

Agnes Malate

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 651

Consideration and Confirmation to Hawai'i Sister State Committee,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Eduardo Topenio Jr,
for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs

April 6, 2016, 2:45 pm
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 225

To: Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice-Chair
Honorable Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs Members:
Sen. Brickwood Galuteria, Sen. Josh Green, Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, Sen. Donna Mercado-
Kim, Sen. Sam Slom, Sen. Jill N. Tokuda

From: Agnes Malate, MEd

My name is Agnes Malate and I wholeheartedly support GM 651, Gov. David Ige's nomination of Eduardo (Eddie) Topenio to the Hawai'i Sister State Committee. I am honored to write this letter and have the opportunity to comment on Eddie's background and outstanding qualities.

Eddie and I served as officers on student and grassroots community organizations during our undergraduate years at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Over the years, we have stayed connected through our ties to community organizations and the University of Hawai'i. As political science majors, we shared the same passion for learning about the systems of government and mobilizing students and the community to advance initiatives to better the lives of the students and people of our state. If I had to choose only one characteristic of Eddie that would capture who he is, I would say his goodwill. Part of his effectiveness in the work and community setting is his natural ability to establish rapport, put people at ease, and make them feel that they are truly valued.

Eddie previously worked as Director of Guest Services at the former Westin Kauai and Banquet Manager at the old Princeville Hotel before transitioning to government and working for the Kauai County. He has been very active in the Kauai community and is a former president of the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife have been among a group of dynamic Filipino leaders that are working to build the Kauai Philippine Cultural Center whose mission is "To provide, promote and enhance cultural educational training and social programs."

As an immigrant whose family has planted its roots in Hawai'i, Eddie has first-hand experience of living in a multicultural society. He is very much interested in domestic, national, and international affairs and would make an excellent member of the Hawai'i Sister State Committee and an "Ambassador of Goodwill". With his background in the business and government sectors, Eddie appreciates the importance and significance of establishing sister relationships for both cultural and economic development.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony and I hope that you will act favorably on this measure.