

GM647

LORRAINE AKIBA

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORRAINE AKIBA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Report Title: Public Utilities Commission

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
2/21/2012	S	Received.
2/21/2012	S	Referred to CPN.
3/9/2012	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 03-16-12 9:30AM in conference room 229.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 647

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

March 16, 2012
9:30 am, Room 229

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the committee, thank you for considering the nomination of Lorraine Akiba as Commissioner to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I strongly support her nomination.

Hawaii has reached a point where we must begin to substantially move off of imported oil. This affects not only the cost of living, but our sustainability as well as our ability to attract economic activity. Energy independence is a priority of the New Day Plan and is our most important economic enterprise.

I have every confidence that Lorraine Akiba understands this and will be a valuable asset to help move Hawaii in this direction. As an attorney with an environmental law practice, Ms. Akiba has acquired substantial experience with independent power producers, developers, and their financiers. As a result, she is familiar with power purchase agreements, interconnection studies, transmission reliability issues, and curtailment as well as the financing and tax credit issues for projects. She also brings the executive experience gained as a former Cabinet member in the Cayetano Administration.

Lorraine Akiba has the knowledge, commitment, and dedication to be a productive and successful PUC Commissioner. I have no doubt that she will work with Chairperson Mina Morita and Commissioner Mike Champley to address the myriad of issues before the PUC. I urge the Committee to act favorably on Ms. Akiba's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HERMINA MORITA
CHAIR

JOHN E. COLE
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL E. CHAMPLEY
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
465 S. KING STREET, #103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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e-mail: Hawaii.PUC@hawaii.gov

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message No. 647

Dear Chair Baker and Member of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support the appointment of Lorraine Akiba as a Hawaii Public Utilities Commissioner.

As you already know, I have been in my position as Chair of the Commission for one year now and everyday is a continuing learning experience. Even for someone as knowledgeable as Commission Mike Champley, with his extensive utility background, or Commissioner John Cole, as the Consumer Advocate prior to his appointment, no prior experience can ever prepare a Commissioner for the demands of the position or the multi-dimensional aspect of the job. So in making an appointment to the PUC, it is extremely important to appoint a person with the appropriate disposition for the task. I believe Lorraine Akiba has the right personal attributes and skill set to take on this important responsibility. She is extremely intelligent and articulate and her professional career and previous tenure in public service are held in very high regard.

In describing what personal attributes are desirable, Scott Hempling, the former Executive Director of the National Regulatory Research Institute says the following:

An effective regulator is purposeful, decisive, and independent. A purposeful regulator defines the public interest by articulating a vision. A decisive regulator acts to align utilities' and consumers' private behavior with that vision. An independent regulator accepts the pressures of public-interest politics (the need to make tradeoffs among meritorious but conflicting goals) but avoids the distortions of private-interest politics (the pressures from narrow forces seeking benefits for themselves). Recognizing that commissions are not courts and regulators are not judges, she not only presides; she leads.

She rejects the rhetorical bipolarity of "markets versus regulation" because she understands, per Dr. Alfred Kahn, that her "central, continuing responsibility" is "finding the best possible mix of inevitably imperfect regulation and inevitably imperfect competition." She prefers facts and logic over adjectives and adverbs.

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
March 15, 2012
Page 2

From my conversations with Lorraine, I have no doubt that she will quickly grow to be an effective regulator whose larger desire and vision to create a healthy, prosperous and sustainable Hawaii will help to guide the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission in making the best decisions possible to serve the public interest.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to support the appointment of Lorraine Akiba as a Hawaii Public Utilities Commissioner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hermina Morita".

Hermina Morita
Chair

HM:ac

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



HERMINA MORITA
CHAIR

JOHN E. COLE
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL E. CHAMPLEY
COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (808) 586-2020
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STATE OF HAWAII
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March 15, 2012

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message No. 647

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support the appointment of Lorraine Akiba as a Commissioner of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (HPUC). Ms. Akiba has considerable experience in the practice of law specializing in commercial litigation, energy, environment, and governmental affairs.

Currently, Ms. Akiba heads the Environmental Practice Group at McCorriston Miller Mukai Mackinnon. Her clients have included independent power producers in Hawaii. Based on her legal training and practice experience, Ms. Akiba understands the role and importance of the HPUC.

Ms. Akiba has also substantial experience in the public service arena by virtue of her previous position as Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations of the State of Hawaii. This experience will be invaluable to the HPUC.

Finally and more importantly, Ms. Akiba has the capacity to learn and understand the sometimes complex technical, financial, and regulatory issues pertaining to the regulation of public utilities. This is readily apparent from my personal interactions with Ms. Akiba. I believe she has the requisite skill sets to be an effective Commissioner and an asset to the HPUC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Akiba's nomination.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael Champley in black ink.
Michael Champley
Commissioner

MEC:ac

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

March 16, 2012

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC COMMISSION
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LORRAINE H. AKIBA FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2018.

I am honored to submit testimony in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee,
Lorraine H. Akiba, as Commissioner to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Lorraine Akiba is currently a partner at the law firm of McCorriston Miller Mukai
MacKinnon where she heads the firm's Environmental Practice Group. She held a similar
position at the law firm of Cades Schutte Flemming & Wright for 13 years and served as the
state Director of Labor and Industrial Relations from 1995 to 2000. Ms. Akiba received her
bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California at Berkley, graduating
with Honors and Distinction. She went on to earn a law degree from the University of California
Hastings College. In addition to Ms. Akiba's prominent educational and professional
background, she serves as director on a number of professional and non-profit charity boards.

Ms. Akiba's background in environmental law, government, and community service
brings a mix of experience that will be invaluable to the PUC. Her background in law will be of
great assistance in performing the complex critical cost analysis required of the PUC and
balanced with her knowledge of environmental and community issues.

I respectfully ask for the Committee's favorable consideration of Commissioner Lorraine
Akiba's confirmation to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.



March 13, 2012

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

c/o Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Re: PUC Confirmation Hearings: Lorraine Akiba

Gentlemen:

I wanted to express my support for the confirmation of Lorraine Akiba to the PUC of Hawaii. While I have known Lorraine for less than a year, I have been very impressed with her insight, intellect, experience and professional qualifications which make her uniquely suited and qualified to serve as a commissioner of the PUC of Hawaii.

Lorraine grew up in Hawaii and has a long history of community service and a real commitment to giving back to the community and the residents of Hawaii. During this period of rising energy costs and political instability around the world it is very important for Hawaii to establish plans and policies to provide clean, sustainable, cost competitive energy to its residents and Lorraine has a passion for Hawaii achieving these goals.

Lorraine also is uniquely qualified to serve on the PUC as a result of her years of experience in government and practice in the legal profession in Hawaii. She has specialized in environmental and natural resource law and renewable energy. Her experience as a litigator, arbitrator and commissioner in hearings under the Court Annexed Arbitration Program is invaluable background for the role of a PUC commissioner. Lorraine has also held the position of Director of Labor and Industrial Relations and was responsible for overseeing policies and agencies, which requires the same skills and experience as a commissioner on the PUC.

I would highly recommend and support the confirmation of Lorraine Akiba as a commissioner on the PUC of Hawaii. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this endorsement further. Thank you and best regards.

Sincerely,

Michael Cutbirth, President



March 15, 2012

Via fax 586-6071

Senator Roz Baker
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Lorraine Akiba, for a term to expire 6-30-2018
GM 647

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support the confirmation of Lorraine Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission.

A PUC Commissioner should have the ability to analyze complex issues. As part of that analytical process, the Commissioner should be able to clearly articulate questions which will assist her in understanding the issues. After an analysis, the Commissioner should be able to articulate, orally and in writing, a decision and the reasons underlying that decision.

