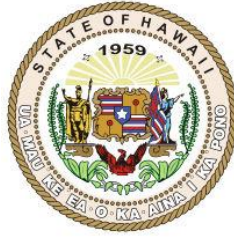


GM 662



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU, HAWAII

David Y. Ige
Governor

Testimony on GM 662
Confirmation of Leo Asuncion Jr
Director, Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
Governor David Y. Ige

WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
April 04, 2016
2:45 p.m., Room 224

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members,

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Leo Asuncion as the Director of the Office of Planning. Leo Asuncion has over 20 years of experience in resource, project, and staff planning both as a manager and administrator.

Asuncion is currently the Acting Director for the Office of Planning. Asuncion is responsible for the management, budgeting, human resources, and oversight of the Office of Planning while retaining position and responsibilities as Manager of the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program.

Asuncion is currently affiliated with the American Institute of Certified Planners, and the American Planning Association, National and Hawai'i Chapter. In 2001, Asuncion received the "Outstanding Service Chapter Award" from the American Planning Association. Asuncion earned a Masters in Business Administration from the Hawai'i Pacific University and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawai'i (Mānoa).

This administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I'm confident that Leo Asuncion will support our employees at the Office of Planning in this effort. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, April 4, 2016
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 662
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, LEO ASUNCION, JR., FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-3-2018.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the Governor's nomination of Mr. Leo Asuncion, Jr. as the Director of the Office of Planning for a term to expire at noon on December 3, 2018.

Mr. Asuncion has been the Acting Director of the Office of Planning since March 2014. During this time, we have worked with him and his staff primarily on the proposed National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in Kaneohe, Oahu and the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council.

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of 28 coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems. Established through the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, the reserves represent a partnership program between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states. NOAA provides funding and national guidance, and each site is managed on a daily basis by a lead state agency or university with input from local partners. In these efforts, we have found Mr. Asuncion to be a leading partner in the ongoing process to establish the NERR. There have been considerable community discussions on this proposal, which was first supported by the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye.

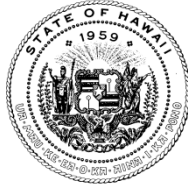
The Kaneohe Bay Regional Council (KBRC) is established under Chapter 200D, Hawaii Revised Statutes. While inactive for a number of years, the KBRC has recently begun to hold meetings to discuss community concerns about commercial and other activities in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu. Mr. Asuncion has been a valuable resource to us and the KBRC during these discussions.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

April 4, 2015
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

G.M. 662

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEO ASUNCION, JR., for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** Leo Asuncion, Jr. as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Mr. Asuncion received his Master of Business Administration degree from Hawaii Pacific University with distinction having received awards from the American Planning Association and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning -- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

The DOT appreciates working with Mr. Asuncion having been the Acting Director of the Office of Planning since 2014. We have been very impressed with his professionalism, knowledge and dedication to fulfill the Office of Planning's mission to serve the State. He understands that the coordination and integration of land use and transportation requires that we assess and evaluate how land use decisions impact the transportation system. Integrating land use and planning and development is commonly considered today as smart growth or sustainable development. Mr. Asuncion knows that we need to grow sensibly and economically where planning has to be comprehensive.

Planning is so important to our continued growth and prosperity. The Office of Planning continually balances competing needs throughout the State so it must be fair and thorough in reviewing initiatives and projects. What Mr. Asuncion brings to the Office of Planning is extremely valuable as the State formulate policies and strategies. He knows how to bring people together to get results and understands the sensitivities of how his office needs to be responsive to all of the stakeholders. We have every confidence that he will continue to do a fantastic job.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

Monday, April 4, 2016
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 224

in consideration of
GM 662
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF
THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEO ASUNCION, JR.,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee.

My name is Luis P. Salaveria and I am the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. I am writing to express my support of GM 662 for Leo Asuncion's gubernatorial nomination to be the Director of the Office of Planning.

I have known Leo for over 20 years and during that time he has always been an individual of high integrity and vast knowledge. Starting as a staff planner for the State Land Use Commission, he has gone on to work in roles that have given him a wide degree of experience and increased responsibility. He has worked in both the public and private sector but always finds his way back into public service where he has served and is serving with honor and distinction. For the past two years, Leo has served in the role of Acting Director for the Office of Planning and his work performance and ethic are exemplary. He has a great working relationship with his peers and subordinates.

I can think of no better person to serve in this very important role. I urge you to confirm his nomination. Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
Craig K. Hirai
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

April 4, 2016 at 2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

In consideration of
G.M. 662

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF
THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEO ASUNCION, JR.,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018.**

The HHFDC ***strongly supports*** the nomination of Leo Asuncion as Director of the Office of Planning. He has more than demonstrated his qualifications for this position during the last two years as the Acting Director.

Mr. Asuncion has substantial experience in project management, land use planning, policy development, and program evaluation, among other things, during his career as a professional planner. He holds Bachelors' and Master's degrees in Urban Planning from the University of Hawaii, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

The HHFDC looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the Office of Planning on transit-oriented development and other land use planning issues that will help support increased affordable housing development statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Les Kuloloio, Chair

Before the Senate Committee on
Water, Land and Agriculture

Monday, April 4, 2016
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In Consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 662
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
OFFICE OF PLANNING, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEO ASUNCION, JR. FOR A TERM
TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018**

Gubernatorial Nominee Leo Asuncion, Jr. is submitted to this committee for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Hawaii State Office of Planning for a term to expire at noon on December 3, 2018. **Aha Moku supports this nomination.**

Throughout the years, Leo Asuncion has worked with most, if not all, of the 46 traditional moku within the State of Hawaii. He has been accessible and always available to answer questions on planning for our grass roots people. This is not always easy because communities on the different islands and different districts are often distrustful of government agencies. However, Mr. Asuncion has a way of fitting in with local communities where he can "talk their talk" and discuss difficult issues in a calm non-threatening way. He will be an asset to the state because of his years of experience in this field and can help guide the State in the right path as we all move forward now and in the future.

We believe he is a perfect choice for this position and urge his confirmation.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Rocky Kaluhiwa
Aha Moku Advisory Committee Member – Moku O Kakuhihewa (Island of O’ahu)

Before the Senate Committee on
Water, Land and Agriculture

Monday, April 4, 2016
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In Consideration of
GOVERNOR’S MESSAGE 662
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
OFFICE OF PLANNING, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEO ASUNCION, JR. FOR A TERM
TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018**

Gubernatorial Nominee Leo Asuncion, Jr. is submitted to this committee for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Hawaii State Office of Planning for a term to expire at noon on December 3, 2018. **Aha Moku Oahu supports this nomination.**

The Office of Planning coordinates the selection and nomination of a site for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). In the United States, there are currently only 28 such research reserves. The site selection for Hawaii began in 2013 and after receiving many applications from interested communities and the UH of Hawaii, Heeia was identified as the preferred site. The process that followed included former Governor Neil Abercrombie submitting the site nomination request to NOAA who approved it in 2014. The next phase includes the drafting of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document (NOAA EIS) and the development of a Management Plan for the site. All of this is being developed now and should be ready for comment in 2016.

