

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 732

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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

To: Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
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: Jason Espero

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 Senators,

My name is Jason Espero and I am the Shelter Coordinator for Waikiki Health Center. I first met Mr. Liongson several years ago as an intern at Unite Here Local 5.

I am submitting testimony in support of Mr. Liongson to be appointed by Governor Abercrombie to the Civil Rights Commission.

During my time as an intern at Local 5, I had the privilege of getting to know Mr. Liongson. Mr. Liongson is a respected leader in the community who speaks and stands up for what he believes is right. In addition, Mr. Liongson is dedicated and passionate in his work as a professor and a civil rights leader.

Thank you in advance for hearing this measure and for your consideration to confirm Mr. Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission.

Respectfully,

Jason Espero
Private Citizen

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 7:27 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: jkealoha@ilwulocal142.org
Subject: Testimony for GM732 on 4/13/2011 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: 2011GM732.rtf

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

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joanne Kealoha
Organization: ILWU Local 142
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jkealoha@ilwulocal142.org
Submitted on: 4/12/2011

Comments:



LATE TESTIMONY

CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

99-1325 Aiea Heights Drive, Aiea, Hawaii 96701

April 12, 2011

Testimony in Support of GM732 Appointing Dr. Raymund Liongson to the
Civil Rights Commission

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

From: Jane Clement, President

Re: GM732
Appointing Dr. Raymund Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee Hearing
Wednesday, April 13, 2011
9:00 a.m., Room 016

My name is Jane Clement, president of the Congress of Visayan Organizations, the umbrella of Visayan organizations in the state of Hawaii. I wish to submit testimony in support of the confirmation of Dr. Raymund Liongson's appointment as member of the Civil Rights Commission.

Dr. Raymund Liongson is a professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program at the University of Hawaii Leeward Community College. I have known him to be a compassionate, fair, and judicious person. In his dealings with his students as well as with members of the community, Dr. Liongson shows a firm commitment to equal rights and social justice, not only in words but also in action. He has shown this as a leader in the community, having been the president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, a human rights advocacy group, as well as in his work with hotel workers and the immigrant community.

I am confident that, given Dr. Liongson's training and experience, and his commitment to civil rights and social justice, he would be an asset to the Civil Rights Commission. I, therefore, urge the committee to confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMIE
GOVERNOR



LATE TESTIMONY

DWIGHT TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

SERAFIN P. COLMENARES JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 322
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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April 12, 2011

Testimony in Support of GM732 Appointing Dr. Raymund Liongson to the
Civil Rights Commission

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

From: Serafin Colmenares Jr., Executive Director
Office of Language Access

Re: GM732 Appointing Dr. Raymund Liongson to the Civil Rights Commission
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee Hearing
Wednesday, April 13, 2011
9:00 a.m., Room 016

I wish to submit testimony in support of the confirmation of Dr. Raymund Liongson's appointment as member of the Civil Rights Commission.

Dr. Raymund Liongson is a professor and coordinator of the Philippine Studies Program at the University of Hawaii Leeward Community College. I have known him for more than ten years, and I find him to be a compassionate, fair, and judicious person. Dr. Liongson is a firm believer in equal rights and social justice, and he shows this not only in words but also in action. He makes it part of what he teaches to students, and advocates for the same in his work as a leader in the community. He is a strong advocate of the right of limited English proficient (LEP) individuals to have equal access to government programs, services and activities.

I am confident that, given Dr. Liongson's training and experience, and his commitment to civil rights and social justice, he would be able to contribute to the important work of the Civil Rights Commission. I, therefore, urge the committee to confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY



HAWAI'I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

April 13, 2011
Rm. 016, 9:00 a.m.

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

FROM: Coral Wong Pietsch, Chair,
and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

RE: Governor's Message 732

Nomination of Raymund Liongson to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai'i's laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to State and State-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sect. 5.

The HCRC supports the confirmation of the nomination of Professor Raymund Liongson to the Commission. Professor Liongson has extensive knowledge of and involvement with the Hawai'i Filipino community. 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 a board member of the Filipino Community Center, and is also a member and past president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, an advocacy group for Filipino American W.W. II veterans, Filipino immigrants and Filipino workers in the areas of discrimination, language access and domestic violence. In 2010 Professor Liongson spearheaded Filipino census fairs in Waipahu and Kalihi to encourage those communities to participate in the 2010 census and obtain an accurate assessment of language access and other needs in those areas. In 2009 he was part of a

fact-finding commission to investigate labor and management practices at the Pacific Beach Hotel and has been active in promoting job security, wage increases and better benefits for Filipino hotel workers.

Upon confirmation, Professor Liongson will be a valuable contributing member of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

UNITE HERE!

LOCAL 5 HAWAII

LATE TESTIMONY

Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hernando Ramos Tan, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing nearly 11,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State, I hereby register our organization's strong support of GM 732 and the confirmation of Mr. Raymund Liongson to the Hawaii State Civil Rights Commission.

