

GM537

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Real Estate Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROWENA COBB, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

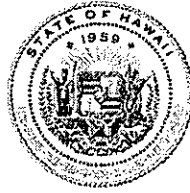
Report Title: Real Estate Commission

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

EVERETT KANESHIGE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Wednesday, March 30, 2011
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 537

WRITTEN ONLY

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

My name is Keali'i S. Lopez, and I am the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA" or the "Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 537, regarding the appointment of Rowena Cobb to the Real Estate Commission ("Commission"). The Department supports Ms. Cobb's appointment and respectfully requests that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to her appointment to the Commission.

I have spoken with Ms. Cobb regarding her candidacy for appointment to the Commission, and based on my discussion with Ms. Cobb, I believe that she possesses the qualifications, background, and experiences to serve on the Commission, and to

contribute in a positive and constructive manner on matters that will come before the Commission.

Ms. Cobb has been active in Hawaii's real estate industry for over 30 years. She has been a real estate licensee in Hawaii since 1979 and serves as the Principal Broker and Owner of Cobb Realty – Kauai beginning in 1982.

Ms. Cobb has been an active member of the Hawaii Association of Realtors (HAR), serving in numerous leadership positions for the organization. She currently serves as the Chair of HAR's Government Affairs Committee which provides her with a valuable knowledge and understanding on how to partner effectively between the Legislature and the real estate community. During the 2010 Legislative Session, Ms. Cobb was instrumental in the passage of laws which increased the continuing education requirements for all licensees in order to better protect Hawaii's consumers, and currently is working on ways to elevate the level of instruction for licensees as a member of the Education Committee.

Ms. Cobb's extensive involvement with the real estate community include the time she served as the Chair of the Standard Forms Committee where she developed the understanding of the importance of real estate laws impacting both consumers and licensees, and her role as the President of Kauai Board of Realtors where she played a leading role in developing the Hawaii Information Service, a multiple listing service for licensees throughout the State.

Ms. Cobb's involvement with the community is not limited to the real estate sector. She is currently the President of Koloa Community Association and the Director of the Kauai Food Bank. Ms. Cobb has also served as the President of Ko'ike

DCCA Testimony of Keali'i S. Lopez

March 30, 2011

G.M. No. 537

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Community Television, Director of KKCR Radio, Director of Kauai United Way, and the Chair of Kauai Center for Arts, Education, and Communication, LLC.

Considering her extensive experience, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Ms. Cobb will prove to be an asset to the State through her service on the Commission. I respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Ms. Cobb's appointment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



March 15, 2011

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

RE: G.M. 537, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Real Estate Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROWENA COBB, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

HEARING: Wednesday, March 30, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.

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

I am Berton Hamamoto, 2011 President, submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR,") the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,500 members. HAR **strongly supports** G.M. 537, which considers and confirms Ms. Rowena Cobb to serve on the Real Estate Commission.

The Real Estate Commission ("Commission") is geared to protect the consumer through the regulation, education and development of professional standards for real estate licensees. As a well-rounded and community-oriented individual, Ms. Cobb will be an asset to the Commission.

Ms. Cobb obtained her real estate license in 1982, and since then has become Principal Broker and Owner of her own company, Cobb Realty. As the Commission makes important decisions on important aspects of a real estate licensee's vocation, Ms. Cobb will help bring her years of professional real estate experience to the Commission. Also, Ms. Cobb's non-profit experience at the Bishop Museum, Micronesian Occupational Center in Palau and Hawai'i Medical Service Association help provide a balanced perspective for the Commission.

Ms. Cobb promotes professionalism to the real estate industry through her countless volunteer hours dedicated to our REALTOR® organizations. Ms. Cobb has served as President of the Kaua'i Board of REALTORS®, Chairperson of the HAR Standard Forms Committee, and currently serves as Immediate Past-Chair for the HAR Government Affairs Committee, Director at Large on the HAR Board of Directors, and member of the HAR Education Committee.

Ms. Cobb has a passion and dedication to giving back to her community. She currently serves as Director of the Koloa Community Association and Treasurer of the Kaua'i Food Bank. Also, she served as Director and Past-President of Hoike Community Television and as Director of the Kaua'i United Way and KCCR Radio.



**Hawai'i
Association of
REALTORS®**
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For the above reasons, HAR respectfully request your favorable consideration and confirmation of Ms. Cobb's nomination as Kaua'i Representative to the Real Estate Commission.

