)- confirmation hearing for April 14, 2011 at 1:20PM in conference room 225  
(Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing)  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 10:40:12 AM

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Dear Committee Members,

My name is Piper Hackett and I am a licensed attorney in Washington State. I have known Jesse Souki since 2001- I had the privilege of attending law school with him. Jesse is a friend and colleague I will always remember for his strong work ethic, his genuine love for his home, Hawaii, and his intelligence and enthusiasm. Jesse's broad range of experience will serve him very well as the Director of the Office of Planning. Jesse is the epitome of a committed, passionate public servant and I can think of no one better to help work toward achieving Hawaii's goals. I **strongly support** his confirmation to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Best regards,  
Piper A. Hackett

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Mark M. Murakami  
1002 Paako Street  
Kailua, HI 96734  
(808) 526-3628  
[mmm@hawaiiattorney.com](mailto:mmm@hawaiiattorney.com)  
[www.hawaiiattorney.com](http://www.hawaiiattorney.com)

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Re: **GM-525** - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of  
Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I write to wholeheartedly recommend prompt confirmation of Jesse Souki, Esq. as the  
Director of the Office of Planning.

I have known Mr. Souki for a little over five years. For a time, we were both in private  
practice in the land use area and I co-taught a land use seminar with him. We have different  
social circles and so my experience with him is strictly in the legal context.

Mr. Souki is a highly regarded, experienced land use attorney. His blog,  
[www.hilanduselaw.com](http://www.hilanduselaw.com), is a great resource for real estate development and environmental  
laws and I read every new post. Mr. Souki has a good mix of government and private sector  
experience and I think the people of Hawaii will benefit from his insight, experience and  
values.

Very truly yours,



Mark M. Murakami

Written Testimony  
of  
**Mary Alice Evans**  
to the  
**Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing**  
Senator Donavan M. Dela, Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 14, 2011, 1:20 pm  
State Capitol, Room 225

Re: **GM 525**  
**Consideration and Confirmation of Jesse K. Souki**  
for  
**Director of the Office of Planning**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee:

I write in **strong support** for the confirmation of **Jesse K. Souki** as Director of the Office of Planning.

I have been a planner in the Office of Planning since 1987, am currently serving as deputy director of DBEDT, and I am the current President of the American Planning Association-Hawaii Chapter. I am writing as an individual and my views do not necessarily represent those of APA.

I have known Jesse since 2004, working “across the table” from him on land use planning dockets on Maui and Oahu. I have developed respect for his balanced and thoughtful approach to planning issues. He cares about protecting the environment and creating jobs for local residents. Jesse is an attorney and a planner. This combination works well for OP, since the office represents the state’s position on land use petitions in a quasi-judicial process before the State Land Use Commission.

Since mid-February, I have worked directly with Jesse and had an opportunity to observe how he tackled a tough assignment – rebuilding the employee morale and capacity that OP lost due to the RIF. Jesse has the vision and leadership to help us move forward on the planning issues outlined in Governor’s Abercrombie’s New Day in Hawaii. It is a pleasure working with him -- one that I hope to continue because I think OP needs his leadership in these times when planning is critical to rebuilding our economy, protecting our environment and involving communities in designing our future.

I urge you to **recommend confirmation** of Jesse Souki to the full Senate as Director of the Office of Planning. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

March 22, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Lori Respicio

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori Respicio', is written over a circular stamp or seal. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lori Respicio  
808-689-4182

March 18, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Jane Kihewa

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



Jane Kihewa  
Phone: 808-689-4182

March 22, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Sandy Apana

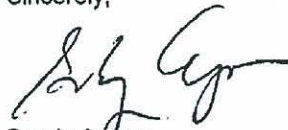
RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI - **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



Sandy Apana  
Phone: 808-223-3843

Lolita Takeda  
91-1169F Kamaaha Loop  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

March 18, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Lolita Takeda

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I have worked with Jesse Souki in the past, and I strongly support his confirmation to serve as the director of the state Office of Planning.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,



Lolita Takeda  
Phone: 808-497-5948



April 9, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Debra Wada  
660 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NE, #5  
Washington, DC 20002

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Hearing date: April 14, 2011  
Hearing time: 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

Dear Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the Jesse Souki's nomination for Director for the Office of Planning. I have known Jesse for a number of years, he is a honest, hardworking, forthright individual who is more than qualified for this position.

