

GM 689

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHELDON BIGA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Report Title: Land Use Commission

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: WTL

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
3/1/2013	S	Received.
3/1/2013	S	Referred to WTL.
3/20/2013	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 03-28-13 1:15PM in conference room 225.

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
ON
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 689

March 28, 2013

RELATING TO SHELDON BIGA FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION

Dear Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for the nomination of Mr. Sheldon Biga to the State Land Use Commission.

I have known Mr. Biga for over 4 years during my previous work experience at the County of Maui and as a fellow resident of the county. Mr. Biga has been very involved in a number of community organizations focused on long-term issues of importance to the future of Maui and the State of Hawaii. He has played an active role in furthering the discussion of balancing water access and rights between traditionalists, agriculturalists, and landowners. The eventual resolution of this issue will be formative for every island, county and the State in setting the direction for growth, sustainability, as well as the overall future for every industry in Hawaii's economic future. For Mr. Biga to be involved on such an integral issue demonstrates his ability to contemplate the variety of dynamics at play in an issue.

Mr. Biga has a long work history with HC&S, one of the largest agricultural employers remaining in the County of Maui. Yet, Mr. Biga's philosophy on his role with the Land Use Commission (LUC) is very holistic and multi-dimensional. He sees the important significance of the LUC as an opportunity to develop a balance between economic, cultural, and agricultural interests.

There is no doubt that the task for the LUC is of significant consequence to the future of Hawaii. I believe that the commission would benefit from commissioners who are dynamic and strategic thinkers. And, I believe Mr. Biga has demonstrated that he can bring those perspectives to the Commission.

Mr. Sheldon Biga has been serving as a commissioner to the LUC since June 2012. He has already demonstrated the willingness and capability to contribute to the Commission. I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land to support his selection by voting favorably on his nomination and advancing G.M. 689 for full Senate confirmation.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor

SHAN TSUTSUI
Lieutenant Governor

RICHARD LIM
Interim Director



LAND USE COMMISSION
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
State of Hawai'i

DANIEL ORODENKER
Executive Officer

BERT K. SARUWATARI
Planner

SCOTT A.K. DERRICKSON
Planner

RILEY K. HAKODA
Chief Clerk

FRED A. TALON
Drafting Technician

March 20, 2013

Statement of
Daniel Orodenker,
Executive Officer, State Land Use Commission
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Thursday, March 28, 2013

1:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of

GM 689

**CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION
OF SHELDON BIGA**

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and the Honorable Malama Soloman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing.

My name is Daniel Orodenker, and I am the Executive Officer of the Land Use Commission ("LUC"). I am here to respectfully request that this Committee favorably consider the nomination of Mr. Sheldon Biga to serve as Commissioner for a two-year term as an At-Large member ending on June 30, 2015.

To my personal knowledge Mr. Biga has worked hard to find common paths to resolution of a number of difficult community issues and has been a leader in working for the betterment of his community. He has a deep seated love of his island home of Maui which lends important insight to the Commission.

Mr. Biga's resume illustrates his contributions to the Maui community and as a long-time employee of a respectable agricultural firm in the community. It is clear that Mr. Biga will bring a new perspective to the Land Use Commission.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Biga's nomination to serve as Commissioner on the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before this Committee.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-2155
Telephone (808) 270-7855
Fax (808) 270-7870
e-mail: mayors.office@mauicounty.gov

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meja
COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

March 25, 2013

Honorable Senator Malama Solomon
State Committee of Water and Land
Senatorial District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF MAUI COUNTY MAYOR ALAN M. ARAKAWA IN
SUPPORT OF SHELDON BIGA TO THE STATE LAND USE
COMMISSION (GM689)**

Dear Honorable Senator Solomon:

As Mayor of the County of Maui I am very happy to support the nomination of Mr. Sheldon Biga to the State Land Use Commission. Sheldon has been a very valuable member of the Maui Community. He is an active participant to many organizations. He is currently serving as member of the Board of the Christ the Kings School and Vice President of the Board of the Valley Isle Community Federal Union.

As an employee of the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company (HC&S), Sheldon is the chairman of Unit 2101 of the ILWU – Local 142. His leadership and unselfish effort to help his members, as well as, work with the company's management is instrumental in the success of the sugar company. As we all know, HC&S is the last surviving sugar operation in the State.

I am confident that if confirmed to serve the Commission, Sheldon will be open-minded, fair, and thorough in his decision-making process for the benefit of all the people of Hawaii. He has proven himself to be a dedicated community-minded leader with his volunteerism in the Maui Community.

I would respectfully request your support and confirm Sheldon to serve in the State Land Use Commission as nominated by Governor Abercrombie.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Arakawa".

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor, County of Maui

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR

DANILO F. AGSALOG
DIRECTOR

MARK R. WALKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
TELEPHONE: (808) 270-7844 • FACSIMILE: (808) 270-7878

March 27, 2013

Honorable Senator Malama Solomon
State Committee of Water and Land
Senatorial District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Mr. Sheldon Biga's Nomination to the
State of Hawaii Land Use Commission (GM689)**

Dear Honorable Senator Solomon:

It is a great joy for me to learn that Governor Neil Abercrombie has nominated Mr. Sheldon Biga to serve as a member of the State Land Use Commission. I have known Mr. Biga for over 20 years. He is humble, giving, fair and confident leader. As employees of Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company (HC&S) in the early 1990's, Mr. Biga and I served as stewards and officers of the union. I have since left HC&S, but Mr. Biga continued his employment with HC&S and union involvement. Today, he is currently serving as the chairman of the Unit 2101 of ILWU, Local 142.


