

GM 869



**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
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Telephone: (808) 586-2355
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Statement of
Luis P. Salaveria, Director
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
April 18, 2016
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of

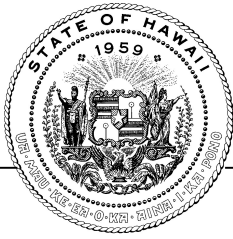
**GM869
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LAND USE
COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
GARY OKUDA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2017**

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) strongly supports Gary Okuda as the Governor's nominee for an At-Large seat on the State Land Use Commission (LUC).

Mr. Okuda is a well-respected attorney and member of the community. He has experience in a broad range of matters that will bring a valuable perspective to the Commission. Experience in the real estate field as well as the agricultural industry is reflected in his resume.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
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Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Monday, April 18, 2016
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
in consideration of

Governor's Message (GM) 869

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

I strongly support Governor David Y. Ige's nomination of Mr. Gary Okuda to serve as a member of the Land Use Commission.

Mr. Okuda's background as an attorney in private practice in the area of property law will serve him well as a member of the Land Use Commission.

I have personally known Mr. Okuda, for over 20 years and his diligent work as an attorney with attention to detail, advocacy for his clients, and utmost professionalism are his assets. He continues to demonstrate the highest level of professionalism in his field. Mr. Okuda has gained my trust as someone that will always uphold the highest levels of leadership, and there is no question that he will greatly contribute to the deliberations and discussion of the Land Use Commission on matters presented to the body.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Mr. Okuda as a member of the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 869.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lieutenant Governor

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

MARY ALICE EVANS
Deputy Director



LAND USE COMMISSION
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
State of Hawai'i

DANIEL E. ORODENKER
Executive Officer

Bert K. Saruwatari
Planner
SCOTT A.K. DERRICKSON AICP
Planner

RILEY K. HAKODA
Chief Clerk/Planner

FRED A. TALON
Drafting Technician

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
Land Use Commission

Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
April 18, 2016
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of

GM869
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LAND USE
COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
GARY OKUDA,
for a term to expire 06-30-2017

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

My name is Daniel Orodenker, and I am the Executive Officer of the Land Use Commission (LUC). I am here to respectfully request that this Committee favorably consider the nomination of Gary Okuda to serve as a commissioner for a term to expire on June 30, 2017. Mr. Okuda has been nominated to fill the position as the Governor's nominee for an At-Large seat on the Commission.

Mr Okuda will be a welcome addition to the Coimmission. He has experience in land use law in his private practice as well as with agricultural issues in his time as a lecturer for the College of Tropical Agriculture. His legal experience and diverse perspective will be valuable to the Commission in technical and substantive matters.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Okuda's nomination to serve as an At-Large Commissioner on the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

From: [Rock Riggs](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: Testimony Supporting Mr. Gary Okuda for confirmation to the Land Use Commission
Date: Sunday, April 17, 2016 11:49:27 AM

From: Brian Bowers [mailto:bbowers@bowersandkubota.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2016 10:37 AM
To: Sen. Mike Gabbard
Subject: Testimony Supporting Mr. Gary Okuda for confirmation to the Land Use Commission

Honorable [Mike Gabbard](#)
Senate District 20
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
phone: 808-586-6830
fax: 808-586-6679
sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov

[GM 869](#)

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY OKUDA, for a term to expire 06-30-2017

I am writing to express my strong support for Mr. Gary Okuda for confirmation as a member of the Land Use Commission (UC). He possesses the wisdom and vision to help guide the LUC and our State to insure the needs of the people of Hawaii are met now and onto the future. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Respectfully,

Brian Bowers
78 Kaiholu Place
Kailiua, HI 96734

Brian Bowers, P.E., CCM
Bowers + Kubota Consulting
Bowers + Kubota Management
HawaiiBusiness' 2015 Best Places to Work

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April 15, 2016

Testimony of Danna Holck, Vice President & General Manager of Turtle Bay Resort

Governor's Message 869

Gubernatorial Nominee, Gary Okuda

Land Use Commission

The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard and Members of the Land Use Commission:

I strongly support the nomination of Gary Okuda for the appointment to the Land Use Commission. I have known Mr. Okuda for over 50 years and endorse him for this appointment.

