

GM 535

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Real Estate Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROWENA COBB, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Report Title: Real Estate Commission

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

**PRESENTATION OF THE
REAL ESTATE COMMISSION**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014**

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 535.

**TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

My name is Nikki Senter and I serve as the Chairperson of the Real Estate Commission ("Commission"). I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Governor's Message No. 535, regarding the **reappointment** of Rowena Cobb to the Commission. The Commission strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. Cobb's reappointment.

Ms. Cobb has been and continues to be an outstanding contributor and participant in the work of the Commission. She has served on the Commission as the real estate broker member from the County of Kauai for the past three years.

Ms. Cobb's commitment to public service has been outstanding, and her attendance at the Commission meetings has been excellent. She currently serves as the Chairperson of the Education Review Committee, one of the Commission's three standing committees. She is always well prepared for each issue and each meeting, devoting a number of hours studying and researching

materials. She has a keen knowledge of all the laws and rules that affect the Commission's work.

For these reasons, the Commission strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. Rowena Cobb to the Real Estate Commission, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: G.M. 535, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Real Estate Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROWENA COBB, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

HEARING: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am Trudy Nishihara, 2014 President, submitting testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR,") the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,300 members. HAR **supports** G.M. 535, which considers and confirms Ms. Rowena Cobb to serve on the Real Estate Commission.

The Real Estate Commission ("Commission") is geared to protect the consumer through the regulation, education and development of professional standards for real estate licensees. As a well-rounded and community-oriented individual, Ms. Cobb has been an asset to the Commission.

Ms. Cobb obtained her real estate license in 1982, and since then has become Principal Broker and Owner of her own company, Cobb Realty. As the Commission makes important decisions on important aspects of a real estate licensee's vocation, Ms. Cobb brings her years of professional real estate experience to the Commission. Also, Ms. Cobb's non-profit experience at the Bishop Museum, Micronesian Occupational Center in Palau and Hawai'i Medical Service Association help to provide a balanced perspective for the Commission.

Ms. Cobb promotes professionalism to the real estate industry through her countless volunteer hours dedicated to our REALTOR® organizations. Ms. Cobb has served as President of the Kaua'i Board of REALTORS®, Chairperson of the HAR Standard Forms Committee, Chairperson for the HAR Government Affairs Committee, Director at Large on the HAR Board of Directors, and member of the HAR Education Committee.

Ms. Cobb has a passion and dedication to giving back to her community. She currently serves as Director of the Koloa Community Association and Treasurer of the Kaua'i Food Bank. Also, she served as Director and Past-President of Hoike Community Television and as Director of the Kaua'i United Way and KCCR Radio.

For the above reasons, HAR respectfully request your favorable consideration and confirmation of Ms. Cobb's nomination as Kaua'i Representative to the Real Estate Commission.

John Ohama
420 Waiakamilo Road, Suite 113
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

March 7, 2014


Senator Rosalyn Baker
Office of Senator Rosalyn Baker
415 South Beretania Street, Suite 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker,

I am writing to you to support the reappointment to the Real Estate Commission of the State of Hawaii for Mrs. Rowena Cobb. Rowena has contributed her time and expertise to the Commission during her present term and has helped to shape the current commission. As a former Chairperson of the Real Estate Commission, I think that Rowena is an invaluable asset to the commission and has only the best interests of the public and the industry in mind. She is a veteran real estate practitioner who brings her everyday, on the job, "common sense" as well as the balance of technical skills needed to help guide the commission.

Please strongly consider the reappointment of Rowena Cobb to the Real Estate Commission. She is worthy of your very strong consideration and I hope that by reappointing her, the Real Estate Commission, the Real Estate industry, and especially the Real Estate consumer in the State of Hawaii will be the beneficiaries. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



John Ohama
Former Chairman
of the Hawaii Real Estate Commission

Aloha honorable Senator Baker,

It gives me great pleasure to recommend for Senate confirmation, ROWENA COBB for a second term as Kaua'i's Real Estate Commissioner. This akamai LADY is well qualified and educated in the Real Estate field. Rowena possesses great leadership skills and is very much respected in our community. We are fortunate to have someone of her caliber to represent Kaua'i on the Real Estate Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette H. Sakoda

Executive V.P.