Lorraine has these important skills necessary to be an effective and contributing Commissioner. As background, Lorraine and I have worked on cases together and as adversaries while she was in private practice. During all of our dealings, I found her to be highly intelligent, able to quickly analyze complex legal issues and clearly articulate her position and basis thereof. Our disagreements were always handled civilly and professionally. She highly values her credibility and her honor. By this, I mean that she always kept her word. Finally, Lorraine has always been a team player and always initially attempts to collaborate and arrive at a mutually agreeable solution.

I wholeheartedly support Lorraine's confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Komeiji".

John T. Komeiji
Sr. Vice President & General Counsel

**IMANAKA
KUDO &
FUJIMOTO**

A Limited Liability Law Company

March 9, 2012

Mitchell A. Imanaka

Benjamin A. Kudo

Wesley M. Fujimoto

Jon M.H. Pang

Richard T. Asato, Jr.

Naomi U. Kuwaye

Nikki T. Senter

Nina L. Takamori

Owen T. Iida

Yuko Funaki

Of Counsel

R. Brian Tsujimura

Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. *

* admitted to practice only in
New York and Philippines,
Former Chairman
Securities and Exchange
Commission, Republic of the
Philippines

Hon. Mario R. Ramil

Former Associate Justice
Hawaii Supreme Court

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hearing on March 16, 2012 re.
GM 647 - Gubernatorial Nominee Lorraine Akiba to the
Public Utilities Commission

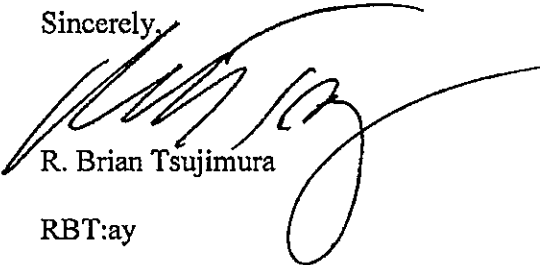
Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Senate
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Lorraine Akiba to the Public
Utilities Commission (PUC).

I have known Lorraine for many years, and have worked with her as a director,
attorney, and colleague. I believe that she will bring a balanced consumer-
focused approach to the PUC. Lorraine is a quick study and whatever she may
lack in specifics, she will bring in common sense as Hawaii heads towards a
future not dependent on foreign oil.

I strongly urge the committee to positively support Lorraine's nomination.

Sincerely,


R. Brian Tsujimura

RBT:ay

cc: Lorraine Akiba



From the desk of:
Fred Moore, President

March 12, 2012

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Ref.: GM 647 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Lorraine Akiba, for the term to expire June 30, 2018

Honorable Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Ms. Lorraine Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission.

My name is Fred Moore, President, HSI Mechanical, Inc., a Hawaii Corporation, doing business in Hawaii for over 36 years, and employing 50 Hawaii State residents. I have had the pleasure and honor to know Lorraine for over 30-years, and have found her to be an individual of very high character. She is always very energetic, very intelligent and a great "listener". I believe that her experience as an attorney, trial lawyer, partner in a law firm, and past Director of (State of Hawaii) Department of Labor & Industrial Relations has prepared her well to execute and administer the responsibilities as a Public Utilities Commissioner. Lorraine is an individual who welcomes challenge, works with her colleagues to meet it, and to execute strategies to overcome them. I have found Lorraine to be a person who is not afraid to make difficult decisions, yet is always thoughtful to others.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Lorraine Akiba as a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Please contact me at 808-478-8482 or at me email: fmoores@hsimechanical.com should you have any questions regarding this correspondence.

With Aloha,

Fred Moore

President / Principal RME, HSI Mechanical, Inc.
2005 President - Building Industry Association of Hawaii

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Web site: www.hsi-mechanical.com

OUR VISION

"hsi mechanical, inc. provides high customer satisfaction, quality, and dependability."

Tradewinds Hawaiian Woods LLC

12 March 2012

To: Senate Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee

Re: Appointment of Lorraine Akiba to post of Commissioner for the PUC

Aloha Kākou,

I have known and worked with Lorraine Akiba for more than ten years. During that time, I have found her to be knowledgeable, hard working and efficient.

Lorraine served as our advocate when we were in the process of obtaining the necessary permits for our renewable energy project and participated in developing a purchase power agreement with HELCO. Over the years she has provided us with advice on a wide range of issues and has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to work cooperatively to complete complex negotiations .

I am pleased to hear that Lorraine is a candidate for Commissioner with the PUC. Her experience and ethical standards will be an excellent fit this job. I believe that Lorraine's sense of fair play and professionalism will be a valuable addition to the agency. I urge you to approve her appointment.

Sincerely,

Don Bryan
President

HMSA



An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Robert P. Hiam
President and Chief Executive Officer

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chairwoman of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Bob Hiam
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Medical Service Association

DATE: March 13, 2012

RE: Testimony supporting the gubernatorial nomination of Lorraine Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission

Chairwoman Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

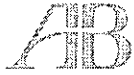
I enthusiastically support the nomination of Lorraine Akiba to serve as a commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I have worked with Lorraine since she began serving on the HMSA Board of Directors in 2000. Her sharp eye for detail and strategic savvy have made her a highly effective board member and I am certain she will bring those skills to advocate for consumer protection and Hawaii's energy independence as a PUC commissioner.

She brings many more talents to the PUC: She is a skilled and knowledgeable lawyer, a strong environmentalist, a successful businesswoman, a former state labor director, and a tireless community leader. Her wide variety of experiences in government and the private sector will give her a tremendous knowledge base to draw upon when making critical decisions about Hawaii's energy issues.

Our state will be better able to secure energy independence and advance a clean energy economy with Lorraine serving on the commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 948-5580 if you have any questions or would like additional information about my support for Lorraine.

Thank you for your time and for your favorable consideration of her appointment.



ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.

NELSON N.S. CHUN
Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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March 13, 2012

To the Honorable Members of the
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
c/o CPNTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Lorraine H. Akiba

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Ms. Lorraine H. Akiba's nomination as a commissioner of the State Public Utilities Commission. I have known Lorraine, both personally and professionally, since 1981, when she first joined the law firm of Cades Schutte, where I was also an attorney. While we were together at the firm, where we ultimately became partners, I worked extensively with Lorraine on a variety of legal matters. I was never once disappointed in her work ethic, nor in her ability to grasp and solve complex legal issues.

Lorraine has demonstrated her commitment to public service by serving as the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I admired her willingness to leave private life and commit to the public sector, and to take on such a challenging role as Labor Director at that. She executed her responsibilities as Director with aplomb, and she will do the same as a PUC Commissioner if given the opportunity.

On a personal level, I can say assuredly that Lorraine is a dedicated, ethical and highly intelligent individual. She is able to get along with others, which is a great asset. She also has a lot of common sense and an appreciation of the practical, which I value. Her demonstrated commitment to Hawaii and concern with the welfare of all of us will be brought to her position as a commissioner. I urge the Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee to vote favorably on Lorraine's nomination. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nelson N. S. Chun

NNSC:smt

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
March 16, 2012, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Sharon Y. Moriwaki
Associate Director, Social Sciences Public Policy Center and
Co-chair, Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Statement in Support of Governor' s Message No.647,
Nominating **Lorraine H. Akiba**
to the Public Utilities Commission

To: Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, and Members:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Lorraine H. Akiba to the
Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Ms. Akiba since 1985 when we were associates at the Cades Schutte law firm. And since then I have seen her progress to leadership posts both professionally and in the community – as Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, her current position as head of her law firm's environmental practice group, and as Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Over the years, she has proven to be conscientious, committed to the cause, and intelligent. She will succeed in bringing to fruition any project.

She brings her strong legal and community background to the Public Utilities Commission. Her long-standing commitment to and work in consumer protection and public interest as well as her background in commercial, business, and environmental law will certainly add value to the commission as it delves into the large and complex workload and decisions before it. Her experience in the Count Annexed Arbitration Program and as DLIR Director will be helpful in the adjudicatory and facilitation work of the commission.

