

**GM732**  
**TESTIMONY**



**STATE OF HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII' 96813  
[www.hawaii.gov/labor](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)  
Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

April 11, 2011

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: April 13, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Dwight Takamine, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

**GM 732 – RAYMOND LIONGSON**

**Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission**

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) is administratively attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The DLIR strongly supports the statutory civil rights enforcement mandate of the HCRC. If confirmed, nominee Raymund Liongson will make a substantial contribution to the work and success of the HCRC in its important mission.

The criteria for selection to serve as a commissioner on the HCRC, under H.R.S. §368-2(a), includes knowledge and experience in civil rights matters as well as demonstrated commitment to the civil rights of all individuals.

Raymond Liongson is an accomplished academic and community leader with a history of demonstrated commitment to civil rights. He is an assistant professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program at Leeward Community College and the director of Sulong Aral, a program funded by the U.S. Department of Education to help Filipino students finish college. He is also a member and past president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. Through his involvement in Filipino community, labor and professional organizations, Dr. Liongson has done civil rights advocacy work on issues including domestic violence, sexual harassment, immigrant rights and language access, and on behalf of World War II Filipino veterans who served under U.S. command and were promised U.S. citizenship.

Dr. Liongson will bring valuable perspective and will be an asset to the HCRC and the state. The DLIR urges favorable consideration of his nomination.

# Filipinos for Affirmative Action

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3432 B-1 Kalihi Street, Honolulu, HI 96819

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
GM 732Raymund Liongson  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
April 13, 2011  
Conference Room 016**

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile Shimabukoro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:  
Senator Les Ihara, Senator Mike Gabbard, Senator Sam Slom**

**By  
Agnes Malate  
P.O. Box 61501; Honolulu, Hawai'i 96839  
E-mail: [armalate@yahoo.com](mailto:armalate@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 388-3019**

My name is Agnes Malate. As Vice-Chair of Filipinos for Affirmative Action, a proponent of civil rights, I submit strong support for **Dr. Raymund Liongson** nomination to serve on the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. I immigrated to Hawaii from the Philippines and am grateful for the many opportunities and rights I have as a resident of Hawaii and a citizen of the United States.

I do not take the rights that I enjoy as being part of our society lightly. I have lived and worked with the families of many citizens and immigrants who rely on the government to ensure that their rights are protected. Dr. Liongson has been at the forefront to ensure that the residents of our community are treated fairly in employment, education, immigration, and other issues. His professional achievements and service to the community are well recognized. More importantly, he has the strength of character, commitment to serve the community, and passion to ensure that all of Hawaii's people have equal rights to justice and a high quality of life.

I have known of Dr. Liongson since the 1990s and have had the privilege to work more closely with him since 2006—as a University of Hawai'i colleague collaborating on projects and beside him in the community advocating for social justice. He has earned the great respect that his colleagues, students, and community members have for him not but commanding it but by serving humbling and leading by example. His compassion and integrity is matched by his keen intellect. Dr. Liongson is well versed on civil rights issues and is committed to ensure that these rights are protected.

I respectfully request your approval and confirmation of Dr. Liongson's appointment to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. I am confident that he will uphold the civil rights of our multicultural society and work to advance what is best for our community.



## STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
April 13, 2011, 9 a.m.  
Hawai'i State Capital  
Senate Conference Rm. 016

To: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair and Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuru, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor: Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, Community Director  
Asian American Network For Cancer Awareness, Research and Training  
Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity Program  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa | 2600 Campus Rd. QLCSS Rm. 413 | Honolulu, HI 96822

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAYMUND LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee, Sen. Maile Shimabukuru, Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Mike Gabbard, and Sen. Sam Slom:

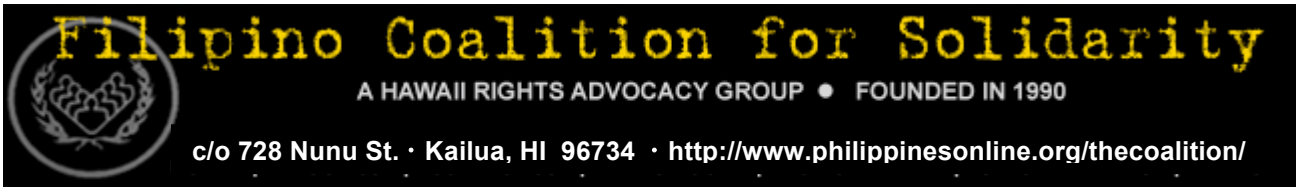
My name is Charlene Cuaresma, community director for the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness Research and Training (AANCART). AANCART was established to address cancer disparities among Asian Americans through research, education, training, and advocacy. I am proud to submit strong support for consideration of gubernatorial nominee Dr. Raymund Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission, for a term to expire 6-3-2015.