I appreciate your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's **support** to confirm this nomination.

April 9, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Jim Dator  
Head, Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies  
Professor, Department of Political Science  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**  
Hearing date: April 14, 2011  
Hearing time: 1:20PM  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

This is an extremely strong statement of support for you to confirm Jesse Souki as Director of the Office of Planning. Jesse was an exemplary graduate student in the Alternative Futures Option of the Department of Political Science, doing excellent work while he was a student and then staying in touch with the other members of the local futures community as he moved ahead in maturity, understanding and accomplishments.

Jesse is exactly the kind of young person who, among many others, has made my life and teaching at the University of Hawaii so fulfilling. He is quiet, humble, bright, eager to help, and not only willing but able to lead with wisdom, vision, and care. Jesse will bring the kind of local concern and sensitivity along with global awareness and networking that is so desperately needed in our leadership today. I expect that, under his guidance, our community will have the gentle, informed, open, and futures-oriented guidance we need in these most uncertain times.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's **support** to confirm his nomination.

April 9, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

From: Diane T. Kawauchi

Re: **GM-525** – Consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Planning,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Hearing Date: April 14, 2011

Hearing Time: 1:20 pm

Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee,

Please accept my written testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Jesse Souki as Director of the Office of Planning.

I am a Deputy Corporation Counsel with the Department of the Corporation Counsel, City and County of Honolulu, and current am and have held the position with the Department as Division Head, Counseling and Drafting Division since 1993. We were very fortunate to have Jesse join our Division in October 2008 as a Deputy Corporation Counsel assigned to the rail transit project. In his approximately two and one-half year tenure with the Division Jesse earned the respect of his colleagues in the Department and his client agencies in the City, as well as with personnel in the federal agencies with which we had frequent communication, through the mastery and thoroughness of this work and the conscientiousness and initiative he exhibited in the matters entrusted to him.

Jesse has a passion and enthusiasm for planning, land use, and related land issues in our islands. His position as Director of the Office of Planning will draw upon his expertise, knowledge and passion. I respectfully urge the Committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Diane T. Kawauchi

**From:** [James Giroux](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM-525 support for Jesse Souki Nominee for Director for the Office of Planning  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 2:44:25 PM

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To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Soloman, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: James Arthur Quintana Giroux, Esq.  
Deputy Corporation Counsel, Maui County

Re: GM-525-Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI, SUPPORT

Hearing Date:  
Hearing Time:  
Conference Room

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support for Jesse Souki for the position of Director for the Office of Planning. I worked with Mr. Souki on Maui while we were employed as Deputy Corporation Counsels with the County of Maui. We were both assigned similar land use responsibilities advising the Department of Planning as well as boards and commissions that had jurisdiction over land use issues. Mr. Souki is among the best and the brightest and he will be a great asset to the State of Hawaii. His education and experience make him highly qualified to fill this position.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

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County of Maui.

IT Security measures will reject attachments  
larger than 11 MB, and will block or quarantine  
high-risk file types in attachments.

LeeAnn E.P. Crabbe  
1100 Alakea Street  
Suite 1100  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
(808) 225-7696

April 11, 2011

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee  
on Water, Land, and Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: Testimony in **Support** of GM525 - Consideration and Confirmation as the  
Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jesse Souki

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

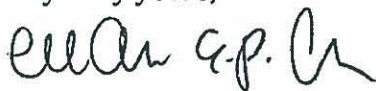
I submit this testimony in strong support of GM525, Consideration and confirmation  
as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jesse Souki.