I have no doubt she will work tirelessly to address the work of the commission and will work with the other commissioners and staff to make strong, sound and fair decisions to develop and implement policies to advance the clean energy goals of our state.

For all these reasons, I urge the State Senate to advise and consent on the nomination of Lorraine H. Akiba as Commissioner to the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Your Neighbor Island Partner

Pier 40, P.O. Box 3288, Honolulu, HI 96801-3288
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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE VICE CHAIR BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 647:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, **LORRAINE AKIBA**, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Testimony in Support

By Glenn Hong, President, and Roy Catalani, Vice President, Young Brothers, Limited

March 16, 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 647 concerning the Governor's nomination of Lorraine Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Hawaii ("**PUC**"). **We submit this testimony in support of Ms. Akiba's nomination.**

The issues addressed by the Commission are undoubtedly complex and of critical importance to the public. It is essential that Commissioners make informed decisions, which, we believe, requires Commissioners to have a foundational background in utility finance and regulation, an unquestionably strong work ethic that drives a thorough and detailed analysis and the desire and ability to facilitate and carefully listen, consider and weigh input and dialogue from the many stakeholders in the utility context. We believe that Ms. Akiba has this combination of foundational knowledge, work ethic and ability to listen that make her a strong choice for this Commission.

Ms. Akiba's work and success as a commercial litigation attorney and head of her law firm's environmental practice group as well as in her former role as Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) during the Cayetano administration leave no doubt as to her drive and work ethic. Moreover, her legal work has provided her with a foundational understanding of financial and regulatory issues in the utility context as she has represented clients in the alternative energy industry, such as independent power producers in wind, solar and biomass energy generation, as well as financial and investment entities who specialize in alternative energy company acquisition and investment. Lastly, both her tenure as DLIR Director and her longstanding pro bono work as an arbitrator for the Court Annexed Arbitration Program (CAAP) demonstrate that she has the ability to generate and consider input from others as a necessary part of fair, well reasoned and efficient decision making.

Ms. Akiba recognizes that PUC has primary regulatory authority over key industry sectors such as electrical utilities, telecommunication providers, transportation carriers under the motor carrier and water carrier laws, and alternative and renewable energy development, and that, with this authority, comes the responsibility and the potential of the PUC to be a key catalyst in accomplishing Hawaii's sustainability goals in these sectors. We believe that Ms. Akiba will discharge this responsibility and be a driver in realizing this potential.

For these reasons, we support Ms. Akiba's nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment of Governor's Message 647.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

March 16, 2012

Governor's Message 647:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORRAINE AKIBA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018

Testimony of Carlito P. Caliboso

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

I would like to voice my support for the nomination, appointment and confirmation of LORRAINE AKIBA to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Ms. Akiba for many years, ever since I joined the law firm of Cades Schutte Fleming and Wright in 1991, where she was a Partner in the Litigation Department. Ms. Akiba's experience and expertise as a practicing attorney for many years, as well as her experience as the former Director of Labor and Industrial Relations shows that she is well-qualified to be a commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission.

Accordingly, I fully support Ms. Akiba's nomination and fully recommend her confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,



Carlito P. Caliboso

YAMAMOTO & SETTLE
A Limited Liability Law Company
ccaliboso@ysahawaii.com

**GE Energy Financial Services
800 Long Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06927**

**TESTIMONY OF PATRICK S. GOFF OF GE ENERGY FINANCIAL SERVICES BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

GM 647,

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial
Nominee, Lorraine Akiba for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

March 13, 2012

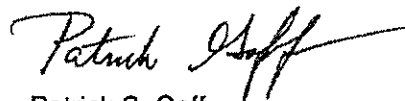
Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am Patrick Goff, Senior Vice President of GE Energy Financial Services, Inc. ("EFS"), a wholly owned subsidiary of General Electric Capital Corporation ("GECC"). EFS has partnered with Apollo Energy Corporation in Tawhiri Power, LLC, which owns and operates the 21 Megawatt Pakini Nui wind farm facility located on the island of Hawaii. I strongly support the nomination of Lorraine Akiba to join the Hawaii Public Utility Commission as a Commissioner. I urge you consider and consent to her nomination. The following comments are in support of her nomination:

Industry and Technical Acumen: Lorraine has demonstrated her deep knowledge of the energy space during our working relationship. She was able to discuss very technical issues regarding the design and operation of a power generation facilities and advise on the contractual interpretation of those operations in the context of a power purchase agreements and interconnection requirement studies. Her experience in conversing with technical experts to clearly define the key issues complements her legal expertise. This combination allows her to develop an appropriate action plan to address issues quickly. Her experience in energy, environmental and natural resource law, real estate and construction will serve to the benefit of the Public Utility Commission.

Moral Integrity supported with a strong work ethic: I was very impressed by Lorraine's strong work ethic to drive results and produce a work product timely. Even under time constraints, Lorraine repeatedly took time to be reflective on the facts and circumstances of the situation to provide good counsel and guidance on the approach to problem solving. I have found her to be strong in her convictions and able to support them with facts and to drive consensus around the resolution to issues. These convictions are expressed in a well thought out and professional manner that allows her to retain positive working relationships throughout as well as after the conclusion of the engagement.

Lorraine blend of experience, legal expertise, work ethic and moral integrity make her an excellent candidate for a Commissioner of the Hawaiian PUC.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Patrick S. Goff
Senior Vice President
GE Energy Financial Services, Inc.

TESTIMONY OF STEVEN J. PACE ON BEHALF OF APOLLO ENERGY CORPORATION BEFORE
THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

on Friday, March 16, 2012 at 9:30a.m. in Room 229

GM 647,

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, gubernatorial nominee,
LORRAINE AKIBA for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

March 12, 2012

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Chair Baker, and Vice-Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am Steven J. Pace, CEO of Apollo Energy Corporation [AEC]. AEC together with its predecessor organizations has generated renewable energy on the Big Island since 1984. AEC is a Hawaii Corporation that is the Managing Member of Tawhiri Power LLC, owner and operator of the 21 MW Pakini Nui wind facility on the island of Hawai'i. AEC **strongly supports** the nomination of LORRAINE AKIBA to join the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission as a Commissioner. We urge you to advise and consent on her nomination. We offer the following comments in support:

- (1) Resume Strong in LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL and ENERGY LAW AND STATE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION. Lorraine Akiba has demonstrated leadership ability and has significant high level experience in the administration of a large Hawaii state agency [the DLIR], and she is a lawyer with deep knowledge of natural resources, energy and environment laws, complex financial and real estate activities. She also has significant experience assisting and representing alternative energy producers.
 - With her experience and knowledge of state law, Lorraine Akiba comes highly qualified as a commissioner. For example, she is intimately familiar with the many legal, technical and financial requirements that arise during the review and approval process of the various contracts the utilities and/or independent power producers present to the PUC.
 - As legal counsel to financial institutions, investors and independent power producers on Hawaii energy policies, she understands how utilities work. She will be an invaluable asset to the Commission as they seek to administer the energy laws and solve the complex issues related to moving our utilities to a cleaner energy future.
- (2) A Character of High Integrity, Openness, and Fairness. In working directly with Lorraine Akiba, we have:
 - Found her to be a person of high integrity with a keen sense of what is smart and just, i.e., akamai and pono.
 - Found her to always be open to the ideas and concerns of others, and willing to seek common ground and solutions that will work for all.
- (3) In Short. Lorraine Akiba has a truly outstanding and unique blend of what is do-able from technical and operational standpoint, and how to get it done in the real world.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Steven J. Pace, CEO
Apollo Energy Corporation

Sandra-Ann Y.H. Wong
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Testimony in Support of GM 647: Lorraine H. Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission
being heard on March 16, 2012 at 9:30a.m. in Room 229

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

My name is Sandra-Ann Y.H. Wong. I am an attorney that has practiced before the Public Utilities Commission for the last 20 years. I support the confirmation of Lorraine H. Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission.