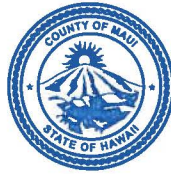
Leo Asuncion was instrumental in helping the people of Ko’olaupoko Moku which includes the ahupua’a of He’eia and Kaneohe, in formulating, organizing and following through on getting Heeia Loko Ia (Heeia Fishpond) recognized and selected as a NERRS site. This was no small feat, and we are very grateful to him for his support and help. He worked with us from the beginning of this being just a community wish, to the reality of successfully becoming a national research reserve. An important result of this work was the unification of often-times querulous factions into a unified community.

We believe he is a perfect choice for this position and urge his confirmation.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor

WILLIAM R. SPENCE
Director

MICHELE CHOUTEAU McLEAN
Deputy Director



COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

April 1, 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members,

SUBJECT: GM 662

On behalf of the County of Maui Department of Planning, please accept this testimony IN SUPPORT of Leo Asuncion, Jr.'s nomination to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Our Department works closely with the Office of Planning on a wide variety of planning and land use issues, most significantly the administration of our Coastal Zone Management law, as provided by Chapter 205A, Hawaii Revised Statutes. We can always rely on prompt, professional and courteous discussions with the Office of Planning, and greatly appreciate their support and input.

We have developed an excellent working relationship with the Office of Planning under Mr. Asuncion's tenure as Acting Director, and fully support his assuming this position on a permanent basis.

You are welcomed to contact us if you require any further information in this regard. Mahalo for your consideration and support of Mr. Asuncion's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michele McLean".

MICHELE McLEAN
Deputy Planning Director

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Michael A. Dahilig
Director of Planning

Nadine K. Nakamura
Managing Director

Ka'āina S. Hull
Deputy Director of Planning

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
4444 Rice Street, Suite A-473, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4050 FAX (808) 241-6699

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 662 RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF
MR. LEO ASUNCION, JR.
AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING

Before the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Monday, April 4, 2016
2:45 pm Conference Room 224

By Michael A. Dahilig
Director of Planning, County of Kaua'i

Honorable Chair Gabbard and Honorable Members:

Without any hesitation or qualification, I am honored to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Mr. Leo Asuncion, Jr.'s confirmation as Director of the Office of Planning. Mr. Asuncion's *mana'o* and lifetime experience would bring depth and strength to the office, and help guide statewide planning with an even keel.

I have had the pleasure to work with Mr. Asuncion previously as the head of the State's Coastal Zone Management Program, and as Interim Director after the departure of then-Director Jesse Souki. Leo's service exemplifies an empathetic technician who understands balance. His demeanor and respectful nature lend to easy conversation and he always has sought consensus where available, yet is not afraid to make the tough decision when necessary. It is also through this work I have grown a professional and personal relationship with Mr. Asuncion, and his leadership at the state level as well as counsel on county issues have been invaluable for us at the Kauai Planning Department.

Mr. Asuncion's reputation as such an individual precedes him, and many across the island instantly recognize him for his integrity as a planner and student of land use science. I would eagerly look toward building on what is already a strong partnership with the Office of Planning should he be confirmed. I ask this Honorable Committee to advise and consent to his nomination and forward to the full Senate for consideration. Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Monday, April 4, 2016 at 2:45 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 662 CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING,
GUBENATORIAL NOMINEE, LEO ASUNCION, JR.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") is in **strong support** of Leo Asuncion's appointment as the Director of the Office of Planning. Mr. Asuncion brings a wide range of both public and private sector planning experience to the position. It is important to understand, empathize, and balance governments' role in regulating and managing programs and natural resources with the businesses desire for economic growth and prosperity.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We understand that the role of the Office of Planning is primarily to align the strategic/functional plans of each of the agencies into a cohesive plan for the State's future. As the Director of the Office of Planning, Mr. Asuncion will be responsible for bringing these agencies together focusing on long and short term goals for the state. We believe Mr. Asuncion has the training, experience, and temperament necessary to bring the various agencies together around some common objectives.

Our challenges have morphed over the years and now we are faced with how government must deal with homelessness, the housing CRISIS, growing our agricultural industry with more "value added" Hawaii products, improving public education to create a "knowledge based" economy, and creating vibrant, walkable, Live-Work-Play communities around the transit stations.

As a formally educated and experienced planner, we believe Mr. Asuncion has the necessary skill set and networking abilities to put the State in the best position to confront these challenges.

We strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Leo Asuncion as the Director of the Office of Planning, and appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter.



HAWAII LABORERS-EMPLOYERS COOPERATION AND EDUCATION TRUST
650 Iwilei Road, Suite 285 · Honolulu, HI 96817 · Phone: 808-845-3238 · Fax: 808-845-8300 · URL: hilecet.org

TESTIMONY BY CLYDE T. HAYASHI
HAWAII LECET

[COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE](#)

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, April 4, 2016
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street

TESTIMONY ON GM 662

TO THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR, CLARENCE NISHIHARA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Clyde T. Hayashi, and I am the Director of the Hawaii Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET). Hawaii LECET is a labor-management partnership between the Hawaii Laborers Union, Local 368 and its 250+ unionized contractors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** for GM 662, which submits for consideration and confirmation Gubernatorial Nominee, Leo Asuncion, Jr. as the Director of the Hawaii State Office of Planning, for a term to expire on 12-03-2018.

Mr. Asuncion is currently the Acting Director of the Hawaii State Office of Planning and has worked in this capacity since December 2015. In addition to overseeing the Office of Planning, he is responsible for developing policy and represents the Office of Planning before the State Legislature, Executive Branch agencies and the community.

Mr. Asuncion has extensive experience in planning, having worked as a Senior Resource Planning Analyst for Hawaiian Electric Company, as well as a Project Planner and Manager for SSFM International, Inc. He is well versed in developing and implementing policies relating to regulatory affairs, and has comprehensive knowledge regarding analyzing and implementing planning techniques, processes, procedures and methodologies to increase process efficiency. In addition, Mr. Asuncion has a thorough understanding of how planning policy and procedures affect construction projects and the construction industry.

I strongly believe Mr. Asuncion has the commitment, skills, knowledge, and experience needed to serve in this critical position. His industry experience is invaluable, and his willingness to serve the community is commendable. For these reasons, I humbly ask for your **SUPPORT** of Mr. Leo Asuncion, Jr. as Director for the Hawaii State Office of Planning.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: Captcoon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 01, 2016 8:24:52 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James E. Coon	MACZAC: Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai	Support	No

Comments: I have had the privilege of working closely with Leo Asuncion, Jr. for several years and can speak to his professional approach to planning and Coastal Zone Management. He is a man of integrity, is well educated, smart, dedicated and an effective leader. The Office of Planning will continue to be well run with Mr. Asuncion at the helm. Please approve GM662

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony for
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Monday, April 04, 2016, 2:45 p.m., Room 224

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

GM 662 Leo Asuncion, Jr. Director of the Office of Planning

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 662, Leo Asuncion, Jr. to the position of the Director of the Office of Planning. I am Lynn McCrory, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for Pūlama Lānaʻi. Pūlama Lānaʻi is the entity that was set up to manage the assets of Lānaʻi and work with the community and government as we move the island toward sustainability.

