

LATE

GM 711 Consideration and Confirmation to the Real Estate Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Scott Arakaki

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

April 1, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 229

CHAIR BAKER, VICE CHAIR KIDANI, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH:

I write in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Scott Arakaki to the Real Estate Commission.

I am the Executive Director of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii ("Volunteer Legal") and a Hawaii licensed attorney. I have known Mr. Arakaki for over 18 years both as a family friend and as a fellow practicing attorney. In those 18 years, I have known Mr. Arakaki to be of strong moral character and someone who adheres to his legal ethical duties and responsibilities.

Although I write this letter in my personal capacity (and not on behalf of Volunteer Legal), my experience with the non-profit legal service organization for which Mr. Arakaki has been and is and active volunteer, gives me insight as to his commitment and service to the people in our community. Volunteer Legal provides civil legal services to the low and moderate income persons in our state. Mr. Arakaki has generously volunteered his time to the organization by way of training and guidance to staff, case screening and assessment, providing educational workshops to shelter residents, as well as providing guidance to the organization.

Mr. Arakaki is not only accomplished real estate attorney, but is also a committed community member.

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,


Michelle D. Acosta

Peter Shoji – Questions

1. I am interested in renewing my membership on the DCCA board as a public servant to my community.
2. The roles and responsibilities of a member of the board are primarily to protect the public while maintaining the integrity of the licensed profession.
3. I feel I can help the consumer to be protected from the licensee by reviewing and updating the rules and regulations and by conducting 100% audit on the licensee renewals.
4. I believe that I am qualified to sit on the board because I have been in public service (neighborhood board commission) for over 20 years where I have learned to develop a solid non-emotional position on any issues that arise.
5. I hope to accomplish updating the rules and regulations of the optometry board so that it is consistent with the way the profession is currently engaged in practice.
6. Non-emotional on hot issues, good with character interpretation (able to distinguish character integrity during testimony i.e. neighborhood hard issues and licensee renewal discrepancies).
7. I have spent more than 20 years on the Manoa and Salt Lake boards, also served more than 10 years with the Optometrists' Association and as the PAC chair for over 10 years.
8. I currently do not foresee any conflicts of interest. I will take appropriate action to recuse myself and relieve the conflict.