

# GM 634

## 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, **CHRISTOPHER WONG**, for a term to expire 6-30-2015



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 634  
Consideration and Confirmation of Christopher Wong  
To the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

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

I am pleased to nominate Christopher Wong to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. His term will end on 6/30/2015.

Christopher Wong has extensive experience in marketing and public relations. In his roles at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives and the Juvenile Diabetes Research and Foundation International, he has exercised his expertise in business development and community coordination.

In addition to his professional experience, Mr. Wong is an active member of the community, volunteering with organizations such as the Hawaii Special Olympics, the Battleship Missouri Memorial and the Boy Scouts of America Aloha Council. Mr. Wong will be a swift addition to this committee due to his notable success in brand building, event planning and innovation.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request that you confirm Christopher Wong to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

TULSI GABBARD  
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER AND MARITIME  
SECURITY  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1102

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<http://www.gabbard.house.gov>

March 1, 2013

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard  
GM, 634 Letter of Support for Christopher Wong  
Before the Senate Committee on Higher Education

Dear Chairman Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

I am writing to support the reappointment of Mr. Christopher Wong to a second term on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

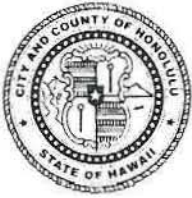
Over the years, I've found Christopher to be an individual of integrity and sincerity with a deep sense of commitment to his community. Through his work and accomplishments with a wide-variety of organizations, Christopher has gained experience and perspective that is an asset to the goals of the commission and a benefit to the people of Hawai'i.

I was continually impressed with his ideas and thoughts on issues impacting our community, and have encouraged him to continue his path in public service. Therefore, please accept my support for a second term for Christopher on the Commission, as he continues to embody the overall spirit of volunteerism in all his efforts.

Sincerely,



TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Hawaii



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

JOEY MANAHAN  
COUNCILMEMBER  
(808) 768-5007  
(808) 768-5011 (fax)  
e-mail: [jmanahan@honolulu.gov](mailto:jmanahan@honolulu.gov)

28 February 2013

Dear: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair of the Senate Committee for Higher Education, and Members:

I humbly submit my testimony in support of the nomination of Christopher J. Wong to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service. I respectfully urge the members of the HRE to advance his nomination by Governor Neil Abercrombie.

As the former Vice Speaker in the Hawaii State House of Representatives representing the 29<sup>th</sup> District and current Honolulu City Council Councilmember of District 7, I have represented the greater Kalihi area since 2006. I have had the opportunity to know Chris for the past few years and I have valued his unwavering presence as he serves as the chair of the Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board. Christopher is a highly approachable person and is always willing to help his fellow neighbors.

I have the utmost confidence that Christopher has the ample capability to serve the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community service to the best of his ability and in the best interests of the people of the State of Hawai'i in mind. I look forward to seeing Christopher being given the opportunity to serve the Commission yet again.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at [jmanahan@honolulu.gov](mailto:jmanahan@honolulu.gov) or by phone at (808)-768-5007. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joey Manahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Councilmember Joey Manahan  
City & County of Honolulu, District VII





**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

Phone: (808) 956-8145  
Fax: (808) 956-2950  
Email: [hicncs@hawaii.edu](mailto:hicncs@hawaii.edu)

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. Christopher Wong to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service for a second term.

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. Wong will represent the Volunteer Sector. I have had the privilege to work with him the past two years on the Commission, and he has been a very valuable leader in supporting community service and volunteerism in Hawaii. His appointment will also allow the Commission to maintain the equal balance between political parties that is needed to remain compliant with the Federal Statutes.

Please allow Mr. Wong the opportunity to continue to serve on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service by confirming him to another term.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy K. Higa".

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



# 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 634 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER WONG, for a Term to expire June 30, 2015

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

I would like to support the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Christopher Wong to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service. His expertise in the area of Government relations and the Volunteer 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. Christopher Wong'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.

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**From:** Lynn Vasquez [lynn.vasquez@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 01, 2013 10:18 AM  
**To:** HRETestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Chris Wong GM634

Aloha, Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chair, Higher Education Committee

Reference GM634

I support the appointment of Chris Wong.

I've known him for many years and he  
is a great leader as well as citizen.

Much Aloha,

Lynn Vasquez

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Lynn Vasquez  
President/Co-founder  
Slippah Foundation  
Ph:808 847-2221

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***I GOING SUE YOU!***



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**From:** Jeffrey Bingham Mead [jeffreybinghammead@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 06, 2013 2:28 PM  
**To:** HRETestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony: Reference GM634 Gubernatorial Nominee: CHRISTOPHER WONG Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service

March 6, 2013

Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Chair, Higher Education Committee  
Hawaii State Senate

Dear Senator Taniguchi:

My letter to you today is in support of Christopher Wong. He is under consideration as a gubernatorial nominee for confirmation to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

Christopher Wong exhibits a range of talents and skills that will enrich the work of the commission. In 2012 Christopher Wong was voted on to the Board of Directors of History Education Hawaii, Inc., the official "council" of the National Council for History Education. In his roles with History Education Hawaii and at the Hawaiian Mission Houses Museum and Archives -where I first met Christopher- he has earned professional admiration and trust while building an outstanding service record.

Christopher's enthusiasm, bright mind and unwavering commitment to service will be assets to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information or perspective regarding this outstanding young man.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Bingham Mead

President and Co-founder, History Education Hawaii, Inc.

Lecturer, Continuing Education Arts & Sciences, and International Programs, Kapiolani Community College