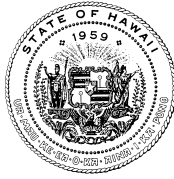


GM646



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Nominee, Kim Coco Iwamoto (GM 646)
As a Member of the Hawai'i Civil Right Commission

Tuesday, March 20, 2012
10:15 a.m. Rm 016, State Capitol

Testimony of Dwight Takamine, Director,
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

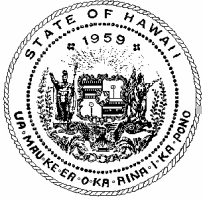
The department supports the confirmation of Kim Coco Iwamoto to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC). The Commission carries out our state's constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights (Article I, Section 5). HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai'i laws that prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and access to state and state-funded services. The Commission plays a vital role in protecting the civil rights of all citizens of the state and requires members with a passion for civil rights.

Ms. Iwamoto has a breadth of valuable experience to inform her work on the Commission and serve the public interest well in the role of a Commissioner. Ms. Iwamoto has dedicated much of her professional career as an attorney to management and advocacy in programs that provide access to legal services to the poor. She has also served on numerous boards and committees, including as an elected member of the Hawai'i State Board of Education from 2006 to 2011. Ms. Iwamoto has a long a record of experience that reflects a demonstrated commitment to civil rights. She also brings her experience as a foster parent, landlord and businessperson to the Commission.

I urge you to confirm Kim Coco Iwamoto as a Commissioner for the Hawai'i Civil Rights

S.B. 0000
January 28, 2012
Page 2

Commission, where she will be a valuable asset to the Council and hence to the entire state.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

March 20, 2012
Rm. 016, 10:15 a.m.

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

FROM: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair,
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

RE: Governor’s Message 646

Nomination of Kim Coco Iwamoto 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 Kim Coco Iwamoto to the Commission. Ms. Iwamoto has a record of demonstrated commitment to public service, the public interest, and civil rights.

Kim Coco Iwamoto grew up in Hawai‘i and is knowledgeable about its history, peoples and culture. She has a breadth of valuable experience to inform her work on the Commission. She has dedicated most of her professional career as an attorney to management and advocacy in programs that provide access to legal services for the poor. She has served on numerous boards and committees, with a focus on education and prevention of bullying, harassment, and discrimination in schools, and served as an elected Member of the Hawai‘i State Board of Education from 2006-2011. Ms. Iwamoto also brings her experience as a foster parent, landlord, and business person to the Commission.

Upon confirmation, Ms. Iwamoto will be a valuable contributing member of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. She will serve the public interest and the people of Hawai'i well. We support confirmation of her nomination.



Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus

P.O. Box 11946
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96828
(808) 732-4987

Faye Kennedy
President

Allicyn Hikida Tasaka
Vice President

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Director

Gladys Gerlich-Hayes
Director

Joy Kobashigawa-Lewis
Director

Alice Tucker
Director

A State Chapter of the
National Women's
Political Caucus

Testimony in strong support of GM 646 : Kim Coco Iwamoto for the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
March 20, 2012

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

From: Faye Kennedy, President Hawaii Women's Political Caucus (HWPC)

The Hawai'i Women's Political Caucus (HWPC) feels privileged to submit this testimony in strong support of Kim Coco Iwamoto's nomination to serve as a commissioner on the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC)

As a former HCRC commissioner of 8 years, I consider Ms. Iwamoto the embodiment of the requirement that a nominee should have a demonstrated commitment to the civil rights of all the commission's protected groups. From our joint service on the DOE's Safe Schools Advisory Committee, through her tenure with the BOE, to the present, her tireless advocacy and generosity on behalf of the marginalized members of our community has assured the HWPC and me personally, as president, that she will be a tremendous asset to the HCRC.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



March 20, 2012

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Kim Coco Iwamoto as a Hawai'i Civil Rights Commissioner (GM646)