I strongly support Dr. Liongson's nomination. I have known him for nearly 10 years. He is open minded, fair, and will weigh evidence with sharp, critical thinking skills. He promotes mutual understanding among conflicting points of view. For example, the National Cancer Institute has determined that Filipinos have the highest mortality rate from cancer among Asians in the U.S. Given this, Dr. Liongson presented an overview of Philippine and Hawai'i history to national AANCART researchers and leaders that provided a historical and political framework from which to understand cancer and health disparities in the Filipino community. Further light was shed on this uneven cancer burden when considering the impact of socio-economic and public health determinants. To this end, Dr. Liongson, AANCART principal investigator Dr. Amy Agbayani and I have volunteered in partnerships with unions, human service providers, inter-faith coalitions, and other Filipino civic and advocacy organizations to increase civic engagement in the Filipino community in order to reinstate benefits for Filipino World War II veterans, and to advocate for the right to unionize by entry level workers in healthcare, hotel, and food and beverage industries. Among other community concerns identified were labor equity, job security, sexual harassment, workplace safety, repetitive injury rates, low wages, lack of time for health care, parent-teacher-school involvement, civil unions, and more. I am proudest of Dr. Liongson's multi-lingual interviews with Filipino hotel workers to assess their strengths and concerns. In addition, Dr. Liongson is a dynamic professor of Philippine Studies at Leeward Community College. His students sharpen their values clarification skills, self knowledge, and learn how to conduct research on their own history. Dr. Liongson has devoted his life to social justice and is well-suited to serve on the Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you for hearing this bill, and for considering the confirmation of Dr. Raymund Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH  
Community Director  
AANCART Hawai'i



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732**  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

April 13, 2011, 9 a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 016

To: Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair  
Honorable Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuru, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Helena Manzano, Vice President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAYMUND LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee, Sen. Maile Shimabukuru, Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Mike Gabbard, and Sen. Sam Slom:

My name is Helena Manzano, vice president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. **The Coalition strongly supports confirmation** for gubernatorial nominee, Dr. Raymund Liongson, for a term to expire 6-3-2015. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action. The Coalition is committed to an ongoing resolution to address health disparities as a social justice issue.

We believe that Dr. Liongson's multi-lingual ability to speak Ilokano and Tagalog and his national and international experiences in academia as well as with grassroots organizations will bring important perspectives for rigorous critical thinking when deliberating cases and policies before the Civil Rights Commission for all of Hawai'i's people. He is knowledgeable of disparities in immigration law with regard to Filipino WWII veterans, domestic violence, education, labor, and more. He will be a beacon for social justice and an asset to the commission. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our strong support for his nomination.

Respectfully,

Helena Manzano  
Vice President  
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



## *Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.*

*... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.*

*NAMI, P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701*

*E-mail: bramosrazon@aol.com*

### **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732**

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

April 13, 2011, 9 a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 016

To: Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair  
Honorable Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuru, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor: Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon, President, NAMI  
Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAYMUND LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee, Sen. Maile Shimabukuru, Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Mike Gabbard, and Sen. Sam Slom:

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the Founder and President of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee Dr. Raymund Liongson's confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people.

I have known Dr. Liongson through the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in Hawaii, where he and I served as president during different terms. He is a staunch advocate for social justice. He weighs information from all points of view. His reasoning abilities are sharp and fair. He is a doer. His dedication to good deeds extends far beyond the University of Hawai'i and deep into the community, where he has brokered public/private partnerships to address disparities in domestic violence, cancer and more, utilizing performing arts, policy, and people. Please consider his confirmation. He thinks outside the box, but also works effectively and tirelessly for systems changes, as well as to safeguard human rights.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA  
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.