Mr. Okuda is a man with solid integrity. As a successful attorney for over 35 years, he will stand by the law without any bias, whether taking a position as a commissioner, colleague or friend. I respect him immensely.

Growing up together in Kailua, Mr. Okuda became part of the Holck ohana. He is a faithful husband, father and friend. My family and I have high regard for his integrity and steadfast decisions. He is an honest, reliable, hardworking individual who settles for nothing less than what is pono.

With a BA from the University of Hawaii and law degree from the University of California Davis, Mr. Okada returned home after earning his law degree, to contribute to the future of his family and friends in Hawaii. He believes that Hawaii's future is contingent on the decisions made by our commissioners. This is a responsibility he takes very seriously. He believes in credibility and trust expected of these commissioners by the people of Hawaii and he will uphold that expectation in every decision he makes. I would be the first to stand behind his decisions, I respect him that much.

Mr. Okuda's credentials provide a clear indication of his knowledge of government and law, and his commitment to doing the right thing for Hawaii's future. I am confident he will take on this role as a member of the Land Use Commission with passion and will represent Hawaiians like me admirably.

I respectfully ask that Gary Okuda's nomination receive the consent of your committee and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on Mr. Okuda's nomination.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danna Holck".

Danna Holck



State Poultry Processors, Inc.

P.O. Box 29490 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96820 • Phone: (808) 845-5902 • FAX No.: (808) 847-7040

To: *Water Land and Agriculture Committee*

I am writing to express my endorsement of Gary Okuda's nomination as a commissioner with the Land Use Commission.

I have known Gary Okuda for 30 years, he is my attorney, advisor and a personal friend. Through the years, Gary has provided invaluable advice, has helped resolve conflicts and handled difficult situations and mediations with his knowledge of the law. Gary is smart, honest, forthright, tenacious and I believe he would be an asset to the Commission.

As a resident of Hawaii, and a business owner in the community, Gary is the type of person I would want representing Hawaii: he is fair, honest and does what is right. I have the greatest respect and admiration for Gary Okuda.

I am a proud supporter and happy to endorse him as a commissioner with the Land Use Commission. I would be pleased to express in detail my personal knowledge or provide any further information or insights. My contact information is listed below.

Sincerely,

Darryl Uezu, President

50th State Poultry, Inc.

Post Office Box 29490

Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

From: [Dave](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of Gary Okuda's Appointment to the Land Use Commission
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 12:04:48 PM

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Mr. Okuda's appointment to the Land Use Commission.

In the time I have known him, I have found Gary to be extremely intelligent, decisive and thoughtful. He cares greatly about our state, and his considerable skills along with his even temperament and sense of fair mindedness make him a great fit for the LUC.

I know that Gary will be a responsible commission member. He will be fair and balanced as he evaluates the issues before the LUC and will adhere to all applicable laws and statutes.

I have tremendous respect for Gary Okuda, and I hope you will see fit to vote for his confirmation to the Land Use Commission.

Mahalo,

David L. Ellis

April 15, 2016

E-Mail: <WLAtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Senate District 20
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201

Reference: GM 869 /Written Testimony in Support of the
Confirmation of the Appointment of Gary Y. Okuda
as a Member of the Land Use Commission

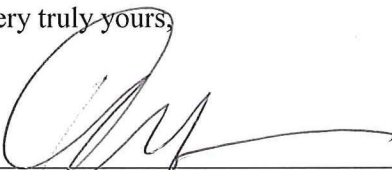
Honorable Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture:

This written testimony is submitted in support of the confirmation of the appointment of Gary Y. Okuda as a member of the Land Use Committee. I have known Gary on a professional basis for over 35 years and have personal knowledge of the matters set forth below.