Kaua'i Island Finance Inc

2973 Umi St

Lihue, Hi 96766

245-6968

635-2714

245-6969 fax

Beth Holiday
Hawaii Business Training
23 U'au Place
Kula, HI 96790

March 4, 2014

Senator Roz Baker,

I am writing in support of Rowena Cobb's appointment to the Real Estate Commission for a second term. As a Realtor and a Real Estate Education Provider for the state of Hawaii, I have had the opportunity to witness Rowena's contributions during the Real Estate Commission meetings.

Rowena enriches the real estate commission by:

- Demonstrating strong visionary leadership
- Proposing plans of action that are timely, realistic and positive
- Developing relationships on based on dependability and honesty
- Continuously striving to improve performance
- Excelling in effective positive communication
- Thinking logically to achieve solid results
- Effectively analyzing relevant information
- Communicating thoughtfully and with confidence
- Handling situations in a calm, objective manner
- Carefully evaluating alternative risks and the ramifications of each
- Displaying the ability to turn weaknesses into strengths
- Exercising careful deliberations before making decisions

Rowena brings to the commission the incredible blend of a real estate sales knowledge and experience as well as innovative solutions for today's real estate industry. Appointing Rowena Cobb for a second term would not only benefit the consumer but the real estate community overall.

Please contact me should you need any clarification.

Sincerely,

Beth Holiday R(S), ABR CRB GRI

Lloyd Kajikawa
Kalahco, Kauai 96745

03 March 3, 2014

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Office of Senator Rosalyn Baker
415 South Beretania St., 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker

Re: Rowena B. Cobb

In support of the nomination of Rowena B. Cobb for a second term as the Real Estate Commissioner for Kauai, I can attest to her professional ability as a real estate broker and to her knowledge about real estate law. In assisting my wife and me in purchasing our home in Kalaheo, she guided us by providing many options before we made our choice. In closing the deal, her knowledge of real estate law helped us avoid a situation that threatened to derail the deal.

Rowena was a consummate professional throughout the process and I cannot speak more highly of her abilities, knowledge, and aloha spirit.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Kajikawa

Lloyd Kajikawa
Kalaheo, Kauai

Dear Senator Rosalyn Baker:

I enthusiastically support the nomination of Rowena Cobb for a second term as Real Estate Commissioner for Kauai.

I was born and raised on Kauai and have not resided there since leaving for college. Rowena Cobb has managed two older rental properties for me since 1993. She oversees these properties as though they are her own, reminding tenants of their responsibilities, ensuring that buildings and grounds are properly maintained, alerting me of non-routine situations that require attention, and following through on any necessary activity. I have come to have complete confidence in her ability to assess situations, evaluate and recommend solutions, and enlist the services of appropriately skilled professionals. She deals fairly and respectfully with all parties, and I believe that this is a key to her ability to secure the services of in-demand service providers.

Over more than two decades, I have had the chance to observe that Rowena loves to learn, loves to teach, and loves to be of service. I am glad that my beloved home state is benefiting from her wisdom and dedication.

Sincerely,

Irene K. Ogawa

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Office of Senator Rosalyn Baker
415 South Beretania St., 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808-586-6071 (Fax)
baker5@capitol.hawaii.gov

March 7, 2013

Dear Senator Baker,

It is my extreme pleasure to share a few words of support for Rowena B. Cobb's second term as the Real Estate Commissioner for Kauai.

I had the pleasure of first working with Rowena in 2009 when as Chapter President of the Hawaii CRB Chapter, Rowena invited me to join the board of directors. It was really quite something to see the depth of Rowena's commitment to that organization; then and now.

To be honest, I cannot think of a better candidate. Rowena brings an organizational strength and leadership to every organization she is involved with. Groups and committees that have been blessed by her focus and attention are always left better; usually beyond measure after Rowena has rolled up her sleeves and inspired others to do the same.

For the sake of all of us in the real estate industry, please move swiftly to approve Rowena for a second term.

Sincerely,

Chuck Garrett



Chuck Garrett (R) CRB, CRP, CRS
Kahala Associates, COO
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chuck@kahalaassociates.com
[@chuckgarrett](#)

March 4, 2014

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker
From: Peg Ebata
Re: Rowena Cobb Real Estate Commissioner for Kauai

Rowena Cobb has been a long time family friend and professional advisor. The Ebata family will always be grateful for her guidance when my parents purchased a home and undisclosed facts posed problems. Rowena helped them make lemonade out of a very sour lemon!