I have known and worked with Jesse in a professional capacity for several years. He  
is smart, thoughtful and principled. He is an effective and dedicated public servant,  
committed to the betterment of our community.

I respectfully urge your committee to confirm Jesse's nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



LeeAnn E.P. Crabbe

**From:** [G.Y. Takeuchi](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY ON G.M. 525 IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION OF JESSE K. SOUKI  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 2:40:53 PM

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TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING  
THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2011

Thursday, April 14, 2011  
1:20 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

**TESTIMONY ON G.M. 525 IN SUPPORT OF JESSE K. SOUKI AS DIRECTOR OF  
THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, STATE OF HAWAII**

To the Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, the Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair,  
and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in strong support of the  
nomination of Jesse K. Souki to the position of Director of the Office of Planning, State of  
Hawaii.

I have known and worked closely with Jesse for the past two plus years at the  
Department of the Corporation Counsel, City and County of Honolulu. I can vouch for his  
exemplary character, unquestioned professional competence, and genuine commitment to  
public service. Jesse is a person of great intelligence and a highly motivated self-starter who  
works well with others, brings a positive attitude to every endeavor, and can be counted on to  
work hard and achieve results. He has a real passion for, and depth of understanding of, land  
use and environmental law issues that will serve him well in the position of Director of the  
Office of Planning. Having worked in both the private and public sectors, Jesse is able to  
appropriately consider both the broad policy implications of a matter, and the practical  
considerations that are involved. I have no doubt that if confirmed, Jesse will prove to be an  
outstanding Director of the Office of Planning.

In summary, Jesse K. Souki is a person of impeccable character and impressive  
professional abilities, and I respectfully request that your Committee advance his nomination  
for confirmation by the full Senate.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify in strong support of the nominee.

April 7, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Noriko Namiki  
1200 Queen Emma Street  
#2206  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **GM-525** – Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**  
Hearing date: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Hearing time: 1:20PM  
Conference Room 225 at the Hawaii State Capitol

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I support the confirmation of Jesse Souki as the Director for the Office of Planning. I simply cannot think of a better person than Jesse as a “watchman” to care for and work on the protection and distribution of precious natural resources we are blessed to have here in Hawaii.

His passion and care for the environment and natural resources are genuine. He has extensive knowledge and the experience to handle the formidable task of the Office of Planning, whose role encompasses and touches almost every aspect of our living in Hawaii including land use, water and coastal zone management.

What makes Jesse unique is his “mixed plate” personality. His “local boy” face lights up as he shares his passion for protecting the State of Hawaii and its natural resources. He certainly appreciates the beautiful environment he was brought up in and feels strongly about preserving all he was fortunate to enjoy and passing it on to future generations. His volunteer work as the 2011 Chair of the Hawaii State Bar Association’s Natural Resources Section is just one

example of his dedication top such causes. Jesse Souki, the legal and political expert, whose professional time has been spent both in Washington DC and in Hawaii, always thinks of ways to carefully and wisely utilize the resources we have at hand to further contribute to the development and advancement of the State of Hawaii.

Compassion and logic – Jesse possess what may seem like opposing natures. I would say this makes him the perfect nominee for the director's position. We do not want someone who will just look after legal matters and watch numbers. We want someone who can put both personal and professional commitment to this important task – someone who can “feel” and “think” at the same time. And Jesse Souki is the very person who is capable of doing that.

I thank you very much for your consideration, and respectfully urge your committee's **support** to confirm this nomination.