# **OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817**

## Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential  
Carehome Administrators  
Aloha Saguibsib Cultural  
Foundation, Inc.  
Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii  
Annac ti Batac  
Annac ti Caoayan 2002  
Annac ti Kailokuan iti  
America  
Annac ti Sinait iti Hawaii  
Asingan Organization of  
Hawaii  
Badoc-Pinili Aid  
Association of Hawaii  
Banna Association of  
Hawaii  
Bannatiran Association of  
Hawaii  
Batangas Association of  
Hawaii  
Bulacan Circle of Hawaii  
Caballeros de Dimasalang  
Cabugao Sons & Daughters  
of Hawaii  
Candonians of Hawaii  
Caoayan ISAH  
Cavitenians of Hawaii  
Dingras Association of  
Hawaii  
Divine Word College  
Alumni Association  
FilAm Sports USA  
Fil American Citizens  
League  
Filipino Business Women's  
Club  
Filipino Nurses Organization  
of Hawaii  
Filipino Women's Civic  
Club  
GUMIL Hawaii  
GUMIL Oahu  
Hawaii Filipino Women's  
Club  
Hawaii Council of Bilingual  
Educators  
ILAH  
Ilocos Nortenians of  
America  
INCAT Alumni Association  
of Hawaii  
International Filipino  
Society of Hawaii  
Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.  
La Union Circle of  
Hawaii  
Lingayen Gulf Club of  
Hawaii

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

**April 13, 2011, 9 a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 016**

**To:**

**Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair  
Honorable Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuru, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and  
Labor: Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Sam Slom**

**From:**

**Maria Etrata, RN, President, Oahu Filipino Community Council**

**Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation  
to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
RAYMUND LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.**

**Dear Sen. Clayton Hee, Sen. Maile Shimabukuru, Sen. Les Ihara,  
Sen. Mike Gabbard, and Sen. Sam Slom:**

**My name is Maria Etrata, president of the Oahu Filipino  
Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization that  
represents a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified  
vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.**

**I submit this testimony to strongly support the confirmation of  
Gubernatorial Nominee, DR. RAYMUND LIONGSON, to the Civil  
Rights Commission, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.**

**At a time when forces in society are dismantling the Civil Rights  
Act of 1964, we are proud to support the leadership of Dr.  
Raymund Liongson to help safeguard the gains made in  
respecting all people and the legal protections afforded to us in  
the U.S. Constitution. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the  
chance to submit this testimony.**

**Sincerely,**

**Maria Etrata, RN  
President  
Oahu Filipino Community Council**

## Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of  
Hawaii  
Narvacan/San Antonio Club of  
Hawaii  
Nueva Vizcaya Association of  
Hawaii  
Pasuquinos Association of  
Hawaii  
Philippine Cultural Foundation  
Philippine Nurses  
Association of Hawaii  
Piddig Association of Hawaii  
Sanchez Mira Association of  
Hawaii  
San Manuel Pangasinan  
Association of Hawaii  
San Nicolaneos USA  
San Nicolas Goodwill  
Foundation  
San Nicolas Teachers of  
Hawaii  
Santa Lucia Association of  
Hawaii  
Sarrat Association of Hawaii  
Sarrat International Inc.  
Sinait Nt. High School Alumni  
of Hawaii  
Solsona of Hawaii  
Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii  
TPCP  
Kalihi Ballroom, Inc.  
Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii  
Samar Leyte Association of  
Hawaii  
Sampaguita/Sunflower Club of  
Hawaii  
San Juan Association of  
Hawaii  
San Nicolas Nat. High  
Santa Marians of Hawaii  
School Alumni  
Santa Nicolas Nat. High  
School Bingao Annex  
Tagalog Association of Oahu  
United Bacarreños of Hawaii  
United Group of Home  
Operators  
United Pangasinan of Hawaii  
United Urdaneta Club of  
Hawaii  
United Vintarinians of Hawaii  
Vigan Association of Hawaii



# UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

P.O. BOX 498, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0498

## **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732**

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

April 13, 2011, 9 a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 016

To: Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair  
Honorable Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuru, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:  
Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Lynne Gutierrez, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAYMUND LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee, Sen. Maile Shimabukuru, Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Mike Gabbard, and Sen. Sam Slom:

My name is Lynne Gutierrez. I am the president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH). I am proud to submit this testimony to strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Raymund Liongson, on behalf of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, an umbrella organization with member organizations from six islands. UFCH membership is comprised of nearly 5,000 individual members.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Dr. Liongson to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Civil Rights Commission, because he will further diversify the current composition of the Civil Rights Commission with his traits of being a naturalized citizen and the lens of once being an immigrant. Dr. Liongson was the recipient of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii Progress Award in Education for his launching of the Leeward Community College Philippine Studies program. It took over a century before students in the Leeward area, where Filipinos have historically comprised a large segment of the population, can finally learn about their history. Dr. Liongson's dedication to forge partnerships for civil rights is tenacious.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for your consideration to confirm Dr. Raymund Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Gutierrez  
President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii



## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 9:00a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 016

To: **The Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee**

Senator Clayton Hee, *Chair*; Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, *Vice Chair*;  
Senator Mike Gabbard; Senator Les Ihara, Jr.; Senator Sam Slom

From: Joseph J. Chernisky Professor, Leadership & Religious Studies

UH-Leeward Community College '*The Pearl of the Pacific*' (808) 455.0625

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC), Gubernatorial Nominee, RAYMUND L. LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Aloha kakou! As Professor Raymund Liongson's educational colleague, a former Faculty Senate chair and a former UHPA President, I consider it a distinct honor to *strongly support* Raymund Liongson's confirmation to the HCRC.

Raymund's outstanding professionalism and character skills make him well suited to fulfill HCRC's mission of protecting civil rights and promoting diversity:

1. **Profession:** As an educator and community organizer, Raymund has an extensive background in civil rights issues. He has been very successful in designing and implementing culture based Filipino programs and a Philippine Studies academic program, attaining fair settlements in labor relations and procuring grants. He is a walking resource of civil rights materials, practices and networks.
2. **Professional:** Raymund is dedicated to the art and science of due diligence. He is one of the most committed, hard working professionals that I have had the pleasure to work with. Empowered with a task, Raymund will not merely complete it, but he will deliver the final product with unexpected substance and professional style. His drive, sense of duty to the truth, research and digital media skills raise the level of excellence of all who surround him.
3. **Character:** Raymund is a person of integrity and fairness committed to preserving the civil rights of all. His level headedness, reasonableness, impartiality and listening skills are assets that will help him render final decisions that are fair and responsible.

Mahalo for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to *strongly support* Professor Raymund Liongson's confirmation to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission!

Sincerely,

*Joseph J. Chernisky*

Professor, Leadership & Religious Studies



HAWAII FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS  
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

April 13, 2011

To: Honorable Senator Clayton Hee Chair  
Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuru, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Judicial and Labor Committee

FROM: Amy Agbayani, Co-chair

RE: GM 732 - Testimony in Support of Raymund Liongson to the  
Hawaii Civil Rights Commission

I am representing the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights in support of Dr. Raymund Liongson. HF CR supports policies, programs and individuals who are committed to civil rights and equality. Dr. Liongson has an excellent track record of teaching and community service to our state and support of the goals of equality and social justice for all. He understands and appreciates diversity in our island state and the need to provide equal treatment for all individuals. Dr. Raymund Liongson has an excellent grasp of the multiple issues confronting our community. Dr. Liongson will be an independent, thoughtful and fair member of the HCRC. He is very responsible and will read, listen and carefully evaluate evidence. I respectfully urge you to support his nomination.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 9:00a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 016

To: **The Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee**  
Senator Clayton Hee, *Chair*  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, *Vice Chair*  
Senator Mike Gabbard  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.  
Senator Sam Slom

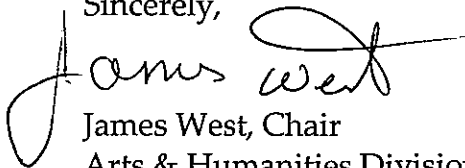
From: James West, Chair  
Arts & Humanities Division  
Leeward Community College  
96-045 Ala Ike, Pearl City, HI 96782  
E-mail: [west@hawaii.edu](mailto:west@hawaii.edu)  
Phone: 808-455-0351

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, gubernatorial nominee, RAYMUND L. LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

My name is James West. I have known Raymund since 1998 and I have been his immediate supervisor for the past ten years. I am submitting testimony in strong support of Raymund Liongson for his confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission because Raymund is a dedicated intelligent decent citizen who can be relied upon to carefully review and wisely recommend actions that come before the Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Raymund Liongson's confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission.

Sincerely,



James West, Chair  
Arts & Humanities Division  
Leeward Community College  
University of Hawai'i

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [raew@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:raew@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM732 on 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 12:30:29 PM

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Testimony for JDL 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM GM732

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Rae Watanabe  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [raew@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:raew@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 4/11/2011

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support Raymund Liongson for membership on the Human Rights Commission. Raymund is tireless in his quest to protect the rights of ALL groups. Moreover, when Raymund doesn't know something, he asks members of said group and listens. We need more leaders to listen!