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee members:

As President of Pride At Work Hawai'i, an affiliate of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO which works to mobilize lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) workers and their supporters for full equality and to build mutual support between the labor movement and the LGBT community, I would like to express my strong support for Kim Coco Iwamoto's nomination to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

I have come to know Kim Coco and her activism for economic and social justice in many arenas. I first came to know her several years ago when we both served as part of a community coalition supporting local hotel workers in a difficult contract negotiation. Her recognition and articulation of the economic justice issues at stake in their struggle helped to motivate both the workers and the rest of us involved in the coalition. I then came to know her as a tireless advocate for Hawai'i's youth - especially our most marginalized young people. Her time as an elected member of the Board of Education, as well as her support for community-based youth organizations and as a foster parent, have given her a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience that will be invaluable to the Commission's work. Finally, her activism on behalf of the LGBT community has served Hawai'i and its people well as the highest-ranking elected transgender official in the nation and a proponent of equal treatment under the law for all.

Kim Coco was also one of Pride At Work Hawai'i's very first members; her ongoing support of our mission (although she is not a union member), like her other work, exemplifies her advocacy of civil and human rights across categories of class, race, gender, faith, sexuality, disability, and age. I can think of no person in our State better qualified or suited for the important position of Hawai'i Civil Rights Commissioner.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Steve Dinion
President

Advisory Board

AMY AGBAYANI, FOUNDING
DIRECTOR, STUDENT EQUITY,
EXCELLENCE & DIVERSITY, UH
MANOA

MICHAEL BRODERICK, PRESIDENT
& CEO, YMCA OF HONOLULU

PAMELA BURNS, PRESIDENT &
CEO, HAWAIIAN HUMANE
SOCIETY

KIRK CALDWELL, ATTORNEY,
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CEO, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF HAWAII

JOHN WAIHEE, FORMER GOVERNOR

JEFF WATANABE, RETIRED
FOUNDER, WATANABE ING
LLC

Pro Bono Attorney

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... HELPING HAWAII LIVE LIFE WELL

1124 FORT STREET MALL, SUITE 205. HONOLULU, HI 96813
ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE: 67 SOUTH PAUAAHI OFF BETHEL PH. 808.521.1846
F: 808.533.6995 E: INFO@MENTALHEALTH-HI.ORG W: WWW.MENTALHEALTH-HI.ORG

March 16, 2012

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair; Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair;
and members, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear friends:

I am Marya Grambs, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Hawaii. I am writing in support of Kim Coco Iwamoto. She would be an outstanding member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

She has a strong commitment to the rights of individuals and has been a firm advocate for anti-discrimination policies in the schools, in the workforce, and in the community as a whole. Motivated by her experiences as a therapeutic foster parent, Ms. Iwamoto has become a tireless advocate for youth. As a member of the Board of Education from 2006-2010 (re-elected in 2010), Ms. Iwamoto closely examined the school's anti-discrimination, anti-bullying, and anti-harassment policies and worked to keep the BOE recommendations aligned with current community concerns.

In her last year on the Board of Education, Ms. Iwamoto was instrumental in passing amendments to Hawaii Administrative Rule 8-41(Chapter 41). The key changes to Chapter 41 were the inclusion of "sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socio-economic status and physical appearance and characteristics" as biases upon which DOE employees are not permitted to harass or discriminate against students. Proposed amendments to Chapter 41 align the DOE's Administrative Rules with the BOE's own Non-Discrimination Policy #4211 that it enacted in February 2008.

In 2011, Ms. Iwamoto co-authored a "Safe-Schools Act" for the Legislature that included policies for prevention and intervention with bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying in the schools. The recommendations were modeled on National standards that include protection from discrimination for youth regardless of the student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or

mental disability, religion, physical appearance and characteristic or socioeconomic status.