Many of us may not realize this, but the Public Utilities Commission plays a major role in the lives of everyone in Hawaii. They regulate our public water and waste water systems, public motor carriers, our public telecommunications and our public electrical utilities. Their role is even more important today as the State of Hawaii is thriving to meet its goal of a more renewable energy future and at the same time ensuring that the reliability of our electrical systems are not put at risk and that ratepayers are charged a just and reasonable rate. In my humble opinion, Ms. Akiba is someone that we need on the Commission to accomplished these important goals.

Ms. Akiba with her strong legal background will be a great asset to the Commission. Moreover, Ms. Akiba has the energy (Yes, pun intended.) and the focus to make things happen. Ms. Akiba's propensity to set goals and to meet them will serve the Commission well. Also, Ms. Akiba's willingness to listen, do her homework and learn will serve her well as a Commissioner.

Finally and most importantly, Ms. Akiba has integrity and the courage to make the right decisions, even when those decisions may not be popular. She is keenly aware that as a Commissioner, she works for the ratepayers of the public utilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Akiba's nomination.



Matthew M. Matsunaga
Attorney at Law

MAIN 808.523.6040
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mmatsunaga@schlackito.com

Topa Financial Center
745 Fort Street • Suite 1500
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 15, 2012

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Re: GM 647
Submitting For Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities
Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORRAINE AKIBA,
For a Term to Expire 6-30-2018

Dear Sen. Baker, Sen. Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I have known and worked with Lorraine Akiba for the past twenty-two (22) years. As an aside, I have also worked out with her at the gym for many of those years and have witnessed her impressive ballroom dancing skills. She has done a tremendous job in developing her law practice as a commercial litigation attorney and head of her firm's environmental practice group. In fact, she is recognized by Chambers USA as one of America's Leading Lawyers for Business (2007 to present) and in Marquis Who's Who in American Law (2005-present). She has also used her great business skill, energy, leadership, and community relationships to assist many nonprofit organizations in Hawaii, including the Hawaii Women Lawyers Foundation, Hawaii Institute for Continuing Legal Education, American Judicature Society, and Environmental Law Institute.

She brings tireless energy, expert knowledge, sensitivity, wise counsel, and political savvy to organizations with important dreams that would remain just dreams without her. So many community achievements that we are all proud of would never have happened without Lorraine Akiba.

I am pleased that she is ready, willing, and able to serve on the PUC. Given the energy challenges that our State is facing, Lorraine would be a valuable asset to the PUC, given her knowledge, experience, commitment, and dedication.

I am very proud to support Lorraine Akiba's nomination to the PUC.

Sincerely,


Matthew M. Matsunaga



TESTIMONY OF THE SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION ON GM 647
March 16, 2012

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) supports the nomination of Ms. Lorraine Akiba as a Commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission. SEIA is the national trade association of the United States solar industry. Through advocacy and education SEIA and its 1,100 member companies work to make solar energy a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy. SEIA has many active members in Hawai'i, providing solar services and products.

Ms. Akiba has the skills and experience to serve on the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission. Her background indicates the type of breadth and depth of knowledge necessary to successfully execute the responsibilities of a Commissioner. SEIA looks forward to working with Ms. Akiba, should she be confirmed.

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce
and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Writer's Direct Dial: (808) 526-4732
Writer's Email: dyamamoto@yshawaii.com

Re: **GM 647 – Lorraine Akiba, Gubernatorial Nominee as Commissioner for the
Public Utilities Commission, For a Term to Expire June 30, 2018
Hearing on Friday, March 16, 2012**

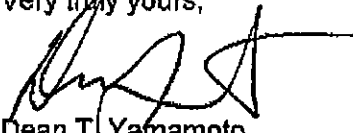
Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection in support of GM 647, the confirmation of the appointment of Lorraine Akiba as Commissioner of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. I am an attorney in private practice and my practice includes the representation of various energy, telecommunications, and other companies in regulatory and business matters, including proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Ms. Akiba for many years, first meeting her in the early 1990's when we practiced law at the same Honolulu law firm, where she was a partner in the firm's litigation department. Ms. Akiba's extensive experience as a litigation attorney and as the former Director of Labor and Industrial Relations provide an excellent background for her to serve on the Public Utilities Commission. As a litigation attorney, Ms. Akiba is regularly involved in complex litigation involving highly technical matters, experience that is necessary for the demanding job of a Commissioner. Additionally, in my professional practice, I have found that Ms. Akiba maintains the highest degree of honesty, integrity and ethics, qualities that are essential for those who serve the public's interest.

For the foregoing reasons and more, I urge this Committee to confirm Ms. Akiba's appointment to the Public Utilities Commission.

Very truly yours,



Dean T. Yamamoto
for

YAMAMOTO & SETTLE
A Limited Liability Law Company



Carl J. Schlack, Jr.
Attorney at Law

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March 14, 2012

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair,
Senate Commerce and Consumer
Protection Committee

VIA EMAIL: CPNTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Nomination to the Public Utilities Commission: Lorraine Akiba

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

I write this letter in support of Governor Abercrombie's appointment of Lorraine Akiba to serve on the Public Utilities Commission for the State of Hawai'i.

I am privileged to call Lorraine a worthy colleague and trusted friend. After first meeting in law school on the mainland in 1979 (where we pursued the education needed to allow us to return to Hawaii as practicing attorneys), we have continued our professional relationship and personal friendship for more than 32 years. Lorraine's distinguished career as a top-notch litigation and environmental lawyer, and as a dedicated public servant while serving as the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations for the State of Hawai'i, have equipped her well to fulfill the duties of a PUC Commissioner. Lorraine is intelligent, passionate and disciplined. Despite the heavy work load and the pressure that comes with her law practice, Lorraine is always prepared, always insightful and always enthusiastic about the task at hand.

In addition, the past 32 have allowed me to witness Lorraine's continued growth as a person, community volunteer, concerned and active citizen and recognized leader. Although she has distinguished herself in many areas, I have been most impressed by her willingness to use her time and considerable talent for the betterment of our community and the legal profession. Never one to sit idle when there is work to be done, Lorraine has involved herself in a number of community and professional organizations that have benefited from her strong leadership and boundless energy.

Our State is at a critical juncture having recognized the importance of sustainability and energy independence. The Public Utilities Commission will play a vital role over the next several years as we work toward achieving those important objectives. As a Commissioner, Lorraine's experience and many talents will serve the people of Hawai'i well -- her leadership, her independent judgment, her experience and her analytical and decision making skills are needed for the challenges that lie ahead. It is for these reasons that I support, and urge you to confirm, Lorraine's appointment to the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for your consideration; should you have any questions of me or desire any further input, please feel free to contact me at 523-6044.

Very truly yours,

SCHLACK ITO
A limited liability law company

Carl J. Schlack, Jr.

CJS:mar

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Friday, March 16, 2012
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

Statement on Governor's Message No. 647

by Robert A. Alm
Executive Vice President
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Lorraine Akiba to be a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Lorraine is a skilled and experienced attorney who has chosen over the years to involve herself in community and public affairs. She has shown a willingness to lead, an ability to handle conflict and controversy, and a strong support for the role of public institutions in making our lives better.

She has represented renewable energy development and, therefore, has understanding of what it will take to move towards clean energy. She understands we have an important but tough road ahead of us and that we need to get going.

I strongly urge the Committee to confirm her to this position.



March 14, 2012

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
March 16, 2012, 9:30am, Room 229
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Testimony in support of GM 647 – Confirmation of Lorraine Akiba for PUC Commissioner

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Bio-Logical Capital in support of the confirmation of Lorraine Akiba as a commissioner for the Public Utilities Commission.