As a leader of the Union, Mr. Biga has always been fair and objective in dealing with union members and the company management. He is very open-minded and able to incorporate all the facts presented to him prior to his decision making. I am confident that when he is confirmed to serve in the State Land Use Commission, Mr. Biga will be a valuable asset the whole State of Hawaii.

Mr. Biga is very community-oriented man. He serves the community organizations in various capacities. His community activities include the fundraising effort for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Maui Heart Walk and currently serving on the board of the Christ the King School.

It is my great honor to strongly support the nomination of Mr. Biga to the State Land Use Commission based on his demonstrated fairness, leadership, and willingness to serve the community.

Thank you for your much anticipated favorable consideration.

Sincerely,


DANILO F. AGSALOG
Director of Finance

March 25, 2013

Members of the Land Use Commission
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Re: **Mr. Sheldon Biga's Nomination Committee**

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you on behalf of Mr. Sheldon Biga who has been nominated to serve as commissioner on the Land Use Commission.

I have known Sheldon for over twenty (20) years and find him to be a person of integrity as well as a person of good moral character. He has been active in community services such as Juvenile Diabetes and the Maui Heart Walk. He also serves as Vice President on the Board for the Valley Isle Community Federal Credit Union.

I believe Sheldon will work hard at the State and County levels and in our community towards solutions that will positively affect our residents, the island and its resources.

I humbly ask for your support of Mr. Sheldon Biga.

Sincerely yours,

ILWU Local 142
Maui Division

Stephen Castro, Sr.
Division Director

SC:jv

March 25, 2013

Members of the Land Use Commission
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Re: **Mr. Sheldon Biga's Nomination Committee**

Dear Sir/Madaam:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you on behalf of Mr. Sheldon Biga who has been nominated to serve as commissioner on the Land Use Commission.

I have known Sheldon for over twenty (20) years and find him to be a person of integrity as well as a person of good moral character. He has been active in community services such as Juvenile Diabetes and the Maui Heart Walk. He also serves as Vice President on the Board for the Valley Isle Community Federal Credit Union.

I believe Sheldon will work hard at the State and County levels and in our community towards solutions that will positively affect our residents, the island and its resources.

I humbly ask for your support of Mr. Sheldon Biga.

Sincerely yours,

ILWU Local 142
Maui Division

Stephen Castro, Sr.
Division Director

SC:jv

Bill number GM689

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Malama Solomon, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

RE: Mr. Sheldon Biga's Nomination to the Land Use Commission

With honor, I am happy and pleased to submit this testimony on behalf of my brother-in-law, Mr. Sheldon Biga, whose nomination was submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Water and Land Committee by Governor Neil Abercrombie. I am the Executive Office Administrator and Paralegal for Piihola Ranch, LLC in Makawao, Maui.

Mr. Sheldon Biga is my brother-in-law. He was born and raised in Lahaina, Maui. As a youth, he enjoyed the beauty of Maui's beaches, the ocean, its marine life, vegetation, and coral reef.

Being a local boy enjoying the ambience of the ocean, the land, the majestic mountain and the beauty of its natural habitat, he understands and is aware of the significance of preserving Maui's natural beauty together with the need to maintain a prospering economy for the community of Maui.

He is presently employed with Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company (HC&S) as a Lead Millwright. During his 35 years of employment with HC&S, he has learned to appreciate the beauty of the vast majestic acreage of its sugar cane industry on Maui, its philanthropy practice and providing employment opportunities for its employees.

His past and present community involvement include fundraising for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the Maui Heart Walk, the Board of Christ the King School, Business Agent for ILWU Local 142 and current Chairman of Unit 2101, current Vice President of the Board for the Valley Isle Community Federal Credit Union, and has helped several campaigns for political candidates he believes in to help bring their vision to light.

Sheldon and I were volunteers for the annual Christ the King School Keiki Bazaar fundraiser. As we both combined our efforts for various tasks, he helped others in need and asked that they reciprocate in time of need, which was a concerted effort in harmony. The tasks he did involve food preparation, grounds preparation, soliciting donations, soliciting sponsors, unloading merchandise and many others tasks working from "sun-up to sun-down." Being instrumental in supervising other volunteers, delegating tasks, and actually doing much of the tasks with help from others he was the "utility" person. He always works with a "sweat on his brow."

In addition, he was part of an organized effort to develop a structured plan of fair sharing of water resources. He believes in working at both the community level and the official level to develop solutions affecting the island and its resources. Agriculture, a prospering economy and cultural interest are all vital to Maui and must be maintained in balance. He sees the Land Use Commission's responsibility is to maintain this balance for the people and islands of Hawaii.

While having the utmost respect for the Commission's role, he views it as a humble one as it serves the State of Hawaii. Application of the law would take precedent in his decisions. Should his nomination be confirmed, I firmly believe he would serve with fairness, thoroughness, and much consideration.

I highly recommend Mr. Sheldon Biga for the position of Commissioner with the Land Use Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Moani Pao, MBA, CAP

Makawao, Maui