Having worked with Leo in both my current position and previous positions, his wealth of information, his strong reasoning and comprehension skills, along with the ability to discuss with many communities and many community members of differing positions is evident in everything that he does. It is critical to his position. He clearly sees the opportunities in what could be future issues and how they should be addressed to form policies and strategies for our State. He will ask the hard questions when they should be asked. Leo brings to the communities programs that should have community input and provides the community with information that they should have as they look forward. His leadership in bringing both GIS and Land Planning topics, speakers, and attendees together at the last HCPO further enriched each of us with a broader basis for the planning we look to do on Lānaʻi.

His attention to detail and understanding of the big picture will assure our communities that we have someone who cares about Hawaii and its future. Leo will continue to make a positive difference in the Office of Planning.

I humbly ask that you support for the position of Director of the Office of Planning, GM 662 Leo Asuncion, Jr. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

Lynn P. McCrory
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs



Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council

Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Hearing on Gubernatorial Nominee
Leo Asuncion, Jr.
as Director of the Office of Planning
April 4, 2016

Testimony Submitted by
Sue Sakai, Chair
Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC)

MACZAC Members:

Hawaii Island
Philip Fernandez
Robert Nishimoto

Kauai
Angela Anderson
Robert Kaden

Lanai
Robin Kaye

Maui
Donna L. Brown
Rich Brunner
James E. Coon

Molokai
Lori Buchanan

Oahu
Dawn Hegger
Susan A. Sakai
A. Kimbal Thompson

Aloha, Senator Gabbard, Senator Nishihara, and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture:

I'm Sue Sakai, Chair of the Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC). MACZAC was established by the State Legislature to advise the Office of Planning on ocean-related issues and to advocate for the public on these issues. I speak on behalf of all MACZAC members. We are 12 volunteers from six islands with expertise in planning, design, business, tourism, marine science, invasive species, fisheries, Native Hawaiian practices, ocean recreation, environmental law, disaster preparedness, and community outreach.

MACZAC strongly supports the appointment of Leo Asuncion as Director of the Office of Planning. Our experience with Mr. Asuncion dates back to his assuming management of the State's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program in 2011.

As a planner in the private sector, now retired, I have known Mr. Asuncion for more than 20 years. This testimony reflects our group's experience specific to the Office of Planning and my personal experience as a colleague in the planning profession.

We'd like to share our observation that Mr. Asuncion is a perfect fit for the Office of Planning (OP), based on our understanding of OP's role in government. Of all state agencies, it perhaps has the broadest perspective, involving coordination with a variety of state, county, and federal agencies, as well as businesses, community organizations, and the public at large. Most entities focus on their own kuleana, whereas OP purposefully takes an integrated and collaborative approach to problem solving.

Mr. Asuncion's leadership and planning skills enable him to gather the key players and bring them together to work on issues that stray beyond disciplinary, agency, and geographic boundaries, such as climate change, land use, agriculture, development, transportation, ocean resources, shoreline access, and water quality. MACZAC members have especially appreciated his steady and wise guidance, keeping us focused....sort of like herding akule!

Finally, Mr. Asuncion is a planner's planner. He's a certified planner, has been president of the Hawaii chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), has been active with APA at the national level, and is highly respected by his peers. Mr. Asuncion will keep ethics and the public interest in mind as he leads the Office of Planning in herding those akule toward a promising future for the State of Hawaii.

MACZAC respectfully urges your committee to approve Leo Asuncion's nomination. Thank you for your consideration.

BIA-HAWAII

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THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture Monday, April 4, 2016 2:45 p.m. State Capitol - Conference Room 224

RE: G.M. 662: CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEO ASUNCION, JR.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA Hawaii is in **strong support** of Leo Asuncion's appointment as the Director of the Office of Planning. Mr. Asuncion brings a wide range of both public and private sector planning experience to the position. It is important to understand, empathize, and balance governments' role in regulating and managing programs and natural resources with the businesses desire for economic growth and prosperity.

We understand that the role of the Office of Planning is primarily to align the strategic/functional plans of each of the agencies into a cohesive plan for the State's future. As the Director of the Office of Planning, Mr. Asuncion will be responsible for bringing these agencies together focusing on long and short term goals for the state. We believe Mr. Asuncion has the training, experience, and temperament necessary to bring the various agencies together around some common objectives.

Our challenges have morphed over the years and now we are faced with how government must deal with homelessness, the housing CRISIS, growing our agricultural industry with more "value added" Hawaii products, improving public education to create a "knowledge based" economy, and creating vibrant, walkable, Live-Work-Play communities around the transit stations.

As a formally educated and experienced planner, we believe Mr. Asuncion has the necessary skill set and networking abilities to put the State in the best position to confront these challenges.

We strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Leo Asuncion as the Director of the Office of Planning, and appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

Hawai'i Construction Alliance

P.O. Box 179441
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 348-8885

March 28, 2016

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
and members
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Hawai'i State Senate
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Strong Support for GM662, Nomination of Leo Asuncion, Jr., as Director of the Office of Planning

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members:

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Union, Local 630; International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers, Local 1; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; and the Operating Engineers, Local Union No. 3. Together, the member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent 15,000 working men and women in the basic crafts of Hawai'i's construction industry.

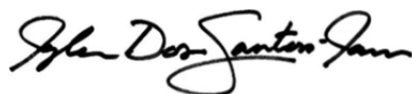
We strongly support GM662, which submits for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Planning Gubernatorial Nominee Leo Asuncion, Jr., for a term to expire at noon on December 3, 2018.

The Office of Planning is an extremely important part of ensuring a smart and sustainable future for the State of Hawai'i. The Office of Planning is tasked with providing central direction and cohesion in the allocation of resources and effectuation of state activities and programs and effectively addressing current or emerging issues and opportunities.

We have had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Asuncion to discuss his vision for the Office of Planning. We are confident that he possesses the strong background in planning needed to move the department forward and the administrative skills to ensure that it is effectively run on a day-to-day basis.

We are proud to support Mr. Asuncion and respectfully request your committee to recommend that the Senate advise and consent to his nomination as Director of the Office of Planning.

Mahalo,



Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Executive Director
Hawai'i Construction Alliance

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: brian@hfbf.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, April 03, 2016 7:55:02 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

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American Planning Association Hawai'i Chapter

*hawai'i chapter
of the
american planning
association
p.o. box 557
honolulu
hawai'i
96809
www.hawaiiapa.org*

April 1, 2016

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair and Members
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Hawaii State Legislature

RE: GM662 Relating to the confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr. as Director of the Office of Planning

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture:

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Planning Association expresses its **strong support** for the confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr. as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Mr. Asuncion's extensive public and private-sector planning experience provides him with a wealth of knowledge that makes him well qualified to lead the Office of Planning. His current experience as the Planning Program Manager for the Coastal Zone Management Program, and past experience with SSFM International, the Land Use Commission, and Hawaiian Electric Company provide him with a broad policy background and keen insight into the many land use, environmental, socio-economic and cultural facets of planning that this position requires.

Mr. Asuncion is highly respected in the planning profession and has been an active participant in the American Planning Association (APA) for over twenty years. He has held leadership positions with APA both at the local and national level and has demonstrated his commitment to APA's goal of "Making Great Communities Happen."