**From:** [Dr. P. Brown](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in strong Support of GM 732, Raymund Liongson, Sen. Comm. on JDL, April 13, 2011, 9 am, Rm. 016  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 1:10:58 PM

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Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Chair Sen. [Clayton Hee](#), Vice Chair Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuru, and Committee Members:

Please accept my testimony in strong support of nominee Raymond Liongson for his confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you,

Dr. Patricia Brown,  
President of the Filipino American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH)

**From:** [Divina Robillard](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Ka Ray Liongson](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Strong Support of GM 732. Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAYMUND L. LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 11:12:07 PM

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## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 9:00a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 016

**To: The Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee**

Senator Clayton Hee, *Chair*

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, *Vice Chair*

Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

Senator Sam Slom

From: Divina Telan Robillard, President

University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Hawaii

244 Akiohala Street, Kailua, Hawaii 96734

[divina@hawaii.edu](mailto:divina@hawaii.edu)

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAYMUND L. LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

My name is Divina Telan Robillard. I am the current President of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Hawaii (UPAAH). Raymund Liongson is a Past President of the UPAAH and is currently a member of the Association's Board of Advisers. Raymund is a good friend and colleague.

I am submitting testimony enthusiastically endorsing the confirmation of Raymund Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission. Raymund's young adulthood was molded at the time when the Philippines was undergoing political storm. It was during his college days that Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law and unleashed his fury at those who defied him with a heavy hand. One of those who demonstrated against the Marcos regime and who took to the streets to denounce him was young Raymund. He paid dearly for his activism: he became a political detainee for a period of time and when released, he found out that he was expelled from the Catholic school that he was attending. After a protracted search for a school in which he would finish his degree, he spent his days in school still not free from harassment from government agents. He was continually monitored, made sure that he did not participate in any "contraband activities." In describing his response to this persecution, Raymund had written:

Such action only more deeply impressed upon me the value of academic freedom, political consciousness, and people empowerment.

There was no more turning around. In my youthful age, I wanted to be an instrument in the sublime quest for knowledge and understanding, for freedom . . . from ignorance and bigotry, from repression and tyranny.

These experiences, in the streets among the people who challenged dictatorship – and when the dictator was deposed – among the ranks of those who protected democratic processes, further nurtured in the now adult Raymund, the love for social justice and desire for protecting the rights of the downtrodden. When he moved to the United States, he continued his interest and active involvement in community activities related to gender rights such as reduction of domestic violence and sexual harassment; worker rights such as those involved in workplace negotiations; and veteran rights such as those of WW II Filipinos who fought side by side with the Americans against the Japanese. All these lead me to staunchly believe that Raymund Liongson will perform, without peer and without fear, in the Civil rights Commission.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Raymund Liongson's confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

Divina Telan Robillard

President, University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Hawaii

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Divina Telan Robillard, BSN, RN, MPH  
Cell: 808.256.3932  
Home: 808.262.5797



## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732

*Comments to the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee*

Senator Clayton Hee, *Chair*

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, *Vice Chair*

Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

Senator Sam Slom

**RE: Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 9:00a.m. [H] Hawai'i State Legislature [R] Room 016  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission Gubernatorial  
Nominee, RAYMUND L. LIONGSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.**

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee,

My name is Bennette Espineli Misalucha, a member of the business community and an active participant in events/issues affecting the Filipino community in Hawaii.

I submit these comments in strong support of the nomination of Raymund Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission.

I have known Mr. Liongson for at least ten years, and have worked side by side with him in various capacities. At the moment, we both serve on the boards of the FilCom Center in Waipahu as well as the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii.

I have always known Mr. Liongson to be an advocate for human rights and social justice. Whether spearheading an effort to bring justice to immigrant workers in the Marianas, or protecting the rights of labor, Mr. Liongson continues to bring this advocacy spirit into the forefront of organizations he has served. What I appreciate most about Mr. Liongson is his ability to transform his passion into community causes that many can rally behind and support.

Mr. Liongson has an incredible resume, both in the Philippines as well as Hawaii, notably a long affiliation with Leeward Community College where, as a professor, he is equally passionate about teaching and making a difference in shaping the hearts and minds of our future leaders.