Lorraine Akiba is an outstanding citizen with strong skills and a personal drive to serve her community. She has shown through her work and her actions the ability to analyze complex situations, facilitate dialogue, and reach just decisions. Lorraine Akiba is highly qualified to safeguard the state's interests as member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Bio-Logical Capital is a land investment, development, and conservation company that seeks to help Hawai'i protect its natural environment, develop local sources of food and energy, build a strong and diverse local economy, and grow in a way that supports thriving communities. We believe Lorraine Akiba will be a powerful force in helping Hawai'i achieve sustainability through energy independence and economic security.

In addition, Lorraine Akiba's significant legal experience in areas including financial, real estate, environmental, and natural resources law will strongly complement the technical skills and wisdom of Commission Chair Morita and Commissioner Champley.

In sum, we at Bio-Logical Capital believe Lorraine Akiba's life experience, legal skills, and personal interests make her an excellent choice for the PUC and the state of Hawai'i. We respectfully request that you recommend her approval.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Keiki-Pua Dancil, PhD
Vice President

Keahole Solar Power

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Vice-Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Via email- ENETestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

FROM: Tim Wong
President
Keahole Solar Power, LLC.

DATE: March 14, 2012

RE: **GM 647 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORRAINE AKIBA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018**
Hearing: Friday, March 16, 2012

Dear Chair Baker and Vice-Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

My name is Tim Wong and I am the President of Keahole Solar Power (KSP). KSP is a renewable energy developer company based in Hawaii. We built a 500 kWh demonstration plant in Kailua Kona using concentration solar thermal to heat to generate electricity in 2009. Currently, we are developing a 5 MW solar thermal plant in Kalaeloa and we are planning to develop an additional 20 MW's by 2015. Our mission is to develop renewable energy projects for Hawaii and its people, we strive to improve the quality of our environment by using solar energy, reduce independence from volatile imported fossil fuels, and improve energy stability.

I've had the opportunity to meet Ms. Lorraine Akiba in the past and believe that her background and knowledge will be beneficial to the State as a member of the PUC. **We strongly support Ms. Lorraine Akiba's confirmation.**

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in support of this measure.

HAWAII CARPENTERS TRUST FUNDS

200 N. VINEYARD BOULEVARD, BLDG. A, SUITE 100 / HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817 / PHONE (808) 841-7575 / NEIGHBOR ISLANDS 1 (800) 834-8608 / FAX (808) 841-2900

March 14, 2012

Senate Committee on Commerce
And Consumer Protection

Subject: Lorraine Akiba – Public Utilities Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter to acknowledge the work ethics and professional experience the Hawaii Carpenters Trust Funds has had with Ms. Akiba over the past 11 years.

Ms. Akiba has represented the Trust Funds as Collection Counsel in a manner that has proven to be a very positive experience. Ms. Akiba's efforts in collection litigation have been one that the Trust Funds have depended on. With her assistance we have been able to close several accounts that were turned over to legal counsel as deemed delinquent.

Ms. Akiba has always made it evident that communication with her client is of the utmost importance.

As Commissioner for the Public Utilities Commission, Ms. Akiba will bring a wealth of knowledge and perseverance in her position. It is with great pleasure that we recommend her to this position for the State of Hawaii.

Most Sincerely,



Paul W. Marx
Administrator

Dear Senator Baker,

I am writing to you and your committee in support of Lorraine Akiba's nomination to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

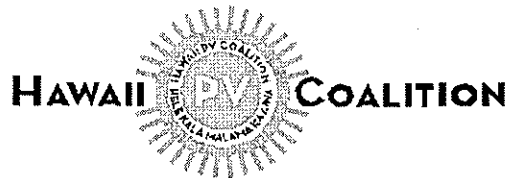
I have known Lorraine for approximately 24 years. When I first met her she was working at Cades Schutte Fleming & Wright law firm. Her fiancé, Robert Penneybacker, was working with me at KGMB at the time and we met during social gatherings. I was very impressed with her knowledge and perspective on many issues because of my involvement with attorneys while I was General Manager of both KITV and KGMB television stations.

I know Lorraine spent long hours working and honing her craft and was always amazed that she had the capacity to know about so many of the issues confronting our state and to be able to discuss both sides of the issue in depth. I think her desire to continue to learn about the problems we face has made her a more valued member of our community. She would be a great addition to the PUC.

I enthusiastically support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Lorraine Akiba to be a member of the Public Utilities Commission and hope that you will confirm that appointment.

Aloha,

Dick Grimm
President HawaiiFoodbank
808 836 3600 ext 222
Dir line 808 954 7852



3/14/2012

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection

CPN

9:30 AM

GM647

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

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

The Hawaii PV Coalition (HIPVC) strongly supports the candidacy of Lorraine Akiba for Commissioner of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. Ms. Akiba is a highly qualified candidate with the legal perspective and personal integrity necessary to safeguard the State's interests in a highly complex policy area that is critical to the state's energy security and macroeconomic competitiveness for the coming decades.

In short, the Hawaii PV Coalition recommends Ms. Akiba to this Committee without and looks forward to seeing her vision incorporated into the decision-making process at the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mark Duda
Government Affairs Committee Chair, Hawaii PV Coalition

About the Hawaii PV Coalition

The Hawaii PV Coalition was formed in 2005 to support the greater use and more rapid diffusion of solar electric applications across the state. Working with business owners, homeowners and local and national stakeholders in the PV industry, the Coalition has been active during the state legislative sessions supporting pro-PV and renewable energy bills and helping inform elected representatives about the benefits of Hawaii-based solar electric applications.

The Coalition has also taken a very active role in policy discussions to promote best practices for distributed generation and interconnection rules. The Hawaii PV Coalition is currently intervening in two open PUC dockets, the Reliability Standards Working Group (2011-0206) and Rule 14H (2010-0015).

ROCKLAND CAPITAL

24 WATERWAY AVENUE, SUITE 800
THE WOODLANDS, TX 77380

PHONE: 281.863.9000
FAX: 281.298.8733

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT HARLAN BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

GM 647,

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, gubernatorial nominee,
LORRAINE AKIBA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

March 14, 2012

Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am the managing partner of Rockland Capital, LLC and I am testifying in support of the appointment of Lorraine Akiba as Commissioner of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. Rockland Capital is a private equity firm which specializes in investments in the electric power industry. I have a background in energy investments and energy policy. Since 2005, Lorraine has provided me legal and business advice on several energy investments that Rockland has pursued in Hawaii.

I strongly support the nomination of Lorraine Akiba to join the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission as a Commissioner. Based upon my personal experience with Lorraine, I offer the following comments:

(1) Character: Lorraine has the personality and character that would be valued by the PUC and would allow her to be a productive Commissioner:

- **Commitment to Hawaii:** As a non-Hawaiian, I relied on Lorraine to help me to navigate in an unfamiliar cultural and business environment. Through these interactions, I found Lorraine to be strongly committed to preserving the Hawaiian way of life, improving environmental quality and supporting sustainable and responsible growth. She is a strong and passionate advocate for Hawaii.
- **Ethics:** Lorraine demonstrates the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct for herself and expects this of others.
- **Style:** Lorraine has a productive combination of decisiveness and openness. She works well with people while effectively managing conflict. Lorraine is effective in the most complex situations.

(2) Professional skills and experience:

- **Legal:** Lorraine has a sharp legal mind with specific experience in energy, labor, business, financial and environmental law.
- **Energy:** Lorraine has a great grasp of energy policy and a practical understanding of existing and alternative energy options. She understands Hawaii's unique energy challenges and opportunities.
- **Environment:** Lorraine led her law firm's environmental practice and is a staunch advocate for environmental responsibility by businesses.

I believe that Lorraine Akiba has the character, skills and experience that would allow her to be an exceptional contributor to the Hawaii PUC. Lorraine's commitment to Hawaii's sustainability goals, her prior experience as Director of Labor and Industrial Relations for the DLIR and her strong work ethic make her an ideal candidate for the Commissioner position with the PUC.