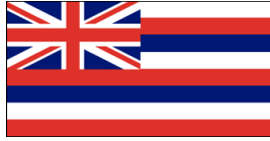
We are confident that Mr. Asuncion will continue to apply his planning expertise, collaborative style, and commitment to the community as the Director of the Office of Planning and respectfully urge your support of his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Kimi Mikami Yuen
APA Hawai'i Chapter President

*founded in 1962, the
hawai'i chapter has over
300 members, including
planning officials, public
and private sector planners,
and community advocates,
on the major islands
across the state*

e mālama pono i ka 'āina;
nānā mai ke ola
take good care of the land;
it grants you life



CAPITOL CONSULTANTS OF HAWAII, LLP
222 South Vineyard Street Suite 401, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Office: 808/531-4551 Fax: 808/533-4601
Website: www.808cch.com

DATE: APRIL 4, 2016

TO: SENATOR MICHAEL GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATOR CLARENCE NISHIHARA, VICE-CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

FROM: BLAKE OSHIRO, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR MESSAGE 662: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office Of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEO ASUNCION, JR., for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I write in my personal capacity in strong support of LEO ASUNCION, JR.'s appointment to the Director of the Office of State Planning (OSP). I have known and worked with Mr. Asuncion for several years in his various roles there at the OSP and I have consistently found him to be knowledgeable, helpful and professional.

His planning background goes back to 1992 as a state planner for the State Land Use Commission and since that time he has had a variety of planning positions in the public and private sector, including regulated utilities, which gives him a broad and deep comprehension of planning issues through multiple perspectives.

However, it is most recent post as the Acting Director of OSP since March 2014 which I think demonstrates his ability to hold this position and lead this office. As we head into a crucial time of needed planning for transient oriented development, for the continued growth we will see in construction and the call for more housing, and to be balanced against the needs for smart growth and sustainability, I believe that Mr. Asuncion is the right person for this position and I wholeheartedly endorse his nomination and appointment to this office.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: jeff@group70int.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 5:22:39 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Overton	Group 70 International, Inc.	Support	No

Comments: Leo Asuncion, Jr. is very qualified to serve as Director of the Office of Planning. We support his appointment to this position. Jeff Overton, AICP Principal Planner, Group 70

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March 29, 2016

Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Senate
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture:

Re: Support for Leo Asuncion, Jr. – GM662 Director of Office of Planning

I would like to state I am. in strong support of Mr. Leo Asuncion, Jr. to be the Director of the Office of Planning.

I have known Leo both professionally and personally and we can say that he is truly a man of honor, integrity and compassion. Professionally, Leo has been at the forefront of multitude of planning and public trust issues in Hawaii. He ensured that we all know our duties to protect Hawaii's resources. He additionally, relayed the meaning of Hawaii and Aloha at each event he presented.

Leo has always been part of the community. His dedication to Hawaii can be seen through his leadership in various organizations. He truly believes that we must assist and better Hawaii for our future.

I strongly support Leo Asuncion, Jr. to be the Director of the Office of Planning. Thank you for your time and consideration.

DATE: APRIL 4, 2016

TO: SENTATOR MICHAEL GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATOR CLARENCE NISHIHARA, VICE-CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

FROM: BLAKE OSHIRO, ESQ.

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR MESSAGE 662: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office Of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEO ASUNCION, JR., for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I write in my personal capacity in strong support of LEO ASUNCION, JR.'s appointment to the Director of the Office of State Planning (OSP). I have known and worked with Mr. Asuncion for several years in his various roles there at the OSP and I have consistently found him to be knowledgeable, helpful and professional.

His planning background goes back to 1992 as a state planner for the State Land Use Commission and since that time he has had a variety of planning positions in the public and private sector, including regulated utilities, which gives him a broad and deep comprehension of planning issues through multiple perspectives.

However, it is most recent post as the Acting Director of OSP since March 2014 which I think demonstrates his ability to hold this position and lead this office. As we head into a crucial time of needed planning for transient oriented development, for the continued growth we will see in construction and the call for more housing, and to be balanced against the needs for smart growth and sustainability, I believe that Mr. Asuncion is the right person for this position and I wholeheartedly endorse his nomination and appointment to this office.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: brian@hfbf.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Sunday, April 03, 2016 7:59:06 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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HAWAII CARPENTERS APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING FUND

April 1, 2016

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 662
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Planning,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Leo Asuncion, Jr.

Monday, April 4, 2016
2:45 p.m., Conference Room 224, State Capitol


Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Leo Asuncion, Jr., for the position as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Since being appointed as Acting Director in March 2014, and then as Director, in December 2015; Mr. Asuncion has shown tremendous leadership skills within the Office of Planning. His management abilities, skills and understanding of the challenges, will bring a fresh perspective to the department. Throughout his career, I've found Leo to be professional, diligent and decisive; with the ability to bring mutual consensus to all parties involved. His character, integrity, dedication and compassion for people, clearly demonstrates his strong commitment to public service.

It is with this in mind, that I humbly ask that you support the confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr., as the Director for the Office of Planning.

Sincerely,


Edmund C. Aczon
Executive Director

OAHU: 1311 Houghtailing St, Suite 201, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-2759 • Ph. (808) 847-5761, Ext. 5 Fax (808) 440-9194

HILO OFFICE: 525 Kilauea Ave, Suite 205, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3050 • Ph. (808) 935-8575 Fax (808) 935-8576

KONA OFFICE: 75-126 Lunapule Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740-2106 • Ph. (808) 329-7355 Fax (808) 326-9376

MAUI OFFICE: 330 Hookahi St, Wailuku, Maui 96793-1449 • Ph. (808) 242-6891 Fax (808) 242-5961

KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg, 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Monday, April 04, 2016 2:45 PM State Capitol Conference Room 224

Re: GM662, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEO ASUNCION, JR., for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture. My name is Charles Toguchi and I would like to provide written testimony in **strong support** of Leo Asuncion's gubernatorial nomination to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning.

I have had the privilege of knowing Leo Asuncion for more than 20 years. During that time he has impressed me with his strong work ethics...his leadership...his commitment to his job...and integrity to get the job done. Mr. Asuncion is the Acting Director of the Office of Planning and Planning Program Manager of the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program...effectively handling and managing two full time jobs. Leo Asuncion is responsible for the overall management, budgeting, oversight, development of policies, studies, and reports, implementation and management of the federal and state Coastal Zone Management Acts, and representing the office before Federal, State, and Local decision makers.

Leo Asuncion has 20+ years of experience in project management, land use planning, CIP, policy development, and program evaluation and holds BA and MURP degrees from the University of Hawaii, and a MBA from Hawaii Pacific University. With this wealth of experiences and accomplishments, Mr. Asuncion brings to us the necessary skills and foundation to continue to provide the support and guidance needed at the Office of Planning.

Throughout his career with the state, Leo Asuncion has been known for his strong dedication and commitment to accomplish the mission of the Office of Planning. He does this with integrity...collaboration...forward thinking vision...positive leadership...ability to listen to diverse voices...and inclusive leadership style.

Without any reservations, I strongly urge your favorable consideration of Leo Asuncion's nomination as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this written testimony.

Aloha,
Charles T. Toguchi



Morse Planning Group
145 N C Street
Tustin, CA 92780

March 30, 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Clarence Nishihara
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI

Subject: Letter of Support for Leo R. Asuncion, Jr.
Governor Ige's Nominee - Director of the State Office of Planning

Senators Gabbard and Nishihara:

Mr. Asuncion brings more than 25 years as a highly regarded professional and leader in the planning profession – a very solid foundation upon which to serve the State of Hawaii in the position as Director of the State Office of Planning.