Gary is not a flamboyant person and shuns the limelight. If one were to ask him to describe himself and his qualifications, he would be self deprecating. He will not tell you of his accomplishments but he will tell you who he is as a person. He would tell you that he comes from humble beginnings and that all he can assure you is that he is an honest, ethical, fair, and forthright person who will not only apply the law but also balance an understanding of the law with common sense and due consideration to the facts and merits of matters before him, independently and without influence from others.

As a person and a lawyer, he is respected by his peers for those qualities. Indeed, those qualities are manifested in the honor of his being nominated for appointment as a member of the Land Use Commission.

Very truly yours,



DICKSON C.H. LEE

cc: Gary Y. Okuda

From: [Doss K. Tannehill](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 869 testimony for Gary Okuda
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 10:00:58 AM

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to provide testimony in favor of Gary Okuda as a member of the Land Use Commission Board.

I know Gary to be a man of integrity who wants to serve Hawaii. He has no personal benefit for serving on this board. I strongly encourage you to appoint Gary Okuda to Land Use Commission.

Please feel free to contact if I can provide more information to you.

Respectfully Submitted.



Doss K. Tannehill

Board Certified Ocularist

752 17th Avenue Honolulu, HI 96816

Phone: (808)738-5300

Fax: (808)738-5304

doss@pacificeyes.net

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: fhyun01@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM869 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 3:04:50 PM

GM869

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edmund "Fred" Hyun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I stand in strong support of GARY OKUDA to serve on the LUC. Working and dealing with Gary, I have found him to have the strength of character and professional qualities necessary to be a Commissioner for the LUC. Gary is not afraid to question and raise concerns if it is suspect or not in the best interest of our beloved State. I have the greatest confidence in Gary's ability to serve and contribute to this important body. Again, I stand in strong support of Gary Okuda. Mahalo!

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

GARY Y. OKUDA
1509 Kalaepohaku Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Tel: (808) 375-7325

April 14, 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawai`I 96813

Re: GM 869 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY OKUDA, for a term to expire 06-30-2017.

Dear Senator Gabbard:

Thank you for your invitation to provide information regarding my nomination to serve as a Commissioner of the Land Use Commission of the State of Hawaii.

I am honored to be nominated by Governor David Y. Ige and I appreciate this opportunity to provide you the following about myself and my views about service as a commissioner.

I. SUMMARY STATEMENT

In 1978, during my senior year at the University of Hawaii, I was fortunate to serve on the staff of Masu Dyer, a delegate to the 1978 Constitutional Convention.

To this day, I appreciate that Delegate Dyer hired me, because she allowed me to serve on her staff although I had to leave before the end of the Convention, to attend law school at the University of California, Davis.

Based on my experience at the Constitutional Convention, I know that the Hawaii State Constitution reflects our shared community values which makes Hawaii uniquely our home.

The 1978 Constitution was a product of a broad based community discussion. The delegates who drafted the Constitution were elected to the Convention by their neighbors.

Except for two delegates, none were incumbent legislators. Many legislators, in fact, publicly stated they would not seek election as a delegate, so that the Constitutional Convention would unquestionably reflect the will of Hawaii's citizens, and not necessarily the decisions of sitting legislators.

Many constitutional amendments were proposed, discussed in open meetings where the public was encouraged to attend and participate; proposed amendments were debated by the delegates and many proposals discarded or modified.

The final product, the Hawaii State Constitution of 1978, was approved by the Delegates and ratified by the voters of the State of Hawaii.

This deliberative process demonstrates the depth Hawaii's constitution reflects our common values, our common experiences and our common heritage. It embodies the consensus of our friends, families and neighbors, who are of all ethnicities, cultures and origins.

