

GM 681

Testimony –

DARIN SHIGETA

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service, gubernatorial nominee, DARIN SHIGETA, 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 Mr. Darin Shigeta 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.

Mr. Shigeta will represent Business. I have had the privilege to work with him 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 Mr. Shigeta 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