

LATE



HREA
HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE

Directors

Jody Allione
AES-Solar

Joe Boivin
The Gas Company

Kelly King
Pacific Biodiesel

Matt Stone
Sopogy

Warren S. Bollmeier II
WSB-Hawaii

TESTIMONY OF WARREN BOLLMEIER ON BEHALF OF THE
HAWAII RENEWABLE ENERGY ALLIANCE 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 16, 2012

Chair Baker, and Vice-Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am Warren Bollmeier, testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Renewable Energy Alliance ("HREA"). HREA is an industry-based, nonprofit corporation in Hawaii established in 1995. Our mission is to support, through education and advocacy, the use of renewables for a sustainable, energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, economically-sound future for Hawaii. One of our goals is to support appropriate policy changes in state and local government, the Public Utilities Commission and the electric utilities to encourage increased use of renewables in Hawaii.

HREA **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 Experience including Regulated-Utility Matters.

- Ms Akiba has over 30 years as a lawyer with substantial experience and strengths in negotiation and litigation, including working with Independent Power Producers to negotiate contracts to sell renewable energy to the utility, and to litigate disputes.
- Thus, Ms. Akiba already comes not only legally-trained to the Commission, but with the kind of experience that is directly relevant to major issues before the Commission. For example, she is intimately familiar with issues related to integration of renewables on our grids, and thus provides the commission with an "alternate" legal view of appropriate paths to our renewable future.

(2) The X-Factors. The above said, what else do we look for in a Commissioner:

- Certain Physical and Personality Traits: integrity, intelligence, initiative, energy, openness, charisma. We see all of these traits in Ms. Akiba, as we attempt to describe "who she is" and "what she has done."

(3) In Summary. We believe that Ms. Akiba will be a valuable addition to the Commission and we look forward to working with her.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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94-450 Mokuola Street, Suite 106, Waipahu, HI 96767
808.675.7300 | www.ohanahealthplan.com

Friday, March 16, 2012

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

From: 'Ohana Health Plan

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, 9:30 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229

'Ohana Health Plan is managed by a local team of experienced health care professionals who embrace cultural diversity, advocate preventative care and facilitate communications between members and providers. Our philosophy is to place members and their families at the center of the health care continuum.

'Ohana Health Plan is offered by WellCare Health Insurance of Arizona, Inc. WellCare provides managed care services exclusively for government-sponsored health care programs serving approximately 2.6 million Medicaid and Medicare members nationwide. 'Ohana has been able to take WellCare's national experience and that of our local team to develop an 'Ohana care model that addresses local members' health care, long-term care and care coordination needs.

It is with great pleasure that 'Ohana Health Plan supports the nomination of LORRAINE H. AKIBA to the Public Utilities Commission. Ms. Akiba is a dedicated public servant with a wide range of expertise and commitment to excellence. Though our professional encounters with Ms. Akiba are limited to those of attorney-client, our knowledge of her outside accomplishments are not.

We have been privileged to have Ms. Akiba as our outside, local counsel since establishing ourselves in Hawai'i. As our attorney Ms. Akiba has been extremely diligent and successful in providing us with her expert legal services. Her extensive knowledge and ability of the law has made a memorable impression on our company and we consider ourselves very lucky to have been one of her clients.

Ms. Akiba's past experience as the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations under the Cayetano Administration speaks volume as to her capabilities as a strong female leader and commitment to serving the people of the State of Hawai'i. Her appointment to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would further grow the re-building of the Commission under the leadership of former State Rep. Mina Morita.

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The PUC has a very large and varied mandate. It oversees 219 utilities, including telecommunications and energy companies; four water cargo carriers; 679 passenger carriers, such as limousines and tour buses; and 593 land cargo carriers, according to its 2010 annual report. Additionally they have the responsibility of issuing regulatory rulings. It is without a doubt that Ms. Akiba is up to the challenge of serving on the PUC and their mandated duties.

Therefore, it is our pleasure to support and recommend LORRAINE H. AKIBA to be confirmed to the Public Utilities Commission for a six-year term. Thank you for this opportunity to support GM 647-Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORRAINE AKIBA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

LATE

Audrey Hidano
1620 Hau Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012
9:30 A.M.
ROOM 229

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

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

I strongly support the confirmation of Lorraine Akiba to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Ms. Akiba for about 15 years through her legal work with various union construction trust funds; with her position as the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Director (1995 – 2000); and being in contact with neighborhood issues and concerns.