As a proven and dedicated community leader, our organization has had the privilege of working closely with Mr. Liongson over the last 6 years. In that time, we have observed first-hand his steadfast commitment towards defending the public's interest.

Since 2006, Mr. Liongson has participated and served as a member of Local 5's Community Committee – an alliance of 17 community leaders representing an array of interests and constituent groups brought together to support the efforts of hotel, health care and food service workers.

We know Mr. Liongson to be an outstanding member of our community with a distinguished record of community service. He has been a strong advocate for the thousands of members of Local 5 who work tirelessly to provide for a better future for themselves and their families, and has dedicated countless hours advocating for fairness and equality in our community. As a community leader, educator, and civil rights advocate, we are confident that Mr. Liongson, if confirmed, will continue to serve in our community's best interest.

We stand in strong support of GM 732 and humbly ask for your Committee's strong support of Mr. Liongson's nomination.

Sincerely,

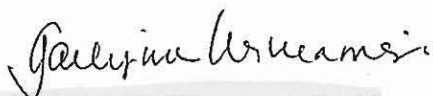
Cade Watanabe
Community/Political Organizer

**Testimony on GM 732
Confirmation of Raymond Liongson
Civil Rights Commission term expiring June 30, 2015
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 9:00a.m. Room 016**

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Raymund Liongson's confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission. I have had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Raymond since 1998 when he was first hired at Leeward Community College.

Raymund has more 25 years of teaching experience in Hawai'i and the Philippines, and his philosophy of education is grounded in a commitment to social relevance and critical thinking. He is a tireless and extremely dedicated participant in college and community service activities. Most recently, on the first day of school following the recent tsunami in Japan, Raymond could be seen in front of the LCC library, with his students collecting donations for the Red Cross. He collected over \$1,000 the first day, and a total of more than \$ 3,200 . The rest of us were still having our morning coffee and thinking about organizing a fund-raising effort while Raymond had already organized the student clubs, made the signs and filled out the forms to have the tables set up.

Raymond is widely admired and respected on the Leeward campus. I have never heard Raymond utter an unkind word, nor have I ever heard anyone say an unkind word about him. He is compassionate beyond words and as committed to civil rights and to social justice as anyone I know. He is an advocate for the rights of workers, women, immigrants, children, the disadvantaged and the marginalized. He is an uncompromising champion of the dignity of persons regardless of race, national origin, gender, age, political affiliation or sexual orientation. He is a remarkable human being, the social conscience of this campus, and exactly the person we should all hope would be appointed to this very important Commission.



Gailynn Williamson, Ph.D.
Professor, Philosophy

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

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Orlando S Ragudos, Past Master, Secretary, Hawaiian Lodge F & AM
94-1092 Nawele Street, Waipahu, HI 96797
oragudos@gmail.com (808)348-4185

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 Orlando S. Ragudos. I am Past Master of Hawaiian Lodge, to oversee the Leadership and management leadership of Mr. Raymund Liongson in great consideration to oversee the scheduling of our Fraternity operation and to provide intense dedication to the close communication to each membership and provide current event needed for relationship development and implement needed guidelines and to promote long lasting camaraderie

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Raymund Liongson for his confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, because he possesses a strong community leadership and tremendous influence among young and olds within the Asian Pacific, American community and loudly appraised by Community Leadership, his peers and professional acquaintances. A true professional and reliable person, who "eversowilling" to extend his services and dedication and shows no bias or discriminations. A family oriented person, which admired of his tenacity and devotion to his family and friends, which is widely known and well respected and admired. A true leader with range of experienced within the community and his self involvement a respected professional with dignity. A very resourceful individual, with God gifted talent, which has not been tap to reach his full potential to be able employ his canning leadership.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Raymund Liongson's confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission and rest assure you will not be disappointed.

Sincerely,

Orlando S. Ragudos
Past Master, Grand Lodge of Hawaii Inspector, Lodge Secretary
Hawaiian Lodge under the Grand of Hawaii Jurisdiction.

LATE TESTIMONY

April 12, 2011

TO: 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: Clement Bautista

RE: Testimony of Support for GM 732
(Consideration and confirmation of Raymund Liongson
for the Civil Rights Commission)

My name is Clement Bautista, and I am a board member of the Filipino Community Center, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii, past board member and president of the Japanese American Citizens League-Honolulu Chapter, and a director of a university outreach program. I am writing in strong support of Raymund Liongson's confirmation to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

I have known Mr. Liongson for many years as a colleague at the University of Hawaii and in many organizations in the Filipino community. For several decades, Mr. Liongson has tirelessly advocated and worked for the equal and fair treatment of workers, women and ethnic minorities in our community. Through this advocacy work and his positions as a college professor and community leader, Mr. Liongson has gained much knowledge and experience working with many constituencies, including with our youth. He brings with him a valuable perspective in dealing with the various issues and tasks faced by the Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support of Raymund Liongson's confirmation on the Civil Rights Commission.