I have known Mr. Asuncion for almost 15 years since serving with him in national leadership positions with the American Planning Association, a professional association for planners. Through his local and national leadership positions he applied his planning experience in the public and private sectors in the development and implementation of local and national planning policy and best practices. Mr. Asuncion continues to be an active member of the planning profession today through his commitment to mentoring planning students and professionals, as well as speaking at local and national conferences to share his knowledge and planning experiences on topics of importance to the State, such as energy, climate change, and coastal zone management.

Mr. Asuncion values the State's planning past, but also understands the importance of meaningful and creative planning efforts as the State moves forward in addressing future planning hopes and challenges. His experience in both the public and private sectors give him a unique perspective and ability to work with all stakeholders to address these hopes and challenges.

The State of Hawaii would be fortunate to have a Director who brings such tremendous local and national planning knowledge and experience to the State Office and through his leadership can guide the State towards its desired future.

I fully support Leo Asuncion's nomination for the Director of the State Office of Planning.

Respectfully,

Collette L. Morse, AICP
Principal



RUNDELL ERNSTBERGER ASSOCIATES

email | reaindy@reasite.cominternet | www.reasite.com

31 March 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Clarence Nishirhara
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI

Re: Nomination in Support of Mr. Leo R. Asuncion, Jr for Director of State Office of Planning

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara:

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Leo Asuncion, Jr. for the Directorship of the State Office of Planning. Mr. Asuncion has a diverse background in planning, having served in various public and private planning capacities. He has tremendous communication skills and works well with people to get things accomplished. He is a proven leader, having served in many different leadership capacities civically and professionally.

I have known Mr. Asuncion for more than 15 years. He has been a colleague and a close personal friend. We first met when both of us were in national leadership positions in the American Planning Association (APA). The American Planning Association is the governing organization of all planners. When we started, Mr. Asuncion and I were chapter presidents. Over the years we ascended the ranks of national leadership. We served together on several committees and task forces. His participation in the organization allowed him to hone his leadership skills and help to craft meaningful solutions to solve organizational matters and address national planning issues. He was able to work across various professions and bridge gaps and build consensus through good communication.

As part of his leadership role, Mr. Asuncion has also mentored several young planners, providing guidance and support by helping them in their careers. He often provides sage advice to address a variety of problems. He is thoughtful in his approach carefully listening, asking questions to engage, and providing realistic recommendations in a diplomatic way so as to build support of policies.

Over the years, Mr. Asuncion has worked hard to build on his knowledge base ensuring he keeps abreast of new and innovative planning techniques, understanding the research behind the findings and bringing best practices back to the State. Additionally, he often presents at these seminars sharing important information from his work with state and federal agencies, including NOAA. Mr. Asuncion's

knowledge and experience in development, energy, climate change, and coastal zone management will surely benefit the State in this position.

In closing, I encourage you to confirm Mr. Asuncion as the Director of the State Office of Planning. Mr. Asuncion is highly regarded in the planning profession, and with his 25 years of planning practice, will be instrumental in moving state planning initiatives and policies forward while being thoughtful to the heritage and environmental steward of the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cynthia Bowen" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cynthia A. Bowen, AICP, LEED AP
Director of Planning, Rundell Ernstberger Associates
President-Elect, American Planning Association

April 2, 2016

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

FROM: Debra Mendes
7514 Nakalele Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

RE: Testimony in Support of GM-662: Consideration and Confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr. for the Director of the Office of Planning

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Leo Asuncion as Director of the Office of Planning. I am Debra Mendes, Acting Planning Program Manager of the Special Plans Branch at the Office of Planning and I have known Mr. Asuncion for over 20 years, both personally and professionally.

Leo is a good manager and has always been dedicated to his job. He is passionate about proper planning for our great state while ensuring the protection of the natural resources and people of Hawaii.

I am confident that Leo will continue to be an asset to the state as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 6:44:35 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: evia-gossman@manassasva.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 7:53:46 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Via-Gossman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Honorable Committee Members - I am writing to support the appointment of Leodoloff Asuncion as Director of the Office of Planning. I have had the pleasure of working with Leo as we represented our respective states at the national level at the American Planning Association. I found Leo to be not only well-qualified as a professional planner but passionate about representing the State of Hawaii. His technical skills and his passion make him an ideal candidate for this appointment. Sincerely, Elizabeth S. Via-Gossman, AICP

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

April 4, 2016 at 2:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 224

In consideration of

G.M. 662

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEO ASUNCION, JR., FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018.

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members,

Please accept my written testimony in **strong support** of the nomination of Leo Asuncion as Director of the Office of Planning.

Leo and I go back to the days when we were Master's candidates in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Even then, he exhibited the skills and characteristics needed for this position. Leo has relevant experience in project management, land use planning, policy development, program evaluation, and is truly a "really nice and caring person."

Leo has been on the job for two years now. I respectfully request your advise and consent of Mr. Leo Asuncion as Director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Janice N. Takahashi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: jlambert@cityofventura.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, April 03, 2016 7:24:55 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Lambert	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I testify wholeheartedly and sincerely in support of the confirmation of Leo Asuncion Jr to the post of Director of the Office of Planning for Hawaii. I have known Mr. Asuncion for more than a decade as a colleague in the American Planning Association. Leo is committed to his profession, to professionalism, and to personally working to make his community a better place. Leo has a depth of knowledge in planning and the tools necessary to make a difference. He also has a strong commitment to administrating an effective team and in operating in a transparent and accessible way to the community in which he serves. Leo also has a proven record of working well with others across departments and agencies. He also has a unique skill to find common ground among differing points of view and use that combined knowledge to move policy to implementation.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: jsouki@hilanduselaw.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:53:32 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse K. Souki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mr. Asuncion is a good choice to lead Hawaii's Office of Planning. As the recent past director, I hired Mr. Asuncion as the Program Manager for the State's Coastal Zone Management Program, a program under the Office of Planning. Tapping into his long experience as a planner in both the public and private sectors, he effectively hired and managed staff, managed and prepared budgets, coordinated statewide and nationally with stakeholders (e.g., local, state, and federal agencies and private sector and community organizations), and implemented important projects for the people of Hawaii related to climate change, coastal resource management, and land use development. Mr. Asuncion has shown that he can be an effective leader and mobilize resources to carry out plans and programs through fruition. Mahalo, for your consideration.

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From: [Jim Lyon](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 662 Testimony in support of LEO ASUNCION, JR.
Date: Monday, March 28, 2016 7:18:31 PM

Aloha:

Leo Asuncion has been in the Office of Planning (OP) for 10 years;
prior, he spent 20 years as a reputable planner in the public and private sector.

I've known Leo for over 20 years and admire his work ethic;
& his ethical standards he brings to the job continuously.

OP's focus on fresh water, coastal areas, land areas, watersheds, economic development,
sustainability, etc.;

OP is a vital component in climate change adaptation for the State of Hawaii.

As a civil engineer, we have been keeping abreast of local climate change impacts through local
conferences;
and have always seen Leo attending and learning at these as well.

Leo is dedicated civil servant;
and I highly endorse him in this position.