Sincerely,

HAWAI'I ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

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

Berton Hamamoto, ABR, CRB, CRS
2011 HAR President





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March 18, 2011

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Seante Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

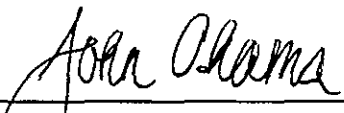
RE: Rowena Cobb's appointment to the Real Estate Commission

Dear Senator Baker,

I am the immediate past chairman of the Real Estate Commission of the State of Hawaii. I would like to endorse the appointment of Rowena Cobb to the Real Estate Commission. I have known Rowena for a while now and feel that she would be a perfect candidate for the Commission. She is an educator, an every day practitioner, and more importantly, someone who is passionate about the real estate industry. She is someone who will fight for fairness to the public and at the same time, increase the awareness and the professionalism within the industry. Rowena is the kind of person who will give her all in something she believes in, and I know that she believes in the high ideals and standards that this position carries. Please confirm her appointment to the Real Estate Commission for the benefit of the people of the State of Hawaii.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Ohama, Realtor
Broker-in-Charge, CRB, CRS, SRES, GREEN



Title Guaranty of Hawaii, Inc.

235 QUEEN STREET, HONOLULU, HI 96813 • P.O. BOX 3084, HONOLULU, HI 96802
TELEPHONE: (808) 533-6261

March 28, 2011

Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96713

RE: GM 537 submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Real Estate Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Rowena Cobb
Hearing: Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Dear Ms. Chairperson, the Honorable Rosalyn Baker:

As an affiliate member of the Kauai Board of Realtors, I have had the privilege of working with Rowena Cobb, principal broker and owner of Cobb Realty, as a volunteer for KBR's various committees. I have worked closely with Rowena Cobb and I have found her to be very knowledgeable, supportive and an outstanding representative of the realty community. I am writing you in hope that you will consider her for the Real Estate Commissioners position for Kauai.

For nearly 6 years I have worked with Rowena Cobb, as she has instructed continuing education classes for realtors and brokers alike here on Kauai, as well as advised and directed various committees for the local board (KBR) and the State board (HAR). She is a resource and a great advisor for realtors and brokers here on Kauai.

Rowena Cobb is a member and has chaired HAR's Government Affairs Committee and the HAR Education Committee. She developed various charitable activities for realtors here on Kauai that are still in place today. She is a strong voice and a knowledgeable presence in all that she participates in. I assure you, she will be a welcomed addition to the Real Estate Commission Board.

Sincerely,

Nena Richards
Account Manager Kauai
Title Guaranty of Hawaii

March 23, 2011

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hi 96813

RE: GM 537 Nomination of Rowena Cobb to the
Real Estate Commission

Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of Rowena Cobb's nomination to the Real Estate Commission.

I have served with her on various committees in the real estate industry and most recently had the privilege of working with her on a new Broker's Course for the Hawaii Association of Realtors, Education Committee. She is dedicated and committed in improving the standards of the industry and approaches every challenge objectively. She has the highest integrity, a sense of fairness and a caring responsible individual as shown by her success in her business.

Rowena is a person, who takes her commitments seriously and will be an active contributing participant. She will bring a perspective that will benefit the Real Estate Commission. I humbly ask that the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection recommend her to the entire Senate for confirmation. Thank you,

Sincerely,

Trudy Nishihara

Trudy Nishihara
Realtor, Broker-in-charge
Realty Group

March 23, 2011

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Senatorial District 5
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Real Estate Commission
Applicant: Rowena B Cobb – Kauai

This letter provides my support and recommendation for the appointment of Rowena B Cobb to the Real Estate Commission.

Rowena was our realtor for a recent and challenging property sale. Through several years of frustrating delays, she stood by our side, encouraging us, asking pertinent questions to move the process along, and suggesting alternate resources. We feel deeply grateful for her representation and plan to use her services again for future sales. During the course of events, she grew to be our friend.

I appreciate Rowena's vast knowledge of business, her sense of humor during the most problematic times, her resilience, and common sense approach to things. She is a dedicated professional willing to go beyond the call to assist her clients.

Having known and worked with Rowena for many years, I find her qualifications a perfect fit for the Real Estate Commission. Her professionalism and high standard of ethics are consistent in performance at all levels. My affiliation with Rowena as her client, then a friend, has been a richly rewarding one.

This requests your positive consideration of her name in the appointment of the Real Estate Commissioner for Kauai.

Sincerely,

Peggy H. Ebata.