

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 11, 2013
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

G.M. 790

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Highway Safety Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOVANIE DE LA CRUZ, for a term to expire 6-30-2017

Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

The Department of Transportation supports Governor's Message Number 790, relating to the consideration and confirmation to the State Highway Safety Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jovanie Domingo de la Cruz, for a term to expire 06-30-2017.

Mr. de la Cruz's extensive experience, knowledge and training in human social/behavioral research, will make him a valuable member of the council during discussions relating to changing driver behavior.

The Department of Transportation respectfully requests that this Committee confirm Jovanie Domingo de la Cruz to the State Highway Safety Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE BUTAY
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:
(808) 586-2165

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TESTIMONY OF JADE BUTAY

April 11, 2013
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

G.M. 790

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Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

I write to express my strong support for Jovanie de la Cruz to be confirmed to the State Highway Safety Council.

I have personally worked with Jovanie and have always found him to be respectful of input from others, thoughtful and diligent in his analysis, and deeply committed to making Hawaii a better place for all. Despite a busy schedule he is concerned and interested in the lives of those around him. He has an impeccable work ethic and takes the time to be an unselfish friend to others.

His experience and perspective will serve the Council well. His knowledge and ability will make him an ideal member who can listen and learn. As an effective consensus builder, who is modest and unassuming, his predisposition is to understand complex issues before comment or action. I believe he will bring a perspective to the Council that will enhance and enrich its deliberations.

Thank you for your consideration.



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF
GM 790: JOVANIE DE LA CRUZ**

Thursday April 10, 2013
Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

To: Chair J. Kalani English, Vice Chair Donovan dela Cruz and members
From: Amy Agbayani, Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region 12
3432 B-1 Kalihi St., Honolulu 96819

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) strongly endorses Mr. Jovanie de la Cruz's nomination to the State Highway Safety Council. NaFFAA is a national organization and Hawaii is one of the 12 regional chapters. NaFFAA promotes civic participation of Filipino Americans and seeks to increase awareness of Filipino American contributions to social, economic, cultural and political life in the United States. NaFFAA actively support policies that promote equal access, non-discrimination and strong communities.

I have known Mr. Jovanie de la Cruz for over five years, first as an undergraduate student and currently as a colleague at Manoa and community organizations.. We have worked collaboratively on campus and community projects relating to education, community development, Filipino youth and Filipino immigrant issues. I am very impressed with his integrity, knowledge, good judgment and willingness to learn and assist others. Over the years, I have observed him complete complex tasks and work effectively with peers. I am confident he will be a responsible and contributing member of this Council. Mr. de la Cruz is thoughtful and capable of making difficult but fair decisions.

I respectfully ask you to support Mr. dela Cruz's nomination to the State Highway Safety Council. I am taking this opportunity to thank him for his willingness to serve our state as a member of this important Council. It will be a valuable opportunity for him, as a young professional to learn and contribute his talents to an important policy area.

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

3432 B-1 Kalihi Street· Honolulu. HI 96819

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 790

Consideration and Confirmation to the State Highway Safety Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JOVANIE DELA CRUZ, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

April 11, 2013, 1:15pm
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 224

To: Honorable Sen. Kalani English, Chair
Honorable Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs:
Sen. Wil Espero, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran,
Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi, Sen. Malama Solomon, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Agnes Malate, MEd, Filipinos for Affirmative Action
P.O. Box 61068; Honolulu, HI 96839 * armalate@yahoo.com; (808) 388-3019

My name is Agnes Malate and I'm a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action. I enthusiastically support Jovanie Dela Cruz's nomination to the State Highway Safety Council. Jovanie's affable demeanor belies a maturity beyond his years. He disarms those he meets with his quick smile, warm personality, and genuine interest in people. Beneath his easy-going nature is a person of strength, tenacity, and integrity. As a lecturer at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, he inspires and motivates the youth to be engaged in their learning and venture beyond the classroom to get involved in the community. He has gained the respect of university and community leaders he has worked with on projects to increase civic engagement and foster greater understanding and appreciation of Hawai'i's diverse cultures.

I first met Jovanie four years ago when he was a student majoring in political science at UH-Manoa. He has since graduated with his bachelor's degree and has served as lecturer on Filipino language and culture. He has done an excellent job in this capacity and also does outreach to high school students to encourage them to pursue a college education. Proficient in two Philippine languages, Filipino (Tagalog) and Ilokano, he has been a valuable resource in translating information about health and other public service announcements.

Jovanie may lack technical expertise on design and construction of highways, but he provides insight from the perspective of a demographic that is more prone to disregard or be careless about practices to keep state highways safe or utilize modes of transportation that poses high risks of injury such as bicycle, mopeds, motorcycles, and "footmobile". With his extensive network of college students and programs that work with the youth, Jovanie is in a prime position to be able to mobilize college and high school students on highway safety issues. In addition, he is a "high user" of Oahu's roadways since he commutes from Mililani to UH-Manoa and can speak to safety measures that have been effective or are needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony, and I hope you will give Jovanie Dela Cruz's nomination your full consideration.

