

TESTIMONY OF KEALI'I LÓPEZ
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TWENTY-EIGHT LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

LATE

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 662,
NOMINATING LEO ASUNCION, JR. AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING

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

I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Leo Asuncion, Jr. to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning. My name is Keali'i López, and my support for Mr. Leo Asuncion, Jr. is based on my experience with him while I served as the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs in 2014 and my work in the private sector in 2015.

In my experience with Mr. Asuncion I have found him to be very collaborative, which is essential for the work required of him and the Office of Planning. Much of the efforts of the Office of Planning necessitate interaction and engagement of the other State departments. Leo's ability to look at the needs of the Departments and his collaborative nature make him well suited to serve as the Director of the Office of Planning. While in the private sector, I had an opportunity to also work with him, and found his formal planning education and background very critical to our shared efforts.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 662 in support of Mr. Leo Asuncion's nomination to serve as Director of the Office of Planning.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 9:45 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: jiro.sumada@lyon.us.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM

Categories: Blue Category



GM662

Submitted on: 4/4/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jiro Sumada	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, This email is to offer my testimony in SUPPORT of GM 662. I would like to offer my STRONG SUPPORT for Mr. Leo Acuncion as Director for the Office of Planning. After working directly with Mr. Acuncion over the past 20 years he has the experience, knowledge and collaborative skills to succeed at the Office of Planning. The most significant skill that I can attest to why he is perfect for the job is that Mr. Acincion is a do-er and a visionary. He can see the big picture and at then switch hats to implement initiatives to get things done. His long term patience and active role in the Coastal Zone Management program is the prime case where issues that surfaced in that program, led to detailed working groups and studies on Climate Change and Adaptation for Hawaii. Mr. Acuncion was able to bring the right people together to create a forum where ideas could come out, be discussed and refined, so that the best strategies could be pursued with a group consensus. This is VERY rare especially on a subject like climate change. Then the KEY skill Mr. Acuncion possesses, is to systematically implement the best strategies to continue to move program forward. The State of Hawaii would be in good hands with a collaborative leader like Mr. Leo Acuncion. I STRONGLY encourage your committee recommend that Mr. Acuncion be confirmed as the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii. MAHALO, Jiro

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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gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 8:29 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: alaulapua@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM662 on Apr 4, 2016 14:45PM

LATE

GM662

Submitted on: 4/4/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you Senator Mike Gabbard and Senator Clarence K. Nishihara for the opportunity to provide support for the nomination of Mr. Leo Asuncion to the position of Director for the Office of Planning. I have worked with Mr. Asuncion over a period of 15 years as a planner for the State of Hawaii. I have found Mr. Asuncion to be knowledgeable on issues that will influence and/or affect the State of Hawaii with regards to infrastructure, affordable housing, water, climate change, transit-oriented-development, and the environment to name a few. Mr. Asuncion is an exemplary planning professional who has the capacity to lead the Office of Planning's short and long term goals. Due to the the nature of the Office of Planning's mandates, I believe Mr. Asuncion is a natural fit as he has worked with our federal, state, and county partners in various capacities, as well as various members of the public, and Legislature. I respectfully urge your committee to approve Mr. Leo Asuncion's nomination. Thank you for your consideration. Dawn Hegger-Nordblom

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April 2, 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,

I am writing to you in support Governor Ige's nomination of Leo R. Asuncion, Jr., for the position of Director of the State Office of Planning. Mr. Asuncion is extremely qualified for this position as evidenced by his extensive career as a leader in the planning field. His knowledge and experience of coastal zone management, climate change, and energy make him an ideal candidate at this critical time in our State's history.

As the Hawaiian Islands Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I believe we need a leader in the Office of Planning who will act in the best interest of our oceans and coastlines in the face of climate change and sea level rise. Mr. Asuncion has proven that his ability to do just that during his time as the Planning Program Manager for the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program. Additionally, Mr. Asuncion's employment as the acting and now current director of the State Office of Planning, will allow for continuity and progress at the Office of Planning without any lag time for training.

His broad range of experience and expertise will allow for collaboration among various organizations with differing views in the coming years. I believe Mr. Asuncion's credentials, experience, and valued reputation will allow him to guide the State towards a more sustainable future where generations to come will continue to be able to enjoy beautiful beaches and healthy coastlines. Mahalo for your consideration.