Mahalo,

Jim Lyon, P.E., LEED AP, CFM



LYON.US.com

April 1, 2016

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

FROM: Joan M. Delos Santos
47-152 Lile Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

RE: Testimony in Support of GM-662: Consideration and Confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr. for the Director of the Office of Planning

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture,

I am writing to support the confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr. as Director of the Office of Planning. I am Joan Delos Santos, Acting Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager at the Office of Planning.

I have known Leo as a colleague since he came to the Office of Planning as the Manager of the Coastal Zone Management Program in 2011. I was immediately struck by how quickly he was able to understand and take charge of the program and to gain the trust and confidence of the CZM staff. I also found him to be personable and a pleasure to work with.

Since becoming Acting Director of the Office of Planning in March of 2014, I have had the opportunity to work more closely with Leo. I've observed his strong commitment to the Office and to good planning in Hawaii State government. He also has a desire to teach and lead his staff and often speaks of his philosophy of giving staff opportunities for growth and advancement.

He has been an unwavering supporter of the GIS Program, advocating for the Program and communicating its value to those he comes in contact with whenever he can. He has encouraged the Program's partnership with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services on the current State GIS upgrade project and has shown a strong commitment to the Office's participation in this effort.

I am confident that his commitment to his staff, to the Office of Planning and to planning in Hawaii will continue to be an asset to the State.

I thank you for your consideration, and respectfully urge your committee's support of this nomination.



March 30, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to wholeheartedly and sincerely support the confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr., as the director of the Office of Planning for Hawaii. He is the Gubernatorial Nominee for the position, and I cannot think of many that are more capable and perfectly suited for the office than Leo.

I have known Leo for over 15 years, having met him through our professional association, the American Planning Association (APA). At that time Leo was serving as the chapter president of the Hawaii Chapter-APA and I was the national president of our organization. I came to Hawaii twice to speak at chapter conferences during those years, and Leo was instrumental in facilitating these events. I was able to witness him first-hand as he handled a multitude of questions from participants and presenters, made solid decisions, assigned individuals to take care of tasks, delegated responsibilities, and presented a positive face on behalf of Hawaii Chapter-APA to conference attendees and guests. His manner when working with others is inclusive and professional.

Leo's grace and tact is perfectly paired with his skill and knowledge about our profession. More important for this position, he is able to multi-task and work extremely well with others, whether they are his departmental peers, staff, or elected officials. He is approachable and open to listening to a multitude of positions, and then he is absolutely able to be decisive with creating the next steps that must be taken to achieve the end goals of the issue at hand. His demeanor and positive attitude are welcoming to those who perhaps aren't as familiar with various aspects of planning as he is. At the same time, his thoughtful approach is geared toward helping others understand key planning concepts which are extremely important for sound local and state planning.

What you have in Leo is a solid thinker, doer, and achiever. In my opinion he will serve Hawaii very well as Director of the Office of Planning, and in fact I believe the state is quite lucky to have him. Please seriously consider his nomination, and I hope that consideration is followed up with a vote to approve. Thank you for allowing me to speak out on behalf of this wonderful candidate, Leo Asuncion.

Sincerely,

Joanne Garnett, FAICP
Partner, Orion Planning Group

306 N. Main Street, Sheridan, WY 82801 ♦ 307-763-0570 ♦ Joanne@OrionPlanningGroup.com

Boulder, CO ♦ Hernando, MS ♦ Sheridan, WY ♦ Huntsville, AL ♦ Urbana, IL

March 31, 2016

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 662, Nomination of Leo Asuncion, Jr. as the Director of the Office of Planning

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members,

My name is Jonathan Likeke Scheuer and I am testifying in my personal capacity in **support** of the nomination of Leo Asuncion, Jr. as the as Director of the Office of Planning.

I have known and interacted with Mr. Asuncion for a number of years. Most recently, I have worked with him and his staff as he was the Acting Director of the Office of Planning and I have served as a member (and currently the first Vice Chair) of the State Land Use Commission. Under his leadership, the Office of Planning has provided a critical perspective on the many complex issues that have appeared before the Land Use Commission.

I am also encouraged by Mr. Asuncion's commitment to begin the long-overdue, legislatively mandated five-year boundary review process. I hope that he will be confirmed into this position and we will be able to engage in this planning process critical for our islands.

Mahalo for your consideration of my mana`o.

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Ph.D.
Scheuerj001@hawaii.rr.com



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MĀNOA

Department of Urban and Regional Planning
College of Social Sciences

March 29, 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Clarence Nishihara
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write in support of Governor Ige's nominee, Leo R. Asuncion, Jr., for the position of Director of the State Office of Planning. I have known Mr. Asuncion for almost 20 years since joining the faculty of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning for which I currently serve as department chair. I believe that his track record of 25 years as an esteemed professional and leader in the planning field gives him a firm foundation to steward the important work of the Office of Planning.

Mr. Asuncion has a combination of attributes that make him well qualified for the directorship. He has experience in both the public and private sector and has been an active member of the local and national professional association. He has long demonstrated a deep commitment to thoughtful and innovative planning for the State of Hawaii as we face numerous planning challenges. His knowledge and experience in key areas such as energy, climate change, and coastal zone management are particularly valuable at this moment in the state's history. He is respected among a broad range of stakeholders across the state. And his broad range of experiences has honed his ability to work across silos and created bridges through communication and dialogue.

We need a director with the foresight, creativity, and collaborative leadership ability to help the State steer towards a sustainable and resilient future. I strongly believe that Leo Asuncion is the person for the job and fully support his nomination.

Respectfully,

Karen Umemoto, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair

2424 Maile Way, Saunders Hall 107
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Telephone: (808)-956-7381
Fax: (808)-956-6870

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March 31, 2016

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF LEO ASUNCION JR. AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING FOR HAWAII

I have known Leo Asuncion Jr. for approximately ten years through my involvement in national leadership positions within the American Planning Association. I write this letter in support of his nomination to become the next Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii. I cannot think of someone more dedicated and passionate about planning in the State of Hawaii than Leo.

When I met Leo, I was immediately impressed by his intelligence, his abundant knowledge and expertise in the field of planning, and his genuinely caring nature. He is consummate professional planner. In addition, he is a person with the highest level of ethics and integrity.

I currently serve on the American Planning Association's National Board of Directors. Leo served as a mentor to me as I climbed the leadership ladder within the organization. He was quick to offer support and guidance to me, but more importantly, he listened and gave advice. As a leader, you must learn the skill of listening in order to be successful and delivery positive outcomes, and Leo has mastered this skill, as well as patience and vision. I appreciated his ability to see the big picture within the organization and his understanding of how various decisions could impact the components differently. He was a proponent of engaging and educating others in the decision making process in APA leadership, which will serve him well in this new position.

Leo's leadership skills, his collaborative and inclusive style, and his dedication to the State he serves makes him the ideal candidate for Director of the Office of Planning for Hawaii, and I fully and unequivocally support his nomination. Thank you for this opportunity to testified on Leo Asuncion Jr.'s behalf and I hope you approve his nomination; he will serve your State with dignity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kurt E. Christiansen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'K'.

Kurt E. Christiansen, AICP

Economic and Community Development Director

Testimony of **Leimana DaMate**

Before the Senate Committee of Water, Land and Agriculture
Monday, April 4, 2016
2:45 P.M., State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In **Support**
Of GM 662

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, Leo Asuncion, Jr. for a term to expire at noon on 12/3/2018.

