



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

G.M. NO. 648, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE UNIFORM LEGISLATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE LANI EWART, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2017.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE: Monday, March 25, 2013 **TIME:** 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): David M. Louie, Attorney General, or
Russell A. Suzuki, First Deputy Attorney General, or
Maurice S. Kato, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General strongly supports the reappointment of Lani Ewart to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation of the Department of the Attorney General.

Members of the state Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation are Hawaii's representatives to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Lani Ewart is an attorney at law who has steadfastly and with distinction served on the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation continuously since 1977. She currently serves as the Chair of the Commission and has regularly attended and actively participated in the meetings of the Commission.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws requires that each appointed commissioner be a lawyer licensed to practice law and that each commissioner personally attend and participate in the annual meeting of the National Conference. Commissioner Ewart has regularly attended and participated in the annual meetings, even when the amount of appropriated moneys available was insufficient to reimburse her fully for her travel expenses. In recognition of her dedicated service to the promotion of uniform laws, Commissioner Ewart was elected in 1998 to Life Membership in the National Conference. To become a Life Member, a commissioner must serve the National Conference in the voluntary drafting and review of uniform laws for at least twenty years, must be recommended by the National Conference's Executive Committee, and must be elected by an affirmative vote of two-

thirds of the commissioners present and voting at the session at which the recommendation is made. Lani Ewart was the first woman commissioner to be elected to Life Membership in the then 106-year history of the National Conference.

During her most recent term that began on July 1, 2010, she served as a member of the Executive Committee, the governing body of the National Conference, as a member of the Drafting Committee on Uniform Statutory Trust Entity Act, of the Drafting Committee on Partition of Tenancy-in-Common Real Property Act (which was renamed to the Partition of Heirs Property Act), of the Standby Committee on Partition of Heirs Property Act, and of the Standby Committee on Uniform Statutory Trust Entity Act, and as a liaison member to the Uniform Law Foundation Trustees. She attended committee meetings as scheduled and each annual meeting of the National Conference held on the mainland during her present term of office.

In view of her demonstrated commitment to the promotion of uniform legislation and her continuing and significant participation in the activities of the National Conference and of the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, the continued service of Lani Ewart as a member of the Commission and the National Conference will be greatly beneficial to the State of Hawaii and the National Conference. Consequently, the Attorney General respectfully requests that this Committee recommend the confirmation of the reappointment of Lani Ewart to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation.

March 21, 2013

Committee on JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Hawaii State Capitol
c/o Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 648
DATE: Monday, March 25, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Nomination of Lani Ewart to the Commission to Promote Uniform
Legislation

Dear Senator Hee:

This letter is written to enthusiastically support the nomination of Lani Ewart to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation. ("CPUL"). As a member of the CPUL, Lani acts as a representative of the State of Hawaii to the Uniform Law Commission, the national organization responsible for drafting many of the uniform laws enacted in Hawaii and other states throughout the country.

Lani has been a member of the CPUL since 1977. As is the case with all other Commissioners, she receives no compensation for her time. Yet she freely and enthusiastically gives many, many hours of her time in service to her position. She has served on the Executive Committee of the national organization, raising both the profile and the stature of the Hawaii delegation. She has sat on drafting committees, which do the "heavy lifting" of drafting proposed uniform laws for approval by the national organization and later by the states. She has acted as a liaison between the national organization and local interest groups, and provides testimony to our Legislature on uniform laws which are being considered for enactment.

Further, because the State of Hawaii has sometimes had limited or no funds in its budget to pay for travel expenses, Lani has in the past utilized her own resources to attend the annual conference of the national organization, representing the State of Hawaii. Please be assured that this conference is a working conference, and its attendees spend each day in plenary meetings or committee meetings, during which various uniform laws are considered, discussed, and worked on.

Committee on JUDICIARY AND LABOR
March 21, 2013
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At the end of the conference, each State delegation is called upon to vote for or against the uniform or model acts then under consideration. Lani's presence at the conference ensured that our State was represented and its voice heard. The fact that she gave up both her valuable time and, sometimes, her personal resources, to represent our State at these important events is a tribute to both her dedication and her recognition of the importance of the work of the conference to our State.

Lani Ewart is a great asset both to the State of Hawaii and to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, and I hope you will not hesitate to confirm her appointment to a new term.

Very truly yours,



KEVIN P.H. SUMIDA

Governor's Message No. 648

**Confirmation of LANI EWART to the
State Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation**

**Presented to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature, Regular Session of 2013**

**HEARING DATE: Monday, March 25, 2013, at 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016**

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ken Takayama, and I am a member of the State Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation. Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the confirmation of Ms. Lani Ewart to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation for a term to expire on June 30, 2017.

I have had the pleasure of serving with Lani on the state commission for the past eighteen years. I can say without reservation that she has been a hard working, conscientious, and dedicated member during her entire tenure. During this last term, she has served as the Chair of our state commission, and within the national organization of the Uniform Law Commission, has been a respected and well regarded commissioner for many years.

Her intellectual acumen and personable demeanor make her highly effective in accomplishing the goals of both the state commission as well as the national Uniform Law Commission. She is everything that this State and her fellow commissioners would want in a commissioner.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ken H. Takayama
Commissioner
State Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation
5567 Pia Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

GM 648

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation,
Gubernatorial Nominee, LANI EWART,
for a term to expire 6-30-2017**

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, Regular Session of 2013

Hearing: March 25, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present my background for your consideration of my confirmation to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (the "Commission").

I was born and raised in Honolulu, attended public schools and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree with highest honors from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I then attended law school at the University of California at Berkeley and have practiced law with the Honolulu firm of Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel LLP for over 35 years.

As a commissioner on the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, I have also had the privilege of serving as a commissioner on the national Uniform Law Commission. I have participated in drafting uniform laws for adoption in all states to resolve conflicts that arise when citizens of one state travel, visit or do business in another state. Additionally, on behalf of the Commission, I have testified before the Hawai'i Legislature in support of uniform acts in the areas of commercial law, probate and trust law, family law and administrative law. Our Commission has a good record of securing the passage of many uniform acts over the years for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i.

I look forward to being able to continue this important work. I ask you to support my nomination to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation.

Thank you.



Lani Ewart

hee2 - Kathleen

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:52 PM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc: vested_interest_hi@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM648 on Mar 25, 2013 10:30AM

GM648

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for JDL on Mar 25, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room 16

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Lani Ewart to the Uniform Law Commission
My name is Elizabeth Kent and I am one of Hawaii's Uniform Law Commissioners. In that role, I have had the pleasure of working with Lani Ewart, who is the chair of Hawaii's Commission. This testimony is in strongest support of her confirmation. Lani is widely respected by commissioners from Hawaii and other states for her intelligence, dedication, and hard work. It is a sign of the national commission's respect for Lani that she was asked to be part of the leadership. For me, Lani personifies the ideal commissioner and I urge you to confirm her nomination as soon as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strongest support of Lani's nomination.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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