John and Jennifer Sabas
46-048 Kuneki Pl.
Kaneohe, HI. 96744
236-1921®

GM 647 Testimony in support of the nomination of Ms. Lorraine H. Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission

Honorable Senators Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Brian T, Taniguchi, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the nomination of Lorraine Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission.

We have enjoyed a personal and professional friendship with Lorraine over the past 17 years. It has been grounded on her basic personal values of loyalty, trust, integrity and her willingness to make difficult decisions which were not always popular, but necessary.

John had the opportunity to work for and with Lorraine at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations when she served as Director for the department. She administered the department with an even hand, making tough budgetary decisions while never forsaking the basic democratic goals of ensuring a safe workplace and providing job training opportunities to all.

Jennifer had the opportunity to work with Lorraine when she stepped forward -when no one else would - to chair the Hawaii Democratic Party. She did an outstanding job under trying circumstances to keep our party united, and moving forward. As we all know, even with our big "democratic" tent, it can often be a challenge to keep all of us in the tent and singing from the same song sheet. Lorraine did so with diligence and a determination to succeed. It was a pleasure to be a part of her team.

We believe that Lorraine would make an excellent PUC commissioner. She understands the big picture and the critical importance of reducing our state's reliance on foreign oil, while at the same time being mindful of the financial impact to us as consumers. Her experience in administration, arbitration and representation of clients in the broad energy field prepares her well to take a seat on the Public Utilities Commission to move our beloved state forward toward a greater energy self-reliance in the years ahead.

We respectfully request your favorable confirmation of Lorraine Akiba. Thank you for your consideration.

Dianne Winter Brookins
1001 Bishop St, Ste 1800
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 524-1800

March 15, 2012

Via email: CPNTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: In Support of the Nomination of Lorraine H. Akiba
Public Utilities Commission; G.M. No. 647
Hearing Date/Time: March 16, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.**

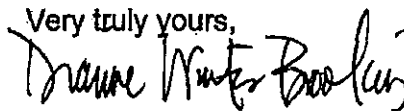
Dear Chairman Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

I write in support of the nomination of Lorraine H. Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC").

I am a shareholder and director of the law firm of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, but I am writing in my personal capacity. I have been an attorney in the State of Hawaii since 1993. I am currently Vice President of the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation ("HWLF") and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health, and serve on the board of Hawaii Women Lawyers. I have both personal knowledge of Lorraine Akiba and knowledge of her professional competency and reputation.

I have known Lorraine for approximately ten (10) years. Over those years, I have been impressed by Lorraine's broad understanding of the legal and business community in Hawaii and her insight and intuition in the handling of her clients' concerns. Lorraine and I have served together on the Board of Directors for HWLF over the entire period of our acquaintance, and have been co-counsel in a number of litigation matters involving the highly regulated insurance industry. Lorraine's legal advice is always practical, well-founded, and client-focused. Her extensive experience in nonprofit governance, private practice, and State government make her extremely well-qualified for the position on the PUC for which she has been nominated.

I urge the Committee to support her appointment. Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Dianne Winter Brookins

March 14, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Brian Taniguchi
Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Lorraine Akiba's Nomination to the Public Utilities Commission; GM 647

Dear Senator Baker and Senator Taniguchi:

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the nomination of my law firm colleague, Lorraine Akiba, to the Public Utilities Commission. I was pleased to hear that Ms. Akiba had been nominated by Governor Abercrombie to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Lorraine for a number of years as a colleague of mine at the law firm McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP ("M4"). Ms. Akiba is a litigation partner at M4 who heads our environmental practice group.

Over those years, Ms. Akiba has shown me to be a person of integrity and strong moral character. Her demanding law practice requires her to have the intelligence, energy, and people skills to deal with difficult legal issues. In addition to the above attributes, her prior public service and experience as the State of Hawaii Director of Labor and Industrial Relations under Governor Cayetano's administration make her qualified to execute her duties as a commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

I respectfully ask that you and your committee support Ms. Akiba's nomination as a commission member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Sincerely,

Franklin K. Mukai

John F. Molay
469 Ena Rd. #202
Honolulu, HI 96815
(808) 949-9676

The Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn: Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Re: GM 647—Consideration and Confirmation of Lorraine Akiba
As Commissioner on Public Utilities Commission
Date: March 16, 2012
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Room: Conf. Rm. 229

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

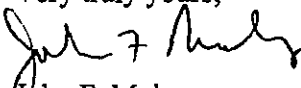
I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Lorraine Akiba as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission. I strongly support this nomination, and urge the Committee to confirm Ms. Akiba's appointment to this position.

As a Deputy Attorney General I had the pleasure of working closely with Ms. Akiba on a large class action suit involving the State of Hawaii and two large insurance companies, one of whom was represented by Ms. Akiba. We worked closely for more than two years representing our respective clients, culminating in a three-week trial in federal court. During that time I had the opportunity to observe Ms. Akiba's commitment to her clients, her outstanding legal skills, and her strict compliance with professional ethics.

Ms. Akiba enjoys an excellent reputation in the legal community. I have never heard another attorney make a disparaging remark regarding her. She certainly has the expertise to be a PUC Commissioner, given her background as a commercial litigator and the head of her firm's environmental practice group. Additionally, she brings a wealth of experience regarding the functioning of a State administrative agency, given her tenure as the Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations during the Cayetano administration.

The State is indeed fortunate that Ms. Abiba is once again willing to serve the people of the State of Hawaii as a member of the PUC. I would urge this Committee to swiftly confirm Ms. Akiba to the position of a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

Very truly yours,


John F. Molay

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012
9:30 A.M.

TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY T. ONO TO
THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 647 – RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, LORRAINE AKIBA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2018**

My name is Jeff Ono. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Hawaii since 1980. I am an active member in good-standing with the Hawaii State Bar Association. Currently, I am the Executive Director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy. My testimony in support of the nomination of Ms. Lorraine Akiba for the position of commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") is being offered from me personally, not in my capacity as Consumer Advocate.

I have known Ms. Akiba for over 30 years in the private practice of law. I offer this testimony based upon my personal knowledge of Ms. Akiba's abilities and professionalism as an attorney. While I was in private practice, Ms. Akiba and I handled cases where we represented co-defendants in lawsuits in which condominium associations alleged that they were entitled to damages for design and construction defects. These cases involved complex engineering, economic, and construction methodology issues. Ms. Akiba was always well-prepared, diligent, and zealous in the representation of her clients. Moreover, Ms. Akiba is honest, ethical, and trustworthy as an attorney and as a person.

I am confident that Ms. Akiba will work well with PUC Chair Hermina Morita, Commissioner Michael Champley, and the PUC staff.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

LEE-ANN MITSUNAGA BREWER

March 14, 2012

GM 647: Submitting for consideration and confirmation
to the Public Utilities Commission,
LORRAINE AKIBA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Hearing: Friday, March 16, 2012, 9:30 am

before the

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

My name is Lee-Ann Brewer, and I support the appointment of Lorraine Akiba as Hawaii Public Utilities Commissioner.

Ms. Akiba is eminently qualified to perform the duties of Public Utilities Commissioner. She has extensive experience in environmental law, litigation and arbitration, as well as administrative agency management as former Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

I am an attorney in state practice, and had the pleasure of working with Ms. Akiba on a large civil litigation matter. She was at all times knowledgeable, professional, confident, and an effective advocate.

Her commitment to public service is evident from her long and active participation in many organizations, boards and commissions that support the legal community, those in need, and our community as a whole. This combination of skill and dedication to public service will serve the State of Hawaii well.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Ms. Akiba's appointment as Hawaii Public Utilities Commissioner. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I write in STRONG SUPPORT of the Governor's nomination of LORRAINE AKIBA to the Public Utilities Commission.

I am employed by the Department of Education as a teacher, and write in my individual capacity. I have known Lorraine socially for over ten years. Her professional experience as an attorney and as Director of the of the Department of Labor will serve her well. Lorraine is intelligent, hard working, fair, and exercises good judgment. She is also an honest, good person.