The Hawaii State Constitution communicates a vision and hope for future generations, and of those of us who call Hawaii home.

These important, common values include the Public Trust Doctrine, stated as follows in Article 11, Sec. 1:

Const. Art. 11, § 1

For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State.

All public natural resources are held in

trust by the State for the benefit of the people.

Article 11, Sec. 3 of the Hawaii Constitution expressly protects agricultural lands:

Const. Art. 11, § 3

The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands. The legislature shall provide standards and criteria to accomplish the foregoing.

Lands identified by the State as important agricultural lands needed to fulfill the purposes above shall not be reclassified by the State or rezoned by its political subdivisions without meeting the standards and criteria established by the legislature and approved by a two-thirds vote of the body responsible for the reclassification or rezoning action.

The affirmation and protection of native Hawaiian cultural practices is stated in the Constitution as follows:

Const. Art. 12, § 7

The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua'a tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the right of the

State to regulate such rights.

These provisions of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii are not simply a concern of a specific portion of the community, a specific ethnic or cultural group, or persons of a specific political ideology. The Constitution was a product of elected delegates, representing a wide cross-section of the people who call Hawaii home, and was duly ratified by Hawaii's voters, who likewise comprised a wide cross-section of Hawaii's citizens.

As a result, the Hawaii Constitution is a reflection of the consensus of Hawaii's citizens and a statement of their common community of values and beliefs.

If confirmed, I promise to follow the law, without bias in favor or against anyone appearing before the Land Use Commission. I promise to make decisions based solely on the evidence presented to the Commission, and according to the statutes passed by the legislature and the administrative rules adopted by the Commission pursuant to legislative authority. I promise to keep an open mind. I promise to be guided by the provisions of the Hawaii Constitution.

II. MY BACKGROUND

I was born in 1956 at Kapiolani Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii, the eldest of three children of Robert and Setsuko Okuda.

My father was from a family of 8 siblings from Hilo, Hawaii where my grandfather Asataro Okuda worked on the docks before the days of union protection. My mother's family of 9 siblings grew up in Kalihi; my grandfather Sadame Awaya was the chauffeur for former Territorial Governor George Carter.

I do not view the "plantation days" with nostalgia. Those days were filled with inequality, the lack of opportunity, and two World Wars.

My father was a trained bookkeeper and retired from his work in the construction industry. Growing up, my mother stayed at

Senator Mike Gabbard
April 14, 2016
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home to raise myself and my two sisters, but went back (after my youngest sister was older) to the retail business where she worked before I was born.

I grew up in Coconut Grove, Kailua, long before Kailua became a tourist destination; my father and mother still live on the same property my father first purchased before the Pali Tunnels were built.

I graduated from Kailua High School, Class of 1974, and then attended Windward Community College. I transferred to the University of Hawaii at Manoa where I received in 1978 my B.A. degree in political science. My first trip to the Mainland was to attend law school and I received my law degree from the University of California at Davis in 1981.

From 1981 through 1987, I practiced law with the firm Okumura Takushi Funaki & Wee. Since 1987, I have practiced with my own firm, now known as Leu Okuda & Doi.

My spouse Marlyn Okuda is a Special Education teacher. She has taught on Molokai, and various Windward district schools. Although she retired from the Department of Education, Marlyn still regularly substitute teaches, primarily at Palolo Elementary School.

Our 30 year old daughter Yoko is a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and works with autistic children at Easter Seals. Our 27 year old son Don is a graduate of Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, California, and works as a product designer with the technology company Github in San Francisco, California.

My resume is attached to this letter, which summarizes my education and work experience.

III. RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

"(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Land Use Commission?"

Senator Mike Gabbard
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After its people, land is one of the most precious resources of Hawaii. How land is used affects Hawaii's other resources, its air, its water, and the quality of life of its people.

Land use affects Hawaii's economy, and determines where, how and the conditions under which Hawaii's people live.