Ms. Iwamoto has demonstrated compassion, energy, creative vision, and community support throughout the several years that I have known her and I am certain that she will be a valuable asset to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

With Aloha,

Marya Grambs
Executive Director

March 19, 2012

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

Date: March 20, 2012

Time: 10:15 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Re: Governor's Message GM646 (2012) -- Nomination of Kim Coco Iwamoto to the Hawai'i
Civil Rights Commission

From: David M. Forman

I am writing in *strong support* of the nomination of Kim Coco Iwamoto to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC). Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 368-2(a), she has both knowledge and experience in civil rights matters and a demonstrated commitment to the civil rights of all individuals.

For example, Kim's work as an elected member of the Hawai'i Board of Education addressing problems with harassment and bullying in our schools, is helping to make Hawai'i a better place. Kim is an intelligent and compassionate person who understands how the law can sometimes be used as a tool to further bigotry and oppression. Her ongoing commitment to our community is an example that all of us should strive to live up to.

As a former Enforcement Attorney with the HCRC from 2004-2010, I am confident that Kim will make a substantial contribution to the work and success of the agency. I respectfully urge your Committee's confirmation of Kim Coco Iwamoto to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Forman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David M. Forman
1609B Iwi Way
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: Pamelalichy@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM646 on 3/20/2012 10:15:00 AM
Date: Sunday, March 18, 2012 11:20:44 PM

Testimony for JDL 3/20/2012 10:15:00 AM GM646

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pamela Lichy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Pamelalichy@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments:

I strongly endorse Ms. Iwamoto to be a member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. I testified many times in front of the BOE when Ms. Iwamoto served on it, in my capacity as President of the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii.

Ms. Iwamoto was unfailingly knowledgeable about the issue under discussion, asked well informed and seaching questions of the testifiers and above all cared Deeply about the rights of students and everyone impacted by educational policy.I feel certain that she would be a strong addition to the HCRC and recommend her unreservedly. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: jonipherkwong@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM646 on 3/20/2012 10:15:00 AM
Date: Saturday, March 17, 2012 1:30:54 PM

Testimony for JDL 3/20/2012 10:15:00 AM GM646

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jonipherkwong@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/17/2012

Comments:

Aloha Senator Hee and the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I would like to support the nomination of Kim Coco Iwamoto to the Civil Rights Commission. I have known her for over 7 years and she exemplifies justice and fairness. She also attends our church, the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, on a regular basis. Our congregation is a strong proponent of equality, as our religious beliefs center around liberty and justice for all.

Ms. Iwamoto's commitment to public service is best exemplified by her term on the Board of Education. She added much depth to our school system and brought a higher level of awareness to the plight of LGBT students as well as their straight allies. She is a strong relationship builder, willing to listen and to come up with creative solutions to whatever problems may come her way.

Again, I would highly recommend the appointment of Kim Coco Iwamoto to the Civil Rights Commission.

Mahalo,
Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong
First Unitarian Church of Honolulu

TESTIMONY

Tracy Ryan
1658 Liholiho St #205
Honolulu, HI 96822

March 16, 2012

RE: GM 646 relating to the Civil Rights Commission
To be heard on Tuesday March 20, 2012 at 10:15 AM in Conference Room 016

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Senators:

This is in strong support of the Governor's nomination of Ms. Kim Coco Iwamoto to a post on the Civil Rights Commission. I had the good pleasure of serving with Ms. Iwamoto on the board of directors of Kulia Na Mamo, a local non-profit, and found her to be in every way a valuable asset to that organization. This nominee possesses intelligence, honesty, and a strong ability to question and look at information she is presented with to find the best solution.

In my current position as Executive Director of Harm Reduction Hawaii I have continued to be impressed with her stepping up to take part in conferences and other activities where her talents can well serve the community. As a strong advocate and a person who was, until recently, a popular member of our elected school board I can't think of a better choice.

Very Truly Yours:



Tracy Ryan

(808) 534-1846

tracyar@hawaiiantel.net