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 790

Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs
April 11, 2013, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 224

To: Honorable Sen. J. Kalani English, Chair
Honorable Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Honorable Committee Members:
Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Gilbert S.C.
Keith-Agaran, Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi, Sen. Malama Solomon, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Dear Sen. English, Sen. Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am very proud to strongly support the confirmation of gubernatorial nominee Jovanie de la Cruz to the State Highway and Safety Council. The League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

As a former legislator and longtime, active, card-carrying Democrat, I have followed and mentored many Hawaii Filipino youth over the decades. I am proud that in this millennial generation, Jovanie de la Cruz is a shining and emerging young leader with a bachelor's degree in political science, a mind for law school, and the heart for public service to all of Hawaii's diverse people. He worked multiple jobs, including flipping burgers and taking orders at Jack In the Box in Wahiawa, to pay his way through school. Like his model immigrant parents, he has shown to be a humble, tireless, hard working, dedicated young man, whose selfless sacrifices and immense good humor have been behind countless successful Filipino community service endeavors, minority student achievement initiatives for the University of Hawaii, and the magic elbow grease to energize the base of numerous, successful grassroots projects to address disparities. It is not often that youth show such proven and promising outcomes in public service for the greater good.

Thank you for hearing this measure. Your positive consideration of Jovanie de la Cruz's confirmation will be an opportunity that will multiply in greater returns for responsible and responsive public service now and in the future.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

United Filipino Council of Hawaii

P.O. Box 2878 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96802

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 790

Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

April 11, 2013, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 224

To: Honorable Sen. J. Kalani English, Chair
Honorable Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Honorable Committee Members:
Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Gilbert S.C.
Keith-Agaran, Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi, Sen. Malama Solomon, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Jenny Quezon, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

Dear Sen. English, Sen. Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

My name is Jenny Quezon, president of United Filipino Council of Hawaii, an umbrella organization with member organizations from six islands. UFCH membership is comprised of nearly 5,000 individual members.

UFCH strongly supports Governor Neil Abercrombie's nominee, Jovanie de la Cruz, to serve on the State Highway Safety Council. Jovanie is an emerging millennial leader in the Filipino community, who resides in Wahiawa. His commuting experiences as a University of Hawaii student, along with his family and Filipino community members' experiences, will provide a fresh, grassroots perspective to the Council's deliberations to improve the State's highway safety issues. Jovanie is mature beyond his years, focused, organized, and responsible. He received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Hawaii, and has aspirations to become a lawyer. The people of Hawaii will be well served by his appointment, because of his penchant for policy analysis, critical thinking, and systems changes that will be of great practical benefit to all.

Thank you for considering his contributions, his youthful capacity for public service, and for the opportunity to provide support of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Jenny Quezon
UFCH President



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 790

Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

April 11, 2013, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 224

To: Honorable Sen. J. Kalani English, Chair
Honorable Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Honorable Committee Members:
Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran,
Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi, Sen. Malama Solomon, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Past President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

Dear Sen. English, Sen. Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma, past president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. The Coalition strongly supports Governor Neil Abercrombie's nominee, Jovanie de la Cruz, to the State Highway Safety Council.

Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

I have known Jovanie for over seven years as a student leader and later as an advisor for Katipunan, a University of Hawaii student group; as a lecturer in the UH Filipino Language and Literature Program; as a translator for cancer research materials; more recently as a research assistant with the National Cancer Institute Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training; and as a young leader who advocates for social justice to address education, health and labor disparities in the Filipino community.

As such, Jovanie has a critical understanding of Hawaii's second largest ethnic group, and the role of Filipinos to become civically engaged in the common good of our State. He is articulate, a fast study, astute in his political science training of systems analysis and policy. As he prepares for law school, he will contribute as much or more than he gains, if given the opportunity to serve the people of Hawaii on the State Highway Safety Council.

Thank you for hearing this measure, and for your kind consideration of Jovanie de la Cruz's nomination.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH
Past President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 790
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs

April 11, 2013, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 224

To: Honorable Sen. J. Kalani English, Chair
Honorable Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Honorable Committee Members:
Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Gilbert Kahele, Sen. Gilbert S.C.
Keith-Agaran, Sen. Ronald D. Kouchi, Sen. Malama Solomon, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen
c/o 860 Halekauwila Street #2506
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sen. English, Sen. Dela Cruz, and Committee Members:

My name is Jean Jeremiah. As a private citizen, I am proud to provide strong support for Jovanie de la Cruz's confirmation as a gubernatorial nominee to the State Highway Safety Council for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

As president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council, I have supported many cultural events in the Filipino community in which Mr. de la Cruz has assisted in organizing and implementing multiple community service projects with his students, in his role as a Filipino language lecturer in the University of Hawaii Indo-Pacific Language Department. He is also the advisor to Katipunan, a UH registered independent organization for students.

Given his extensive experience in community organizing and providing support services for student achievement in higher education at UH Manoa, Mr. de la Cruz is cognizant of the importance of highway safety issues as it impacts Hawaii's work force, its families, and students for successful outcomes that are critical to Hawaii's economic health and viability.

Mr. de la Cruz is young, energetic, respectful, and possesses excellent communication and interpersonal skills. His bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Hawaii and his ambitions for a career in law and public policy are well-suited for the Council's advisory role to the governor on highway safety programs and activities for the state of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Mr. Jovanie de la Cruz to the State Highway Safety Council.

Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah, Private Citizen