In some instances, the process by which land use decisions are made affects the people's trust in their government.

I wish to contribute to the stewardship of the land, consistent with the mandates set forth in Hawaii's Constitution, by strictly adhering to the statutes passed by the Legislature, and implementing all statutes by following the practice and procedures set forth in the Hawaii Administrative Rules.

I recognize that the challenges facing Hawaii are many, and the solutions are not simple. For example, successful, sustainable agriculture involves more than simply designating a parcel of land for agriculture; it involves the availability of water, infrastructure, consideration of labor and other production costs, the training and experience of the farmer and farm workers, and ultimately the existence of a market that will turn a profit for the agricultural product being grown.

I wish to be a Land Use commissioner because I can contribute to making decisions based on the evidence, in a quasi-judicial proceeding.

Land use decisions will probably best result from simply adhering to the stated requirements of the law. By doing so, decisions will more likely than not be made based on the merits, and not on bias, prejudice or secret agendas.

"(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Land Use Commission?"

If confirmed, I perceive my role to make decisions based solely on the evidence presented to the Commission, in strict compliance with the procedures and provisions set forth in the Hawaii Administrative Rules, the applicable statutes, and guided

by the community values stated in the Hawaii Constitution.

I perceive my role to make these decisions with an open mind, free from bias, prejudice or favoritism.

I perceive my responsibility to engender trust in government and the land use process. To that end, I recognize that conflicts of interest, actual or perceived, must be avoided.

"(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Land Use Commission, 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 a member of the Land Use Commission."

My education, professional training and experience has prepared me to participate in the quasi-judicial process followed by the Land Use Commission.

My law practice has included a significant amount of trial and motion practice, where decisions are focused on applying the provisions of the statutes passed by the legislature to the evidence admitted during a judicial proceeding.

After practicing law for almost 35 years and having my presentations in court being scrutinized and challenged by many of Hawaii's very qualified trial judges, I understand the importance of strictly following the mandates of the legislature and carefully scrutinizing the arguments and evidence presented by parties.

"(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?"

I hope to treat with fairness and dignity all persons that appear before the Land Use Commission.

I hope to faithfully follow and apply the requirements of the Hawaii Constitution and the statutes enacted by the legislature, to all matters requiring a decision by the

Commission, and strictly following the Hawaii Administrative Rules applicable to the Commission.

I hope to be fair, open-minded, and free from bias or prejudice.

"(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Land Use Commission?"

I will keep an open mind.

I will follow the law.

I will work hard.

I hope that these qualities will assist the Land Use Commission in making timely decisions, consistent with the requirements of the law.¹

¹ I recognize that the Commission has an obligation to consider many factors and all relevant facts in making its decisions, and these decisions must be made based on the evidence, presented in a quasi-judicial format or proceeding. See, H.R.S. Sec. 205-17 which provides:

§ 205-17. Land use commission decision-making criteria

In its review of any petition for reclassification of district boundaries pursuant to this chapter, the commission shall specifically consider the following:

(1) The extent to which the proposed reclassification conforms to the applicable goals, objectives, and policies of the Hawaii state plan and relates to the applicable priority guidelines of the Hawaii state plan and the adopted functional plans;

(2) The extent to which the proposed reclassification conforms to the applicable district standards;

(3) The impact of the proposed reclassification on the following areas of state concern:

(A) Preservation or maintenance of important natural systems or habitats;

(B) Maintenance of valued cultural, historical, or natural

"(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Land Use Commission?"

My law partners and I have been willing to refuse to take actions on behalf of clients, where, in our professional judgment reached after investigation and research, we concluded that such action would be contrary to the law and our oaths as officers of the Court. We refuse to take actions contrary to law, even when threatened with the loss of significant business, and those threats were actually carried out.

I hope I will continue to have the backbone to do what is right and lawful, thereby benefitting the Commission.