More recently, we retained Rowena as our property manager and are impressed with her knowledge of the laws governing our property, her diligence in helping us find good tenants, and her firm boundaries in dealing with problematic ones. Throughout, she has not backed down from challenges and has provided us with trustworthy counsel while maintaining a sense of humor.

We know that she will continue to do an excellent job as Real Estate Commissioner for Kauai.

March 4, 2014

TO: Senator Baker
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI

Fm: Mrs. Sharon Kaohi.

I am writing in support of Ms Rowena Cobb's consideration for a second term as the Real Estate Commissioner for Kauai. As rental manager for my Kauai properties in Lawai and Koloa, I find Ms. Cobb to be honest, energetic and professional in communicating with tenants and owners. She values life long learning and willing to consider multiple perspectives on diverse issues. Her knowledge of real estate regulations and market conditions will serve her well as commissioner.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Kaohi
33 S Kalaheo Avenue
Kailua, HI 966734

Aloha, Senator Baker.

I'm writing in support of Rowena Cobb fulfilling a second term as the Real Estate Commission for Kauai as submitted by Governor Abercrombie.

I have served on the board of the Kauai Food Bank with Rowena for several years. The last 2 years have been under Rowena's leadership as the President of the board. Rowena is a consummate professional, deeply passionate about the welfare of Kauai and its residents and a strong leader with refined business savvy. To that end, she is the perfect representative for Kauai as Real Estate Commissioner. Her leadership, passion about giving back to Kauai and 30+ plus years as a real estate professional sets Rowena apart. In addition, Rowena has integrity and will 'do the right thing' when the pressure is on.

It is for these, and many other, reasons that I confidently ask for you to support Ms. Cobb's second term.

Thanks, in advance, for your consideration.

Randy Kozerski, CPA
Former President & Publisher of The Garden Island
808-631-8264
rkozcpa@gmail.com

I salute you Governor Abercrombie and Senator Baker for choosing Ms. Rowena Cobb to be the Real Estate Commissioner for the island of Kauai.

Ms. Cobb is honest, dependable , professional and very qualified to head the Commission. Excellent choice!

More power to you and your administration.

Respectfully yours,

Victorina S. Vilorina
6171 Olohena Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

Senator Baker:

Ms. Rowena Cobb was the realtor who helped me buy a house on Kauai in 2013. She was professional in demeanor, knowledgeable and informed about the properties in the area in which I was looking and was friendly and warm in the Hawaiian way in her interactions with us. In short, I think she did an outstanding job for us in finding and helping us buy our house, and I would not hesitate in using her help again.

Dan Kataoka

Kay K Hill

Rowena Cobb is an Akamai and hardworking realtor and has expansive knowledge in the field.
She will be an asset on the Kauai real Estate Commission.

Sent from my iPad

Response to questions relative to the Real Estate Commission nomination.

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Real Estate Commission?
I have been a part of this body for three years , coupled with my experiences and background, believe I could continue to be an asset in discussion and decision making in the advancement and elevation of professionalism in the real estate profession.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board? **Have a working knowledge of the subject (HRS Statutes, Chapter 99 and parallel information which could be an asset in making sound decisions.**

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board., **My prior experiences as a member and/or chair of many organizations and positions held provide a solid base from which to draw from; these include: 1) charter member./chair -Multiple Listing Services, Inc; n(servicing Kona, Hilo and Kauai Boards of Realtors; 2) member , treasurer, President of Ho'ike (Kauai Public Television);) 3)member, chair of many committees , President Kauai Board of Realtors; 4) member, Director-Hawaii Association of Realtors;, 5) member, Chair-Hawaii Association of Realtors Standard Forms committee; 6) member, Chair- HAR Government Affairs; 7) member, President-CRB (Certified Real Estate Brokerage; 8) HAR and Kauai Board of Realtors Continuing Education Instructor - Getting Started Series for new licensees,, Code of Ethics, Purchase Contract form.. 9) member/President -Kauai Food Bank (current position for third year); Director-Kauai United Way; member, President of the Koloa Community Association , currently a Director.**

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
Assist to increase the level of professionalism with courses that have a direct effect in the performance of licensees that have a direct influence in helping Mr. & Mrs. Public become a home owner.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board. **Good and fair listener, consistent, educated the processes needed to reach decisions.**

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.. Writer and instructor off courses for real estate licenses..

Previous experiences as stated in No 3 above cover an enormous gamut of my ability to work at all levels as well as lead to accomplish tasks set forth by the organization to whom I owe my allegiance.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest? **None at this time.**