Noriko Namiki



**From:** [Yamashiro, Reid M.](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 525 (Jesse Souki) testimony in support of confirmation  
**Date:** Sunday, April 10, 2011 5:02:04 PM

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GM 525 (Jesse Souki)  
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Date: Thursday April 14, 2011  
Time: 1:20 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in support of the confirmation of Mr. Jesse Souki to serve as the director of the Office of Planning. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Souki as a fellow deputy corporation counsel with the City and County of Honolulu on the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project for the last several years. Mr. Souki has worked with government officials at the federal, state, and county level as well as with community groups and attorneys and has been able to accomplish much in his time with the City in a courteous and professional manner. In addition, Mr. Souki's background in environmental, land use, and developmental issues makes him ideally suited to be the director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Reid M. Yamashiro  
Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Department of the Corporation Counsel  
1099 Alakea Street, 17th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
[ryamashiro@honolulu.gov](mailto:ryamashiro@honolulu.gov)

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April 11, 2011

TO: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

FR: Emi Morita Kaimuloa, Esq.  
Watanabe Ing LLP  
First Hawaiian Center  
999 Bishop Street, 23rd Floor  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **GM- 525 - Support Letter for JESSE SOUKI**, Gubernatorial Nominee for  
Director of the Office of Planning

Hearing: April 14, 2011  
1:20 pm  
Conf. Rm. No. 225

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of JESSE SOUKI as Director of the Office of Planning. I am an attorney practicing in the areas of land use, environmental, and governmental affairs, and I have known Jesse for about 7 years.

Jesse would make an excellent Director for the Office of Planning based upon his extensive experience as an attorney in private practice and as Deputy Corporation Counsel, both of which required knowledge and application of land use, environmental, regulatory, and administrative law.

In addition to his legal experience, Jesse has demonstrated management abilities through chairing HSBA's Natural Resources Section of which I am a member. Most importantly, in every instance that I've known of or worked with Jesse on, he has demonstrated the utmost respect for all participants in the process, which is an undeniably important trait to possess in Hawaii's small business community.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask that you confirm the nomination of JESSE SOUKI as Director for the Office of Planning.

**From:** [LTSUY@aol.com](mailto:LTSUY@aol.com)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Jesse Souki  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 3:06:32 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of your appointment of **Jesse Souki** as the Director of the Office of Planning. I understand that the confirmation hearing is coming up on April 14, 2011 at 1:20pm.

I have known Mr. Souki since 2007 and think that he would be a great addition for the Abercrombie administration. We have had the opportunity to work together with different projects and his professionalism, ethics and values are much respected by me and all our mutual peers.

If you have any questions, I would be more than happy to make myself available for you.

Sincerely,

Brian Uy  
Broker In Charge, Realtor  
2003 Aloha Aina Realtor Award Realtor's Choice  
LT Services  
60 N. Beretania Street  
Suite # G-1  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
(808) 523-0969  
(808) 222-1788 Cell  
(808) 528-0969 Fax  
[LTSUY@aol.com](mailto:LTSUY@aol.com)

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**From:** [Amy Franklin-Bihary](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM-525 Confirmation of Director for the Office of Planning - Jesse Souki  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 6:11:02 PM

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April 11, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Amy Franklin-Bihary, Attorney  
Wechsler Becker, LLP  
701 Fifth Ave. Ste. 4550  
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – SUPPORT

Hearing date: April 14, 2011  
Hearing time: 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of Jesse Souki's confirmation as Director for the Office of Planning. I have known Jesse for almost ten years now, having met him during our time at Seattle University School of Law. Jesse stood out in our first year class for his intelligence, honesty, strong work ethic, and passion for learning. I was honored to work with Jesse on one of the school's law journals where Jesse served as an editor furthering our mission of combining social justice scholarship and high quality intellectual discourse. I was again honored to work as Jesse's partner in our trial advocacy class during our third year of law school. Jesse demonstrated his ability to work as a team with me to zealously advocate for our client's position.