I believe she would become an excellent member of the Public Utilities Commission, and strongly recommend her confirmation.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Denise E. Yamashiro

Dear Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Brian Taniguchi, Sen. Josh Green, Sen. Malama Solomon, Sen. Sam Slom, Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, and Sen. Clarence Nishihara
(Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection):

I am a resident of Captain Cook, South Kona, Hawaii, and submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of LORRAINE AKIBA to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Lorraine Akiba for over twenty years! I got to know Lorraine when we were both young lawyers and active in the American Bar Association and the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA). She served as President of the HSBA Young Lawyers Division when I was Secretary. We worked on public service projects like Christmas in January for foster children, Meet-a-Lawyer and Law Week. Today, I consider Lorraine Akiba one of my "sisterhood" friends. We get together every year with our other girlfriends, including Darolyn Lendio, Kathy Matayoshi, Sabrina McKenna, Donna Tanoue, Corlis Chang, Cynthia Nojima, and Audrey Ng.

I have always admired her as a woman leader in Hawaii. She is one of the top woman lawyers in the state and has extensive legal experience in environmental and natural resources law. When she was the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, she had a reputation for being fair and reasonable in leading DLIR involving regulatory issues. I appreciated it when she took the time to visit the neighbor island office in Kealahou. I also recall seeing her in Hilo during the time when she was Director.

Currently, I am the Deputy Planning Director for the County of Hawaii. I share Lorraine Akiba's commitment to help Hawaii move forward to achieve sustainability through energy independence. Our island community can be the leader in alternative and renewable energy development.

Please support Lorraine Akiba's appointment to the Public Utilities Commission.

Mahalo nui loa,

Margaret K. Masunaga
P. O. Box 345
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750
(808) 328-2521
mkmasunaga@aol.com

March 15, 2012

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Gordon K. T. Ing

Re: Governor's Message No. 647

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, I submit testimony in strong support of Lorraine Akiba and ask your favorable consideration and confirmation of her appointment to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

I served as the Administrative Services Officer to Ms. Akiba during her tenure as Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) in Governor Cayetano's administration.

During my tenure at DLIR from early 1970's through 2001, I served nine directors, who were all eminently qualified and distinguished themselves well in upholding statutory mandates and administering departmental programs that provide economic security and further the well-being of workers and employers in the State. Ms. Akiba ranks among the best of DLIR directors in terms of her ability to fully understand and direct labor programs, encourage teamwork and interaction among divisions and offices and with parties external to DLIR, and foster employee morale. Ms. Akiba also achieved more than any other director in terms of forging partnerships with programs in other State agencies to improve our service delivery. She also encouraged employees to embrace the full range of public service to also include involvement and participation in community activities.

Ms. Akiba's work ethic set the standard for department personnel to strive towards. I distinctly remember my initial encounters with her. After her appointment as Labor Director by Governor Cayetano in December 1994,

Ms. Akiba's initial appearance on DLIR premises was on Friday, December 30th. I was allotted 10 minutes that day to meet her for the first time and to hand deliver the 100+ page draft budget testimony that she would present to the House Finance Committee the following Wednesday.

The first work day after the Christmas and New Year's Holidays was Tuesday, January 3rd, 1995. I had a 2:30 p.m. appointment to meet with Ms. Akiba. By that meeting she had obviously devoted many hours to reading and thoroughly digesting and understanding the entire budget document. On nearly every page of the draft budget testimony she had highlighted key points for her reference and she had a multitude of notations as well as insightful and well-thought questions (for my response) not only on program issues and priorities but also on the detailed budget figures. Based upon her questions and comments in that meeting, I was amazed at the breadth of her understanding of DLIR programs in the short period of time. Needless to say, the next day Ms. Akiba was able to capably present the DLIR budget to the House Finance Committee and to deftly field and answer all questions posed by Committee members.

In my subsequent dealings with Ms. Akiba during her tenure at DLIR, I observed that with every issue that she confronts, Ms. Akiba is able to quickly identify key aspects, analyze all relevant facts, weigh alternatives and then render a fair and impartial decision and course of action. I believe her innate analytical abilities, her thirst to fully understanding all facets of the issue at hand, and her commitment to always decide and act upon what is legally and morally correct are among her strongest attributes. Ms. Akiba led by example and she would promptly address all matters brought before her and provide feedback on the same day or no later than the following day. She would in turn expect the same responsiveness of division administrators and office chiefs in carrying out our responsibilities.

I believe these traits and her professional training served her well as the DLIR Director then and now as a successful litigation attorney. In working with Ms. Akiba, I also saw that she had a compassionate side from which she could tap into when deciding upon matters involving our DLIR clients

and DLIR employees. It was always her practice to meet with all involved stakeholders to understand their positions before making a decision.

I sincerely believe Ms. Akiba possesses the skills, attributes, compassion and varied professional experiences that will enable her to competently carry out her duties as a PUC member.

It is with great honor that I respectfully submit testimony in support of the nomination and appointment of Lorraine Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Lorraine since we were young lawyers in the late 1980s involved in the Young Lawyers Division of the Hawaii State Bar Association (YLD). We were both President of the YLD in back-to-back years and committed our time, energy and passion to developing and implementing programs to enhance access to justice and legal services to those who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

Through her commitment to helping the community, Lorraine naturally focused her legal talents on the area she was most passionate about - the environment. She is steeped in experience in matters regarding the environment including energy, alternative energy, and laws and regulations which govern the use or misuse of our environmental resources. I can think of only a handful of people who have had the depth of experience in this area and who can bring a reasoned and logical approach to the issues our community faces today.

Lorraine will bring to the PUC her deep breadth of experience, her legal acumen, her passion for the community, and her commitment to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. I urge the Committee to approve her appointment to the PUC.

Regards,

Darolyn H. Lendio

Honorable Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: GM 647

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, Member of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Ms. Lorraine Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Ms. Akiba for a number of years. She is an energetic, intelligent individual of high character. I believe her experience as a lawyer, partner in a law firm, and Director of Labor and Industrial Relations have prepared her well to execute her duties as a PUC commissioner. The PUC is a challenging job. Ms. Akiba is a person who welcomes a challenge, meets it, and overcomes it. She will be an excellent commissioner – she is thoughtful, analytical, and is not afraid to make the tough decisions.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of this excellent nomination.

With Aloha,

RANDY IWASE

Iris Ikeda Catalani
Kahaluu, Hawaii
Private Citizen

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

RE: GM 647 Lorraine Akiba, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Public Utilities Commission

My name is Iris Ikeda Catalani and I submit this testimony as a private citizen, not in my professional capacity working for the State.

I have known Ms. Akiba for over 12 years in her capacity as both a private attorney and in her capacity as the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. As a private attorney, Ms. Akiba has a wealth of experience in the area of environmental law. She serves as the head of the firm's environmental practice group. She also has the capacity to think and analyze quickly as a litigation attorney. These skills and background will serve her well as a Commissioner for the Public Utilities Commission. In addition, as the Director of DLIR, Ms. Akiba understands the state's administrative and decision making processes. During her tenure as Director she had the opportunity to review complex regulatory issues and provide a fair and reasoned decision on behalf of DLIR.

On a personal level, Ms. Akiba is a hard-working, honest and capable. She also has a deep commitment to public service.

I strongly support Ms. Akiba's confirmation to the State Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Iris Ikeda Catalani

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Senate

Re: GM 647 Testimony
PUC Gubernatorial Nominee, Lorraine H. Akiba

Dear Senator Baker and Senator Taniguchi:

This letter is in support of the gubernatorial nomination of Lorraine H. Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

I've known Lorraine for almost ten years, both on a professional and on a personal level, so I can attest to Lorraine's skills as an experienced attorney and as a friend. Through her skills and experience gained from serving as the head of her firm's environmental group and her substantive knowledge of finance and business law, Lorraine will bring value added skill sets to her duty as a commissioner.