Ms. Akiba has the experience, knowledge and gusto necessary to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission. She has a variety of legal experience that would be an asset to the commission.

Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Akiba's confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission.

Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

THE SENATE
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Friday, March 16, 2012; 9:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 647
LORRAINE AKIBA
FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

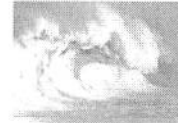
The ILWU Local 142 supports the confirmation of Lorraine Akiba to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

In our experience with Ms. Akiba when she served as the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, we found her to be knowledgeable, open, fair, and dedicated to her work. In the five years she served as Director, Ms. Akiba learned all that she could about the many facets of the Department--from unemployment insurance to workers' compensation to workforce development to health and safety. A quick study, she became extremely well-versed in the programs of the Department, which helped her understand her role of protecting the interests of working people while considering the needs of employers.

We believe that Ms. Akiba will bring the same kind of dedication and integrity to the Public Utilities Commission as she demonstrated in her previous tenure in public service. She is an intelligent, articulate, well-rounded individual who will balance the needs of all in making decisions that will likely affect the entire community in Hawaii.

In the next few years, the PUC will be charged with evaluating and assessing projects that will help Hawaii achieve its goal of generating 40% of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2030. Ms. Akiba's experience in environmental and natural resources law will be a decided asset to the PUC as it deliberates on issues that will have a long-term impact on Hawaii's future.

The ILWU urges the confirmation of Lorraine Akiba for the Public Utilities Commission. Thank you for considering our testimony.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

March 16, 2012, 9:30 A.M.

Room 229

(Testimony is 1 page long)

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 647, LORRAINE AKIBA
TO SERVE ON THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Chair Baker and members of the Committee:

The Blue Planet Foundation supports the confirmation of GM 647, Lorraine Akiba, to serve on the Public Utilities Commission. We believe that Ms. Akiba will bring broad experience and energy to the role while balancing the skills and expertise of the existing commissioners.

Ms. Akiba has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. She has practiced as an attorney for the past decade in areas that include commercial, real estate and business litigation, healthcare law, environmental and natural resources law, commercial litigation and government relations. In addition to her legal work, she served as the State of Hawaii Director of Labor and Industrial Relations (1995-2000) and as Chairman of the Hawaii Democratic Party (2001-2003). She also serves on the HMSA Board of Directors. Ms. Akiba has been 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 was awarded the Outstanding Lawyer Award by Hawaii Women Lawyers in 1990.

Ms. Akiba's background and experience complements the policy and technical experience that Commissioners Morita and Champley possess.

We fully support Ms. Akiba's confirmation as a commissioner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jeff Mikulina, executive director • jeff@blueplanetfoundation.org

55 Merchant Street 17th Floor • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 • 808-954-6142 • blueplanetfoundation.org



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 3226
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801
PHONE: (808) 586-0255
FAX: (808) 586-0231

**TESTIMONY OF
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BRIAN SCHATZ**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
MARCH 16, 2012**

**IN CONSIDERATION OF
GM 647: CONFIRMATION OF LORRAINE AKIBA TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee and Consumer Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of Lorraine Akiba's confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission.

Hawai'i has reached a critical crossroads on the road toward transforming to a clean energy economy. The time has come to move from policy to implementation, from talk to action. There are many challenges that we must overcome, both technical and economic in nature. Everyone in our State has a stake in this and it will require the concerted efforts of consumers, utilities, policy makers and regulators to achieve our clean energy goals.

Lorraine Akiba has the experience and temperament to help our community navigate through these implementation challenges. She has distinguished herself in public service in the past and we are fortunate that she has agreed to return to lend her expertise to the Public Utilities Commission.

Ms. Akiba is thoughtful, knowledgeable and keenly aware of the need to modernize the PUC as we evolve from a fossil-fuel monopoly iteration to a multi-faceted and complicated system of renewable energy sources and their attendant reliability challenges. I urge the Committee to act favorably on Ms. Akiba's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.