Since graduating from law school, Jesse has shown himself to be a versatile attorney, able to excel in the public and private sectors. If confirmed, I have no doubt that Jesse will faithfully serve the interests of the people of Hawaii in his new position.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Sincerely,  
Amy Franklin-Bihary

## Carrie K.S. Okinaga

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April 11, 2011

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **GM #525** – Consideration and conformation as the Director for the  
Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee – JESSE SOUKI – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

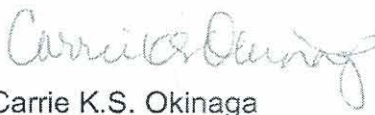
This letter is written in strong support of the confirmation of Jesse Souki's appointment as Director for the Office of Planning. I have known Mr. Souki since 2008, when I hired him as a Deputy with the Department of the Corporation Counsel for the City and County of Honolulu.

Mr. Souki was hired because I thought he could fulfill a primary legal role with respect to the City's rail transit project, the highest of priorities for the current Carlisle Administration, and the past Hannemann Administration. Mr. Souki proved me right, and the City benefited from his wealth of knowledge regarding land use and environmental laws and issues. Moreover, in all of my extensive dealings and interactions with him, I found Mr. Souki to be diligent, honest, responsible, and a pleasure to work with. In fact, just this past week, a client specifically mentioned how much Mr. Souki was missed.

There is no question that Mr. Souki could have continued to work or could work today in the private sector; his skills and expertise are easily transferrable. Instead, Mr. Souki has chosen to continue to serve the people of this State. As a State taxpayer, I feel very grateful for Mr. Souki's willingness to serve this community. As the City and County of Honolulu's Corporation Counsel, I believe that our loss is the State's gain.

I respectfully ask the Committee to make a favorable recommendation on Mr. Souki's nomination to the Senate. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Carrie K.S. Okinaga

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ekkj1959@gmail.com](mailto:ekkj1959@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM525 on 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 3:06:42 PM

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Testimony for WLH 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM GM525

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Elmer Kaai  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [ekkj1959@gmail.com](mailto:ekkj1959@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 4/12/2011

Comments:

Mr. Souki brings the necessary qualification and commitment needed as the Director of the State Office Planning.

**From:** [Dawn Spurlin](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM 525 Committee on Water Land and Housing, Thursday April 14, 2011, 1:20 P.M.  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 2:19:05 PM

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April 12, 2011

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 525 Confirmation of Jesse Souki for Director for the State Office of Planning

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon, and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the appointment of Jesse Souki for the Director of the State Office of Planning. During his tenure as a deputy corporation counsel with the City and County of Honolulu, Jesse and I worked together on various projects. I found him to be an extremely hardworking, bright, and industrious person. He tackled whatever problems and issues presented to him with much gusto and creatively in seeking to find reasonable resolutions to the problems at hand. He has such an optimistic and positive outlook that one would have a hard time finding fault in his creative attempts to bring closure to matters. More importantly, Jesse is a people person and has the requisite skills to work collaboratively with co-workers, manage staff and administrative personnel and deal with the public.

Although the City and County of Honolulu lost a valuable employee who always gave 200% in whatever he did and was asked to do, the State can now reap the benefits of his legal, land use and planning expertise as well as his desire to improve Hawaii for our future generations. For these reasons, I ask that your Committee confirm the appointment of Jesse Souki as Director of the State Office of Planning.

Very truly yours,

DAWN D. M. SPURLIN

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

April 14, 2011

Chair, Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Vice-Chair, Senator Malama Solomon  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
April 14, 2011 @ 1:20PM, Conference Room 225

**Re: GM525: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI.**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Melissa Pavlicek. I am an attorney and the co-owner of a small business and I reside in Honolulu. I am writing in support of confirmation of **JESSE SOUKI** to serve as the Director for the Office of Planning.

I have known Jesse Souki for several years beginning when we served in volunteer roles on a community activity. I have personally observed Jesse's intelligence, diligence and community spirit. He is a tireless community advocate and possesses the ability to work well with people from all walks of life. He is a thoughtful consensus builder and has the utmost integrity.

Please confirm Jesse Souki's appointment as the Director for the Office of Planning.