On a personal level, I don't know of anyone as committed and loyal to a friendship then Lorraine. I am confident that Lorraine will bring the same kind of commitment to the PUC and to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Kirk T. Tengan

Corlis J. Chang
932 8th Avenue, Unit A
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

Phone: (808) 547-5677

cchang@goodsill.com

March 13, 2012

Via email: CPNTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 647 Submission of Testimony for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee LORRAINE AKIBA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018

Date: Friday, March 16, 2012

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 229 – State Capitol

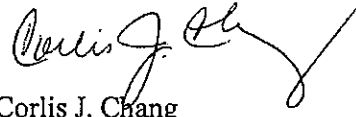
Dear Senator Baker and members of the Committee:

I am honored to submit this testimony on behalf of my colleague and good friend Lorraine Akiba for confirmation to the Public Utilities Committee. I have known Lorraine almost since the beginning of my legal career here in Hawaii in 1987, and although we were at competing law firms for most of those years, I have always known Lorraine to be intelligent, fair and extremely competent in all of her undertakings. I so trusted Lorraine and her abilities that when I had to conflict out of a case, I had no hesitation in recommending her to take over. As I am sure you will be receiving testimony from so many other people regarding her professional capabilities, I would like to focus upon providing insight into the other aspects of Lorraine's character which make her the perfect choice for the Public Utilities Commission.

As previously noted, Lorraine and I knew each other in the legal community for many years, but in more recent years, I have had the distinct pleasure of getting to know her better as a good friend. We are both members of a group of women who are active in the business, education and legal community who get together periodically for fellowship and to discuss issues affecting our communities at large. I am always impressed by Lorraine's insight, passion and commitment to our community. Our discussions are always punctuated with Lorraine's input into how we can make our working and social environment a better place for all. Long before this nomination, Lorraine had expressed her desire to commit those desires into action by being a member of a commission.

Given her background, as well as her high energy, drive and commitment, Lorraine will undoubtedly be an outstanding member of the Public Utilities Commission and I am proud to support her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corlis J. Chang", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Corlis J. Chang

Testimony of William C. McCorriston Before the Senate Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

GM 647,

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, LORRAINE AKIBA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018

March 15, 2012

I am writing to support the nomination of Lorraine Akiba as a Public Utilities
Commission.

It has been my privilege to work with Lorraine at our law firm for eleven years. She has demonstrated her consummate abilities as a lawyer and evidenced a high integrity in everything she has done. Lorraine has been chair of our Environmental Law Section; but her wealth of experience covers almost every type of commercial litigation issue handled by Hawai'i law firms. Outside of her practice, she has devoted herself to assisting the legal profession by participating in the CAAP arbitration program and has been an important figure in The Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation.

Lorraine, a local girl, is also steeped in local culture and values. She is respectful, polite, but firm in her morality. She believes in giving back to her community; hence, her personal service as the State of Hawai'i Director of Labor and Industrial Relations (at a considerable financial negative impact) and her interest again in serving the public at the PUC.

In sum, you have in Lorraine a unique combination of intelligence, legal skills, governmental experience, local values, and government service at the highest levels who has performed capably and with integrity.

If confirmed, I will lose a trusted and valued partner but the community will gain an invaluable asset.

Very truly yours,

Testimony for CPN 3/16/2012 9:30:00 AM GM647

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Carson Godbey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: r.godbey@ieee.org
Submitted on: 3/13/2012

Comments:

I write in support of the nomination of Lorraine H. Akiba for appointment to the Public Utilities Commission. I have known Ms. Akiba both professionally and personally for over twenty years. She is an extraordinary lawyer and a fine person. As you know, she has shown a strong commitment to public service, having previously served as State of Hawaii Director of Labor and Industrial Relations.

One of the most striking things about Ms. Akiba is her energy and devotion to the cause. She does nothing half-way. In addition to her skills as an attorney, she will bring great enthusiasm and liveliness to the challenges facing the PUC. With rising energy prices and a rapidly changing market for regulated communications, the PUC will continue to confront administrative and regulatory challenges; I can think of no one better suited to address those challenges for Hawaii than Ms. Akiba.

I recommend her highly and without reservation.

Very truly yours,
Robert Carson Godbey

Testimony for CPN 3/16/2012 9:30:00 AM GM647

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Keven Matsuura

Organization: Individual

E-mail: kpmatsuura@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/14/2012

Comments:

Testimony for CPN 3/16/2012 9:30:00 AM GM647

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Leslie "Buz" Tennent

Organization: Individual

E-mail: leslietennent@yahoo.com

Submitted on: 3/15/2012

Comments:

Having known Lorraine Akiba for several years, she is an extremely conscientious, dilligent and exemplary public servant who will undoubtedly make an excellent commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

Testimony for CPN 3/16/2012 9:30:00 AM GM647

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Kanthi DeAlwis, MD

Organization: Individual

E-mail: kanthi.dealwis@gmail.com

Submitted on: 3/15/2012

Comments:

As the former medical examiner I've had the pleasure of knowing Lorraine Akiba for several years and know how dilligent, conscientious and dedicated she is to serving the public. I have every confidence she will be an exemplary Public Utilities Commissioner.

TESTIMONY
OF
LORRAINE H. AKIBA
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
on March 16, 2012

GM 647

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORRAINE H. AKIBA, for a term to expire June 30, 2018.

Chair Baker and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I am honored and enthusiastic about the opportunity to be able to serve alongside Chairperson Mina Morita and fellow Commissioner Mike Champley.

I want to also extend a warm aloha and mahalo to everyone that submitted letters of support and testimony on my behalf today.

My interest in serving as a commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") is rooted in my longstanding personal commitment to consumer protection and serving the community and the public interest. I also want to use my professional skills and legal experience to help Hawaii achieve sustainability through energy independence and actions to grow a healthy economy based on clean energy, innovative technology and a skilled local workforce. The PUC has primary regulatory responsibility over key industry sectors such as electrical utilities, telecommunication providers, transportation carriers under the motor carrier and water carrier

laws, and alternative and renewable energy development. It can be a key catalyst in accomplishing Hawaii's sustainability goals in all sectors that fall within its purview.

From my work as a commercial litigation attorney and head of my firm's environmental practice group, I have legal experience and substantive knowledge which can bring added value to the PUC, including financial, real estate and business law and environmental and natural resources law background. In particular, I have represented clients involved in the alternative energy industry such as independent power producers and developers in wind, solar and biomass energy generation; and financial and investment entities who specialize in alternative energy company acquisition and investments.

I have served pro bono for many years as an arbitrator for the Court Annexed Arbitration Program (CAAP) where I have adjudicated and decided legal cases under the CAAP program. I will bring those decision making skills and experience as skill sets to my duties as commissioner in hearings and contest case dockets.

I also have administrative agency and decision making experience from my tenure as the State of Hawaii Director of Labor and Industrial Relations during the Cayetano administration. I had responsibility for administration and oversight of policies and operations of all program divisions and attached administrative agencies under the DLIR. I was responsible for management of 600+ employees statewide including fiscal budgeting, human resources, union grievances and labor grievances with the HGEA. As DLIR Director I also engaged in decision making for contested case matters under the Disability Compensation Division, Unemployment Insurance Division, Wage Enforcement Division and Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division. I am familiar with complex regulatory issues and the need for fair, objective, well reasoned and efficient decision making.

As a member of the PUC, I will bring my analytical skills to assist the Commission with thorough and detailed analysis of recommendations and information in matters brought before the Commission. I will also help to facilitate dialogue and communications with and among the various stakeholders in the industry areas under the PUC's regulatory jurisdiction.

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee for your leadership and hard work on behalf of the people of the State of Hawaii. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today and your consideration of my nomination. Mahalo again to everyone who submitted testimony on my behalf and to those who are also here in attendance supporting me today.

At this time I would be pleased to answer any questions that the Committee may have.