

GM744

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Defense Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, COLTON CHING, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON GM 744
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CIVIL DEFENSE
ADVISORY COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
COLTON K. CHING, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL WONG
DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

April 19, 2011

Chair Espero and Committee Members:

I am Darryll Wong, Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing written testimony in support of GM 744, which considers and confirms Mr. Colton K. Ching to the Civil Defense Advisory Council.

State Civil Defense supports the nomination of Mr. Colton K. Ching to serve as a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council. Mr. Ching's service with the Hawaiian Electric Company in the capacity of Vice President, System Operation & Planning, will provide valuable insight on the protection of critical infrastructure facilities. As well, his experience and knowledge of the systems supplying 95% of the Hawaiian population with electric power would be a valuable asset on the Civil Defense Advisory Council.

We urge your committee to recommend Senate confirmation on the appointment of Mr. Ching to a term as a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of this consideration.

Are there any questions?

Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

On Governor's Message 744

By
Colton Ching

Tuesday, April 19, 2011
1:15 pm

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Colton Ching and I am honored to be considered for membership on the Civil Defense Advisory Council. I also appreciate the opportunity to testify.

The Hawaii State Civil Defense plays a critical role in ensuring the state's ability to prepare and respond to disasters and emergencies. The Civil Defense Advisory Council plays an important role in advising the Governor and Director of Civil Defense on matters pertaining to civil defense, including, but not limited to:

- mitigation of hazardous situations;
- disaster welfare such as food supplies, public health, safety, economic life, and disaster readiness;
- emergency management and disaster preparedness issues; and
- restoration of essential public services;

The events of the March 11th tsunami are a recent reminder of the kinds of emergencies and disasters that we face as a state. Continuous and relentless preparation is key to effectively responding to these events.

I am currently the Vice President of System Operation & Planning at Hawaiian Electric and have 20 years of experience in engineering, planning and operations of Hawaii's largest electric utility. I have been involved in various emergency planning and emergency response roles at Hawaiian Electric Company since the late 1990's. I have been Hawaiian Electric Company's liaison with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management and have coordinated operational and restoration issues and relayed information between our incident command center and the City's EOC agencies. Most recently, I was one of the Incident Commanders for Hawaiian Electric's week-long strike response effort in March as well as the Incident Commander for the March 11th tsunami.

I believe my experience in emergency planning and operations at Hawaiian Electric will allow me to effectively contribute to the Civil Defense Advisory Council as it fulfills its responsibilities to advise the administration and Director of Civil Defense.

It would be an honor to become a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify.

—Original Message—

From: Ching, Colton [mailto:colton.ching@heco.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2011 8:41 PM

To: Sen. Will Espero

Subject: GM 744: Nomination to the Civil Defense Advisory Council - COLTON CHING

Dear Senator Espero:

Re: Your letter, dated April 12, 2011;

GM744, Nomination to the Civil Defense Advisory Council - Colton Ching

In response to your letter dated April 12, 2011, regarding your request for information regarding my nomination to the Civil Defense Advisory Council, I have addressed each of the four questions in your subject letter below:

Question 1: *Why do you wish to be a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council?*

Response: I wish to be a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council because I believe I have the experience and knowledge to be an asset to the Governor and Director of Civil Defense on matters of civil defense, including emergency management, disaster preparedness, disaster readiness, and continuing or restoring essential public services.

Question 2: *How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council?*

Response: My understanding is that a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council serves in an advisory capacity, along with other members of the Council, to the Governor and the Director of Civil Defense on matters pertaining to civil defense of the State of Hawaii. This includes providing the Governor and the Director of Civil Defense with an objective viewpoint from the private sector based on education, training or experiences.

Question 3: *Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council.*

Response: I am currently the Vice President of System Operation & Planning at Hawaiian Electric Company and have 20 years of experience in engineering, planning and operations of Hawaii's largest electric utility. I have been involved in various emergency planning and emergency response roles at Hawaiian Electric Company since the late 1990's. I have been Hawaiian Electric Company's liaison with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management and have coordinated operational and restoration issues and relayed information between our incident command center and the City's EOC agencies. Most recently, I was one of the Incident

Commanders for Hawaiian Electric's week-long strike response effort in March 2011 as well as the Incident Commander for the March 11, 2011 tsunami. I believe my experience in emergency planning and operations at Hawaiian Electric will allow me to effectively contribute to the Civil Defense Advisory Council as it fulfills its responsibilities to advise the Administration and Director of Civil Defense.

Question 4: What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

Response: If confirmed as a member of the Civil Defense Advisory Council, I hope to leverage my experience and knowledge in electric utility operations and planning to provide sound input to the Council, the Governor, and the Director. In addition, I hope to be viewed as an objective listener to the Council and to contribute in improving the State of Hawaii's preparedness for and resilience to disasters of all forms.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to respond to your questions. Should you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me at (808) 543-7986 or via email at colton.ching@heco.com <mailto:colton.ching@heco.com> .

Sincerely,

Colton K. Ching