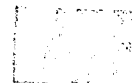
Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart Coleman
Hawaii Regional Manager

Dana Sagum
P.O. Box 958, Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii 96765

March 23, 2016



Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard,
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Ste. No. 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject Matter: Testimony In Support Of Leo Asuncion
Director, Office of Planning

My Name is Dana Sagum. I am writing in strong support of the nomination and resulting confirmation of Mr. Leo Asuncion, to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Office Of Planning by Governor Ige. Mr. Leo Asuncion serves as a proud model to the citizens of Hawaii, especially its youth and young families. He will be an excellent addition to the Office of Planning, bringing business acumen and local-style wisdom to the University system. In the years that I have known/worked with him, he has always demonstrated an eager willingness to help those less fortunate, and a passion to help build communities, especially in difficult economies.

Mr. Asuncion is off the highest moral value and will be an excellent addition to Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Office of Planning. I can be reached at 808-679-1113 should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Danielle Sagum

Stanforde Sagum
87-1720 Farrington Hwy #1
(808) 294-9888

April 4, 2016

Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard,
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Ste. No. 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject Matter: Testimony In Support Of Leo Asuncion
Director, Office of Planning

My name is Stanforde Sagum, and I am writing this letter in of Mr. Leo Asuncion, who is seeking the nomination and resulting confirmation for the Director's position with the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Office of Planning. He experience working with the various inter-government agencies would make him an excellent addition to the Office of Planning as the Director.

Mr. Asuncion is off the highest moral value and will be an excellent addition to Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Office of Planning. I can be reached at 808-294-9888 should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,


Stanforde Sagum

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

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



GM 662 – Leo Asuncion, Jr., Gubernatorial Nominee for Director of Planning

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

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee:

We **strongly support** the consideration and confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr. as the Director of the Office of Planning.

Since March 2014, Mr. Asuncion has been responsible for the management, budgeting and oversight of the Office of Planning. He is responsible for overall development of policies, execution of studies and reports generated by all divisions of the office and represents the office at the State Legislature, Executive Branch agencies, communities and the public.

We believe Mr. Asuncion will continue to be a great asset to the Office of Planning. He has a wealth of planning knowledge and has the right experience, skills and professionalism to make sound judgements as it relates to the Office of Planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views with you and we respectfully ask for your support.

About PRP

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a not-for-profit organization that represents the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state, and more than 240 of Hawaii's top contractors. Through this unique partnership, PRP has become an influential voice for responsible construction and an advocate for creating a stronger, more sustainable Hawaii in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs and enhances the quality of life for all residents.



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

DATE: Monday, April 4, 2016
TIME: 2:45PM
PLACE: State Capitol Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street

LATE

RE: GM 662 Consideration and Confirmation for LeoAsuncion, JR. for the Director of the Office Of Planning, Gubernatorial Nominee

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee:

My name is Gino Soquena, and I am the Government and Community Relations Director for The Laborers' International Union of North America Local 368 which represents almost 5,000 members throughout the State of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 662 for Consideration and Confirmation of Leo Asuncsion for the Director of the Office of Planning.

Leo Asuncsion has been the acting Director of the Office of Planning since 2014 and has over 20 years of experience. We have built a great working relationship with him over the past few years and look forward to working with him as the Director of the Office of Planning in the future.

The Laborers' Union Local 368 respectfully requests your support in confirming the appointment of Leo Asuncsion, JR as the Director of the Office of Planning. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eugene "Gino" Soquena
Government & Community Relations Director
Laborers' International Union of North America Local 368



HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

April 4, 2016
Water, Land & Agriculture Committee
2:45 p.m., Room 224

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Statement of the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters on GM 662

Confirmation of Leo Asuncion Jr., Director, Office of Planning, Department of Business,
Economic Development & Tourism

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members,

The Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters (HRCC) strongly supports the confirmation of Leo Asuncion as the Director of the Office of Planning. Asuncion has over 20 years of experience in resource, project, and staff planning both as a manager and administrator.

During his extensive career in planning, Asuncion has demonstrated his expertise for 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.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to confirm the nomination of Mr. Leo Asuncion.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion.

STATE HEADQUARTERS & BUSINESS OFFICES

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KONA OFFICE: 75-126 Lunapule Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740-2106 • Ph. (808) 329-7355 Fax (808) 326-9376
MAUI OFFICE: 330 Hookahi Street, Wailuku, Maui 96793-1449 • Ph. (808) 242-6891 Fax (808) 242-5961
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