I believe Mr. Liongson has the background, the capacity, the drive and the temperament to serve on the Commission and the interest of the State would be best served with his appointment.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Raymund Liongson's confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

Bennette Espineli Misalucha

**From:** [Deanna Espinas](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of GM 732, Raymund Liongson, Civil Rights Commission  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 9:44:08 AM

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Please accept my testimony in support of GM 732, Raymund Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission.

My name is Deanna Espinas and I am on the board of the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH). I have also worked with Dr. Liongson on a community alliance group in support of hotel workers and members of Local 5. Raymund Liongson is totally committed to social advocacy work to address the needs of minority groups and other underrepresented members of society. He has taken positions which sometimes goes counter to "popular" opinion because his belief in justice is equally important as his role of father, educator, and community leader. He has been the voice of those who are reluctant to speak and an inspiration for those very same individuals to follow in his foot steps. It is an honor and privilege to support the nomination of **Raymund Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission**.

Deanna Espinas    2103 Palolo Avenue    Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [Aurelio Agcaoili](#)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: Dr Raymund Liongson  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2011 10:12:13 PM

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Nakem Conferences International  
455 A Spalding Hall  
University of Hawaii Ilokano Program  
2540 Maile Way, Hon, HI 96822/ Tel. 808 956 8405

Nakem Youth  
c/o Ilokano Language and Literature Program  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
455 A Spalding Hall, 2540 Maile Way, HON, HI 96822

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT FOR GM 732  
Consideration and Confirmation of Raymund Llanes Liongson for the Civil Rights  
Commission

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee  
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair  
Sen. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Sen. Mike Gabbard  
Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.  
Sen. Sam Slom  
[JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

We are Aurelio Solver Agcaoili, President of Nakem Conferences, and Jeffrey Acido, Program Director of Nakem Youth, two organizations that have been in the forefront of the struggle for cultural diversity, pluralism, language and heritage rights, and youth empowerment and leadership in the state.

During the many years that we have worked with the various groups of our state, we have seen up close how Dr Raymund Llanes Liongson has worked hard to promote the civil rights of all our people. His engagements on human rights, labor empowerment, and equity in education have particularly been examples of his endless commitment to the cause of social justice. Dr Liongson has consistently worked for our people, for our various communities, and for all the causes that have affected us all. We have benefitted much from his dedication and expertise. We believe that with him at the commission, he will continue to be of service to our state.

We wholeheartedly support his confirmation.

Aurelio Solver Agcaoili  
[aurelioagcaoili@yahoo.com](mailto:aurelioagcaoili@yahoo.com)

Jeffrey T. Acido  
[jeffrey.acido@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.acido@gmail.com)

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 732

Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 9:00a.m. ✦ Hawai'i State Legislature ✦ Room 016

To: **The Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee**

Senator Clayton Hee, *Chair*

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, *Vice Chair*

Senator Mike Gabbard

Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

Senator Sam Slom

From: Richie Mendoza Biluan

DHE: Defend Hawaii's Education – UH West O'ahu

91-1055 Makahaiku st

Kapolei, HI 96707

richiebiluan@gmail.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, **RAYMUND L. LIONGSON**, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

My name is Richie Mendoza Biluan. I am a Senior in Political Science at UH West O'ahu and executive organizer of DHE: Defend Hawaii's Education. DHE's mission is to defend and protect Hawaii's access to affordable, quality education through student activism.

Student-led activism can be much discouraging at times, but Professor Liongson has always been an extremely positive and optimistic source of support and an extremely dependable advisor. He leads by example and has pushed me to seek justice and equality especially regarding access to higher education. He was there to support us when we held Leeward Community College's first Teach-In on university budget cuts, and provided the advice and guidance we needed as we collected over 500 signatures at Leeward CC and UH West O'ahu in petition against proposed additional cuts to the university last spring. There are many more examples and instances I could list.

Raymund Liongson has shaped me to be the leader that I am today, and is a model for the kind of leader I would both emulate and follow. He has taught me to seek truth and pursue justice – both necessary for the greater goal of peace. He has inspired me to be an active citizen, one that asks questions and refuses to accept nothing less than fair – but most of all, he has taught me the importance of fighting for the rights of people who are without them.

These are the reasons why I am submitting testimony in strong support of Raymund L. Liongson for confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you,  
Richie Mendoza Biluan  
DHE: Defend Hawaii's Education – UHWO