April 12, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

From: Kari Luna Nunokawa  
Director, Student Support Services Program, University of Hawaii Maui College  
310 W. Kaahumanu Avenue  
Kahului, HI 96732

RE: GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, JESSE SOUKI – SUPPORT  
Hearing date: April 14, 2011  
Hearing time: 1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Jesse K. Souki and his nomination for Director of the Office of Planning. I have known Jesse personally for over 20 years and have had the privilege of working with him professionally as well. From all of our interactions, I can strongly attest to Jesse's character, professionalism, and dedication.

Jesse is a man of integrity. He always follows through with what he says and people can trust that he is working for everyone's benefit. When I worked with Jesse on a past campaign, he was extremely helpful in providing sound advice and also putting in the hard work necessary to run a successful campaign. He worked long hours for the candidate, but it was ultimately so the people of Hawai'i would have the representation it deserved. As such, it isn't about having someone who will always say "yes" because that is far from who Jesse is. There were times of disagreement and Jesse is always fair and will definitely listen to both sides before making a decision. This is what I truly respect in Jesse and what the Department of Planning needs.

Jesse is the ultimate professional. He has worked in various fields and has earned the respect of his colleagues through the type of person he is and his professionalism. When Jesse was with the Deputy Corporation Counsel for Maui County and as the attorney for the City and County of Honolulu's Rail project, Jesse was able to successfully work with difficult people and situations. The issues he was faced with in those jobs needed someone with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to bring people from all factions to the table to create a solution that everyone can live with and make Hawai'i better. All of these qualities make Jesse the professional of choice.

Finally, Jesse is a dedicated servant of the people. Throughout his school years and professional career, Jesse finds the time to give back to his community because he knows how important it is for everyone to do their part. As Director of the Office of Planning, Jesse will be able to make an even greater impact on improving Hawai'i and providing for its people.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm Jesse K. Souki's nomination as Director of the Office of Planning. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 984-3572.

Sincerely,

Kari Luna Nunokawa

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lusty@seattleu.edu](mailto:lusty@seattleu.edu)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM525 on 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:23:25 AM

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Testimony for WLH 4/14/2011 1:20:00 PM GM525

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Paula Lustabder  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [lusty@seattleu.edu](mailto:lusty@seattleu.edu)  
Submitted on: 4/12/2011

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I had the privilege of being one of Jesse Souki's law professors at Seattle University School of Law. He has stayed in touch with me since he returned to Hawaii. Jesse has impressed me with his tireless work ethic, care and concern for others, and his analytic, organizational, and communication skills.

As a committed public servant, Jesse brings his many gifts to this new endeavor. I strongly support his confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Paula Lustbader  
Professor of Law  
Director, Academic Resource Center  
Seattle University School of Law

901 12th. Avenue, Sullivan Hall  
Seattle, WA 98122-1090

206-398-4021

April 12, 2011

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

From: Bill Dorman  
1200 Queen Emma Street, #2206  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 536-5971; billdorman1@aol.com

Re: GM-525—Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, JESSE SOUKI—SUPPORT  
Hearing date: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Hearing time: 1:20pm  
Conference Room 225 at the Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

Aloha. I urge you to confirm Jesse Souki as Director of the Office of Planning. Jesse brings many skills and talents to this position, along with a strong desire to help the people of Hawaii. His technical knowledge and experience with and understanding of the relevant issues are impressive and fulfill any requirements for such a role. But what will make Jesse a truly outstanding public servant are his personal attributes—who he is as a person.

His mind is bright and inquisitive, and from informal discussions about public policy and news developments in general, I feel confident in saying he is quick to understand complex issues. But he does not jump to immediate conclusions nor fall back on predetermined judgments. He listens very well—and to me, this may be one of the most important characteristics for such a position. He cares about people and about “doing the right thing.”