“The State of Hawaii, Office of Planning, gathers, analyzes, and provide information to the Governor to assist in the overall analysis and formulation of state policies and strategies. The purpose of the Office is to provide central direction and cohesion in the allocation of resources and effectuation of state activities and programs; and, to effectively address current or emerging issues and opportunities. The Office works closely with local, state, and federal government agencies; the University of Hawaii; and various community stakeholders to achieve these objectives.” (State of Hawaii, Office of Planning website)

I have known and worked with Leo Asuncion through community-based organizations since the 1990’s. He has always been knowledgeable about his subject matter, precise, calm, and always professional. I worked closely with Leo on the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the State, on Sustainability 2050, and many other natural resource projects.

Leo worked with, and was available to grass roots communities on the issue of the emerging marine spatial concepts. This was at least five years ago, before people realized what sharing the ocean with others would mean.

Leo Asuncion is the perfect example of what a Hawaii State Office of Planning Director should be – he is able to fulfill the mandate of this office as quoted above in a way that is professional, efficient and compassionate. But what impacts me, and others, is how he loves Hawaii and he shows that in everything he does. Leo is a very modest and humble man, and he probably does not recognize what the rest of us do – we know he will do his absolute best (and he has an incredibly razor-sharp brain) for Hawaii as the Director of the Office of Planning because that is the best he can do for the people, and for this State, this place that he loves.

Statement of
Mary Alice Evans
Deputy Director, DBEDT

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Monday, April 4, 2016
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
GM 662
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of the
Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Leo Asuncion, Jr., for a Term to Expire at Noon on 12-3-2018.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture.

I respectfully urge your **support** for the confirmation of **Leo Asuncion** to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning.

I have worked with Leo in a number of different roles for over 20 years. Leo has earned a Master in Urban and Regional Planning and a Master in Business Administration.

Leo has served as the American Planning Association (APA) Hawaii Chapter President and worked closely with the National APA staff to bring new ideas in planning to Hawaii.

Leo brings a teamwork approach to planning. He has been working to coordinate the State agencies' planning for Transient-Oriented Development on Oahu.

Leo works closely with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which provides over half the funds to operate the Office of Planning. As Acting Director and Director of the Office of Planning, Leo has worked closely with the county planning directors on coordination of the Coastal Zone Management program.

I respectfully urge you to recommend advise and consent to the nomination of Leo Asuncion for the Director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Written Testimony to Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Hearing April 4, 2016
Relating to GM 662 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Leo Asuncion as Director of the
Office of Planning
Submitted by Mary Lou Kobayashi
Honolulu, HI 96816

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water
Land and Agriculture.

I strongly support the confirmation of Leo Asuncion as Director of the Office of Planning (OP). He is well-qualified for this position with professional work experience in the field of state and urban planning and a master's degree in urban planning. Mr. Asuncion has been Planning Program Manager in the Coastal Zone Management Program in OP since 2011 and has managed OP since the departure of the prior director. He has built an effective team and is results-oriented. During his tenure, OP applied for and Hawaii received its first National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) designation for Heeia. Mr. Asuncion also provided leadership and helped develop climate adaptation policy and update the Ocean Resources Management Plan.

I was a former Planning Program Administrator with OP and worked with Leo Asuncion as part of the OP management team. I believe that he will be an effective and collaborative director of OP.

Mary Lou Kobayashi



**Testimony on Governor's Message 662 regarding the
Nomination of Leo Asuncion, Jr. as Director of Planning,
State of Hawai'i**

**Submitted to
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Agencies
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
State of Hawai'i**

**by
Mary Munson, Executive Director
Coastal States Organization
April 4, 2016**

It is with great pleasure I submit this written testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Leo Asuncion, Jr. as Director of the Hawai'i Office of Planning. Through his involvement with the Coastal States Organization (CSO), I have worked with Mr. Asuncion over three years and have witnessed his outstanding planning expertise, strategic thinking, and leadership qualities. Mr. Asuncion exemplifies the very best in public service, and has earned the respect and admiration of his peers.

Mr. Asuncion was appointed by the Governor to represent the State of Hawai'i on CSO's Governing Board. Shortly thereafter he was elected to CSO's Executive Committee to represent all the island states and territories in 2013, and elected Vice Chair of CSO in 2014. Because CSO represents the 35 U.S. coastal states and territories on ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resource issues, it frequently makes policy recommendations to Congress and the Administration. Mr. Asuncion has repeatedly distinguished himself as an influential leader and persuasive speaker on oceans and coastal policy issues. He testified on behalf of CSO at four well-attended congressional hearings, describing Hawai'i's coastal planning and management successes, regional ocean partnerships, and the Coastal Zone Management Act, demonstrating that your State's initiatives are models for the nation. He has served as co-chair of CSO's extremely productive Climate Adaptation Work Group, responsible for CSO's influential submission on the climate adaptation needs of states and territories to the 2014 Presidential Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. The fact that he was appointed to the Governance Coordination Committee of the National Ocean Council in 2014 is evidence of the tremendous national respect that Mr. Asuncion has earned in his field.

I can think of no one more qualified and capable than Mr. Asuncion for the Directorship, and urge you to favorably consider his nomination.

April 3, 2016

TO: Senate Committee on Land, Water and Agriculture
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

I support the Governor's nomination of **LEO R. ASUNCION, JR.** to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning for Hawaii.

I have known Mr. Asuncion for over twenty years. His background in government, planning and project management, and building partnerships will serve him well as Director of the Office of Planning.

Mr. Asuncion's collaborative nature has always been an asset. The State of Hawaii would be fortunate to have Mr. Asuncion leading the Office of Planning.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Mr. Asuncion as the Director of the Office of Planning for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Submitted by:
Mary O'Leary

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: melissaiwamoto@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Friday, April 01, 2016 12:11:07 PM

GM662

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: lho@hawaiiublicpolicy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 6:59:00 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Pavlicek	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am writing in support of Leo Asuncion as director of the Office of State Planning. I have known Leo for more than 10 years and often worked closely with him on community volunteer activities, primarily in the Kaka'ako and downtown communities. He has the integrity, passion and intelligence to help lead our state. He would make positive contributions as the director of the Office of State Planning. Please confirm his nomination.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: llpm00@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 01, 2016 6:04:12 AM

GM662

Submitted on: 4/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura McIntyre	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I, Laura Leialoha Phillips McIntyre, BA, MURP AICP, current program manager of the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH), Environmental Planning Office, strongly support Leo's confirmation as the DBEDT OP Director. Leo has been acting in the role since Jessie left and has done an excellent job. I have been with the HDOH since January 2012 and it has been a pleasure working with Leo. I have every confidence that Leo will continue to excel in this position.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: melissa@hawaiifashion.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, April 03, 2016 12:49:56 PM

GM662

Submitted on: 4/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa White	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a planner with a decade of experience in environmental and community planning in Hawaii, I have worked with Leo Asuncion and have seen his leadership, diligence, and integrity firsthand. I fully support the appointment of Leo Asuncion for the Directorship of the Office of Planning. Mahalo to the Committee and Leadership for your consideration of this testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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March 28, 2016

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair; and, members of the Committee

Subject: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT** of Mr. Leo Asuncion, Jr.
Gubernatorial Nominee to Director, Office of Planning
Hearing: Monday 4 April 2016, 2:45 PM, Conference Room 224

I am respectfully submitting this written testimony in support of Mr. Leo Asuncion's nomination to Director of the Office of Planning.

