

# **GM 633**

## **Testimony**

Hawai'i Commission for National and Community  
Service

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Hawai'i Commission for National and Community  
Service, Gubernatorial Nominee, **CLAUDE ONIZUKA**,  
for a term to expire 6-30-2016.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

Thursday, March 7, 2013, 2:45 PM  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol

Testimony of  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

GM 633  
Consideration and Confirmation of Claude Onizuka  
To the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to nominate Claude Onizuka to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. His term will end on 6/30/2016.

Claude Onizuka has worked as a Branch Manager for Kona Community Federal Credit Union for 16 years with additional experience in travel service. He is a graduate of Konawaena High School and attended Honolulu Business College. Mr. Onizuka served the United States Army in the Vietnam War and continues to serve the greater community. As President of the Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Committee, and Director of the Challenger Center of Hawaii, Mr. Onizuka works to engage the youth in critical areas of math, science and engineering. His dedication to inspiring future generations will be an asset in moving our state forward.

I am excited that Mr. Onizuka is willing to serve on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I am sure that you will find him qualified for the commission, and I encourage you to confirm him.



**Hawai'i Commission for National  
and Community Service**  
University of Hawai'i  
1601 East-West Road, JAB 4019  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96848

**Stacy Higa**  
Executive Director

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February 1, 2013

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi  
Senate District 11  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Chairman Taniguchi and the Senate Higher Education Committee,

I am pleased to support the appointment and confirmation of Mr. Claude Onizuka to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

This Commission enacted by Federal Statute, is responsible for administering and receiving federal funds to support AmeriCorps Programs in the State of Hawaii. There are currently 8 programs in the Hawaii portfolio, with approximately 350 to 400 members serving throughout the state. The current focus areas of our programs concentrate on land conservation, legal help for the needy, sustainable agriculture, early childhood care, and helping people with disabilities find employment.

The composition of the Commission by Federal statute requires a minimum of 15 members, an equal representation of political parties with NO one party having a majority, and representation of various professional occupations.

Mr. Onizuka will represent the Business Community and the Not for Profit sector. I have known him for a number of years, and have seen the good work that he has done throughout the state in educating and inspiring youth to follow their dreams through the Onizuka Foundation Astronaut program. His commitment to service and volunteerism is without question.

Please allow Mr. Onizuka the opportunity to serve on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

Respectfully,

Stacy K. Higa  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Commission for National & Community Service

William P. Kenoi  
*Mayor*

Walter K.M. Lau  
*Managing Director*



Gerald A. Takase  
*Director*

## County of Hawai'i

### Department of Liquor Control

Hilo Lagoon Centre, 101 Aupuni Street, Unit 230, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4261  
(808) 961-8218 • Fax (808) 961-8684

February 5, 2013

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chairman  
Senate Higher Education Committee  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Rm. 219  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Honorable Chairman Taniguchi and Members:

Re: Nomination of Claude Onizuka to the Hawai'i Commission  
for National and Community Service


It is with deep pleasure that I write this letter of support for Claude Onizuka to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service.

I have known Claude for a number of years through his involvement with the Liquor Commission for the County of Hawai'i. Claude is a life-long resident of Kona and has always promoted and represented his community and the State in making sure it is a better place to live.

As a representative on various government boards and commissions, to his work with the Boy Scouts of America, Kona Junior Golf, and his lifetime commitment to continue the memory of his late brother, Astronaut Ellison Onizuka, Claude has always taken the time and devoted himself to whatever task he has undertaken.

Claude has the passion, integrity and commitment to do the job, and I wholeheartedly recommend and support his nomination to the Hawai'i Commission on National and Community Service.

Sincerely,

  
GERALD TAKASE  
Director

GT:de



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
March 7, 2013 at 2:45 pm

by

Lui K. Hokoana, Ed.D.  
Associate Vice President of Student Affairs  
University of Hawai'i System

GM 633 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLAUDE ONIZUKA, for a Term to expire June 30, 2016

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the committee:

I would like to support the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Claude Onizuka to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service. His expertise in the area of Government relations and the Not for Profit Sector, will add to the diversity and experience of the Commission.

The Commission has been administratively attached to the University's Vice President of Student Affairs Office for more than 10 years. Each year the Commission is responsible for managing the Americorps programs which accounts for approximately \$2.2 to 2.8 million dollars of federal money coming into our state.

As the host agency, our office is pleased with the progress and competitiveness the Hawai'i programs have shown over the past years. The Hawai'i Commission continues to provide out-reach to a diverse cross section of not for profit entities.

On behalf of my office and the University of Hawai'i, please accept this letter of support for Mr. Claude Onizuka's appointment to the Commission. The Commission's Executive Director will be present to answer any questions or concerns regarding this important appointment.

If I may be of further service, please do not hesitate to call upon me. Thank you very much for your consideration.



February 5, 2013

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senate Higher Education Committee  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 219  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Honorable Chairman Taniguchi and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee:

This is a letter of **support** for **Mr. Claude Onizuka's** nomination to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service.

As a member of the Hawai'i Island business community, I have had the occasion of working with Mr. Onizuka on a number of matters for well over 20 years. I have also served with him as a member of the Hawai'i County Liquor Commission between 2008 through 2011, during which time he served as its chair.

In all of my dealings with him, he has demonstrated a leadership style and a commitment that was focused and fair. All the while, as one involved with the banking and other industries, he has been extremely mindful of the need for a diversified economy. His leadership ability and his dedication to the tasks at hand made him quite effective in getting things done. He also works well with the community, as evidenced by his servicing as a community liaison for a major West Hawaii residential-agricultural project for over 10 years. More recently, he has been retained to do the same type of task for a major company that specializes in coffee production.

At the same time, he has still been active with the community by volunteering his time with such erstwhile activities likes the Kona Coffee Cultural Festival and, of course, a project that is quite dear to him, the Onizuka Foundation Astronaut program.

In my professional and personal opinion, I strongly believe that Mr. Onizuka – with his strong interest in agriculture, community service, education - would be an asset to this Commission and thus respectfully request your confirmation of him. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

  
SIDNEY M. FUCE

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
CLAUDE ONIZUKA TO THE COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY  
SERVICE

March 7, 2013

To: Chairman Brian Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am testifying in support of Claude Onizuka to the Commission for National and Community Service.

Claude has not only been a very active contributor on the Big Island but is also a very active community member throughout Hawaii. I have been acquainted with Claude Onizuka for many years but got to know him well over the past seven years while we worked together on issues during the Legislative Sessions from 2006 – 2011.

Claude has always been a great listener and we have had some very interesting discussions ranging from different business related topics to state and national politics and government. He has always impressed me as a responsible and diligent community member, and I know that he has spent many hours contributing to the public especially in his brother's memory for the Ellison Onizuka Science Day that is held every year.

Claude is especially noted for his positive attitude and willingness to contribute to community service and education. He is very dedicated to community issues and I am confident that he will be a great asset to the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.