Jesse also cares deeply about the land. Environmental protection is important to him not just as a matter of policy and law, but also on a very personal level. I’ve heard him describe his childhood years on Maui as “growing up like Tom Sawyer”—playing in the natural beauty of the land. That childlike love of the land and deep feeling for it is a part of his being—part of who he is as a person.

As a citizen and a taxpayer, that’s exactly the sort of person I want looking out for our shared interests—and helping to plan for our future. I would feel better knowing that Jesse is helping to look out for the good of the state and for the good of its people and its land.

I would be happy to discuss this with anyone in further detail.

Sincerely,

Bill Dorman

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee:

This is to express our **strong support** for the confirmation of Mr. Jesse Souki as the Director of the Office of Planning.

We had the pleasure of working with Mr. Souki when he was the City and County of Honolulu Department of Corporation Counsel Deputy assigned as the primary counsel in the areas of planning and environmental issues relating to the Honolulu Rail Transit Project. His extensive professional knowledge in land use and environmental law proved invaluable as the project moved through the planning and environmental impact documentation processes. He is articulate and well-organized, and we believe his managerial skills and technical capability will serve him well as the Director of the Office of Planning.

While working on the rail transit project, we found Mr. Souki to be a tireless worker who was always available to provide advice and guidance based on extensive and thorough research. We also appreciated his controlled yet friendly demeanor that made all of us very comfortable while we worked on the challenging tasks of developing the rail project.

The Office of Planning would be fortunate to have Mr. Souki as Director.

Therefore, we urge you to confirm **Jesse Souki** as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Toru Hamayasu  
Deputy Director  
Department of Transportation Services  
City and County of Honolulu

Faith Miyamoto  
Chief, Transit Planning and Environmental Studies  
Rapid Transit Division  
Department of Transportation Services  
City and County of Honolulu

April 13, 2011

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, land and Housing

FROM: Patricia Mau-Shimizu  
House Clerk

RE: GM 525 JESSE SOUKI  
Nominee, Director of the Office of Planning

I am submitting comments in strong SUPPORT of the nominee, JESSE SOUKI. You will note that I am testifying in my official capacity as Mr. Souki was a former employee of the House Clerk's Office.

Mr. Souki was employed in the Technical Support Division of the House Clerk's Office as a part-time student hire while he was attending the University of Hawaii working towards his undergraduate degree. Mr. Souki assisted in the maintenance and repair of computer hardware, and also responded to computer "helpline" requests from House staff.

Mr. Souki was an exemplary employee with a strong work ethic. He was, and still is, reliable and knowledgeable in a myriad of topics and services. As a student employee, the nominee exhibited initiative and was always on the lookout for enhancements to user services which would improve the quality and response time to user requests

He was always open to new ideas and was always willing to contribute at meetings and in informal conversations to improve services. He is honest, sincere and straightforward. Over the years Mr. Souki has kept in touch, and has in my opinion developed into a thorough and well-versed attorney and a man with great leadership abilities. His personal accomplishments are admirable as he is from a working class family, and has helped his younger brothers become contributing members of society.

It is for these reasons that I wholeheartedly SUPPORT the nomination and confirmation of JESSE SOUKI as the Director of the Office of State Planning.

**From:** [Zaref, Amy](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM-525 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director for the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 4:05:01 PM

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Jesse Souki as the Director of the Office of Planning. I have worked with Jesse in his former position as Corporation Counsel for the City and County of Honolulu. Jesse was instrumental in supporting the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. He has an in depth understanding of Hawaii land use law, NEPA, HEPA and other environmental laws and regulations. He provided the City planning staff with valuable advice and guidance.

In my opinion Jesse Souki will serve the people of the State of Hawaii in this position.

Thank you for your consideration, and I respectfully urge your committee's support to confirm this nomination.

Amy Zaref, AICP  
Environmental Manager  
Parsons Brinckerhoff  
(808) 768-6196 (Honolulu office)  
801-201-2670 (mobile)  
zaref@pbworld.com

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