I have personally known Mr. Asuncion in his current role as Acting Director for the Office of Planning, DBEDT (2014 to present); as Planning Program Manager, Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program (2011 to present); as Regulatory Analyst, HECO (2005 to 2009); and, as Project Planner with SSFM International (2002 to 2005).

He has a wide range and years of experience that include both public and community service and experience in Hawaii's planning and development industry. I believe that he will be an asset to the Office of Planning and the State of Hawaii as the Director.

I believe he has the right temperament and intelligence to bring together contrasting views in seeking out the best decisions for the Office. I strongly encourage the Senate to confirm Mr. Asuncion's nomination as the Director, Office of Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

SSFM INTERNATIONAL, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael P. Matsumoto".

Michael P. Matsumoto, P.E., FACEC
President/CEO
email: mmatsumoto@ssfm.com



Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
April 4, 2016

GM 662 Consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Office of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEO ASUNCION, JR.

SUPPORT for GM 662 Director of the Office of Planning, **Leo Asuncion, Jr.**

I am a resident of the Big Island and a citizen activist in the area of marine natural resources planning and management. I am president of Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, a state-wide fisheries conservation advocacy organization. In my role in marine resource planning and management, I have had the privilege to work with Mr. Leo Asuncion. Mr. Asuncion and I have attended various federal and state government meetings as they relate to marine issues. Since 2012, I have been a council member of the State Office of Planning's Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council that Mr. Asuncion oversees as the Coastal Zone Management Program Manager, as well as with his role as Acting Director of the Office of Planning.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT Mr. Asuncion's appointment as the Director of the Office of Planning.

I have found Mr. Asuncion to have breadth and depth of knowledge in matters related to planning for development and conservation of the economic and natural resources of Hawaii. Mr. Asuncion's years of work in the private sector and his years of experience in public service provides him a special ability and knowledge to have a wide perspective of matters within his area of responsibility. He has skills and knowledge of how to navigate through the legislative processes and has a good understanding of judicial principles and precedence that affect planning issues at the State level. Finally, of importance to me, Mr. Asuncion works well with the general public as well as with citizen activists.

Additionally, I believe his skills, knowledge, and experience would make Mr. Asuncion a very good legislator, if he ever wishes to enter politics.

I urge the Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture to confirm Mr. Asuncion as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment in this matter.

Sincerely and Aloha,

Phil Fernandez
(Comment submitted as an Individual)

Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc.
1082 Lunalilo Home Road, Honolulu, HI. 96825

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Monday, April 4, 2016, 2:45 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

GM 662 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of
Leo Asuncion, Jr. as the Director of the Office of Planning

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Leo Asuncion as Director of the Office of Planning. I am Rodney Funakoshi, Planning Program Administrator of the Land Use Division at the Office of Planning.

Mr. Asuncion is very well qualified to lead the Office of Planning, having previously held a range of public and private senior planning and management positions. He is a certified planner and has held leadership positions with the American Planning Association, Hawaii Chapter. Mr. Asuncion has a strong background in land use and environmental planning, having served with the State Land Use Commission, as planning consultant, and as manager of the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program.

Mr. Asuncion has demonstrated his leadership capabilities at the Office of Planning during the past two years in his service as the Acting Director, in his support of the Office's many programs and initiatives, and in his broad knowledge of government, budgetary and legislative processes. I believe he will serve the State well, and I urge your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,



Rodney Funakoshi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: sawonglaw@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 3:17:55 PM

GM662

Submitted on: 3/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandie Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a practicing attorney, I had the pleasure of working with Leo Asuncion, Jr. on several occasions both at HECO and in his capacity as acting Director of the Office of Planning. Mr. Asuncion performs his job with integrity and professionalism and, thus, I strongly support his nomination as Director of the Office of Planning. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Statement of
Leo R. Asuncion, Jr.
Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
April 4, 2016

1. Why do you wish to be Director of the Office of Planning?

Throughout my career, I have firmly believed that planning is an important factor in a number of sectors, including but not limited to land use, transportation, economic development, health, and education, and also to decision-makers such as department heads, elected officials, boards and commissions, and advisory groups.

I wish to become the Director of the Office of Planning not only to continue and build upon the past work of the Office of Planning, but to also lead the Office and the network of State departments and agencies towards better, more integrated planning, and the timely provision of best available planning and planning-related information.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of the Director of the Office of Planning?

I perceive the role and responsibilities of the Director to be a leader, collaborator, proponent, and provider of sound statewide planning guidance and planning-related information to the Governor, governmental agencies (including the Office of Planning staff), decision-makers, policy makers, advisory groups, and the public.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Director of the Office of Planning, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as the Director of the Office of Planning.

I believe that my educational background, participation in local and national professional organizations, merited progression in the field of planning, and varied planning experience (i.e., in land use, planning policy, program evaluation, project management, utility, integration planning, and program management) both in the public and private sector, here in Hawaii and the Pacific Region, greatly qualifies me for the position.

The varied skills, experience and knowledge that I have aggregated over the past 25 years in the planning profession will aid in my decision-making ability as the Office of Planning Director. I am one that examines all angles to a question or issue, and I draw upon my experiences to weigh the pros and cons prior to making decisions. I am also open to input and guidance from others in making my decisions, as I am fully aware that while I may have broad knowledge, experience and skills, there is much more to learn in my profession.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I would like to accomplish an evaluation and update of the Hawaii State Plan, which was last extensively reviewed in 1985 and recompiled in 1990-92. As this policy sets forth Hawaii's goals, objectives, and priorities for a number of areas of state interest, as well as functional area plans, a periodic evaluation and update is necessary in order to assure that the plan is kept up to date especially in this and future period of rapid change in Hawaii.

I would also like to ensure that a clear plan or direction is set for current State interest areas such as State transit-oriented development, adaptation to a changing climate, the provision of a range of housing units, and the conservation of Hawaii's natural resources.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Office of Planning?

Three qualities that best describe myself are: openness, balanced, and passionate.

These qualities would benefit the Office of Planning in its mission and mandates – being open not only to information or input received by the office, but also openness to products or information emanating from the office; maintaining balance in all activities that the office is charged with performing; and being passionate about planning, our clients (from the public to the Governor, and everything in between), and the work of the entire office.

6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Office of Planning?

Given my modest nature, and being brought up to perform at my best without standing out, this question is difficult to answer. However, if I were to select one previous experience, it would be leading and coordinating a team of professionals from various disciplines through an integrated planning process. Particularly, I was a non-engineer leading a team where 95% of the team members were licensed engineers. While at a

deficit in terms of my knowledge of engineering, I was able to bridge the gap through collaboration among the team members' skills, knowledge and expertise.

This experience, which launched me to more complex integrated planning activities, would benefit the Office of Planning in building upon the internal collaborative nature of the office today, and expanding such team collaboration when working with other governmental agencies, stakeholders, communities and the public.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service with the Office of Planning? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during my tenure as Director of the Office of Planning. If a possible or potential conflict of interest should arise, I would seek the guidance of the State Ethics Commission staff and take immediate action, such as recusal, to ensure that there would be no conflict of interest going forward.