

GM 679

Testimony –

LISA DUNN

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service, Gubernatorial Nominee, LISA DUNN, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

Current Referral: HRE



**Hawai'i Commission for National
and Community Service**
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April 10, 2014

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair-Senate Committee on Higher Education
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 Ms. Lisa Dunn 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 9 programs in the Hawaii portfolio, with approximately 350 to 400 members serving throughout the state bringing in over \$3,800,000.00 a year in Federal Funds. 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.

Ms. Dunn will represent Public Safety Expert. I have had the privilege to work with her 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 Ms. Dunn the opportunity to continue to serve on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service by confirming him to another term.

Respectfully,

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

LISA A. DUNN
547 Iliaina Street
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April 15, 2014

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

RE: GM 679, Nomination to Hawaii State Commission on National and Community Service

Good afternoon Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. Please find below my comments in support of my nomination to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service (HCNCS), GM 679.

To begin I would like to thank the Governor for his re-appointment to this important Commission. I wish to continue my service as a member of the HCNCS which promotes volunteerism and community service as official policies of the State of Hawaii. I believe that my background in social work and human services has given me the opportunity to see firsthand the vital role that volunteers participating in formal programs like VISTA and AmeriCorps can have in delivering exemplary services to our communities in Hawaii. Many of our citizens demonstrate every day their desire to volunteer their time, skills, and service to help people in need, the environment, and our educational institutions. This desire to help can be more fully actualized with the necessary incentives and support that the State Commission on National and Community Service can provide. As a former Director of Volunteer Programs and a social work practicum instructor I have learned what it takes to motivate those who desire to provide service to their community. I bring my many years of experience with these programs to the Commission to assist in implementing practical ideas that promote more effective use of volunteers and community service program members. I have many years of experience with the development and management of volunteer programs. My training and experience as a social worker has also contributed to my skills in utilizing volunteers in an effective manner to provide services to victims of domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and human trafficking. My experience as Director of Programs at the Waikiki Health Center provided me firsthand experience and knowledge of the importance of volunteer community members in delivering services to vulnerable populations such as the homeless, elderly, at risk youth, and victims of crime. I also have extensive experience in working with the former First Ladies Annual Volunteer Recognition program.

As a Commission Member I hope to be instrumental in securing existing as well as additional funding to support volunteer and community service programs in Hawaii,

encourage sustainable volunteer and community service programs, and promote the value of volunteerism throughout Hawaii.

Additionally, I have a unique perspective as a parent of a young adult who recently completed two years of volunteer service with AmeriCorps in Washington State. After my daughter graduated from college she volunteered as a literacy tutor in at a high-risk elementary school. Not only did this experience allow her to give back to the community but it also helped her to discover her interests and to focus her future goals. Upon completion of her service she was asked to write a reflective evaluative essay of her time with AmeriCorps. I would like to share with you a paragraph from that essay with you as I believe that it beautifully expresses some of the important additional learning that AmeriCorps can give.

“I also now view patriotism differently than I did before. I used to see it as a kind of flag-waiving and chest-pounding; a type of bragging and competition about whose country was best. Because of the way in which I perceived of patriotism I didn’t identify with the term ‘patriot.’” I now define ‘patriot’ differently. I no longer think of a patriot as simply a flag-waving zealot. Instead, I see a patriot as someone who wants to be a force for good. I see the things in our country that are wonderful but I also see the things that need improvement and want to work to make those changes. To me, that is patriotism – caring about our country and the people who live in it.”

In conclusion I request your support for my nomination to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. Thank you for your time and consideration.