"(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests

resources;

(C) Maintenance of other natural resources relevant to Hawaii's economy, including agricultural resources;

(D) Commitment of state funds and resources;

(E) Provision for employment opportunities and economic development; and

(F) Provision for housing opportunities for all income groups, particularly the low, low-moderate, and gap groups;

(4) The standards and criteria for the reclassification or rezoning of important agricultural lands in section 205-50;

(5) The county general plan and all community, development, or community development plans adopted pursuant to the county general plan, as they relate to the land that is the subject of the reclassification petition; and

(6) The representations and commitments made by the petitioner in securing a boundary change.

Housing is expressly a category required by H.R.S. Sec. 205-17(2)(F) to be considered in a rezoning decision, and available supply of housing may affect price.

However, if agriculture in Hawaii is to be preserved, nurtured and developed, the rezoning of agricultural lands must be done very carefully and scrutinized according to the standard of review required by law.

Senator Mike Gabbard
April 14, 2016
Page 10

that could arise during your service on the Land Use Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?"

I do not foresee conflicts of interest.

Our law firm has an established practice going back to 1987. Much of our practice involves representing mainland lenders and established local businesses and clients, who generally do not have matters before the Land Use Commission.

We do not represent clients seeking Land Use Commission approvals or persons opposing actions pending before the Land Use Commission. I am not aware of any client of the firm with matters pending before the Land Use Commission, or likely to present a matter before the Land Use Commission.

If I am confirmed, Our firm will not represent persons or entities with matters before the Land Use Commission. We will use our standard computerized conflict checking procedure (which we use with all our other client matters) to prevent conflicts of interest.

If either an actual conflict or the appearance of a conflict of interest arises, I would recuse myself from the matter. I will also take whatever additional actions are reasonable or necessary to insure public confidence and trust in the Land Use Commission, even if such additional actions exceed more than recusal.

Although not required at this time, I attach to this letter a disclosure of my finances, in the form required by the State of Hawaii of confirmed commissioners. I disclose all the assets and debts of myself and my spouse, including those items not usually required to be disclosed.

My spouse Marlyn and I are providing this advance disclosure, so that you and the public may determine whether I may be subject to any financial pressure by any person, entity, industry or group.

Since being nominated by Governor Ige, I have not accepted gifts from anyone, including the local style practice of friends picking up the tab and paying for lunch.

I intend to continue declining gifts, even if such gifts would not violate any law or rule applicable to Land Use commissioners.

I also disclose that I am representing the Plaintiffs in the following cases against the State of Hawaii, which do not involve the Land Use Commission:

- A. KITSU V. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, Civil No. 15-1-1824-09 GWBC.

I am one of the attorneys representing Susan Kitsu, the former director of the Department of Education's Civil Rights Office, in a wrongful termination action.

- B. ARTHUR V. DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, Civil No. 05-1-1981.

I am one of the attorneys representing the Plaintiff in a wrongful death action.

- C. OCEANIC KAIMAMALA CORP., NEPHI OHAI, LEO OHAI, and VIRGINIA OHAI, vs. STATE OF HAWAII, STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ITS SUCCESSOR ENTITIES, Civil No. 01-1-2505-08 KSSA, and LEO OHAI and NEPHI OHAI vs. STATE OF HAWAII, Civil No. 09-1-0208-01 KKS.

I am the attorney representing Plaintiffs Ohai in an action arising out of a loan with the State of Hawaii. We are waiting for confirmation of approval of a settlement of the case.

- D. GARY OKUDA V. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, Civil No. 15-1-1789-09 VLC

This is a lawsuit I filed to enforce a request for procurement and other documents from the Department of

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Education. Upon confirmation, I will withdraw from the case and will be substituted as Plaintiff by another person.

For each of these cases, I will request an opinion from the Ethic's Commission on what actions I should take, if I am confirmed as a Commissioner.

IV. CONCLUSION.

I am honored by the nomination of Governor Ige to serve the people of Hawaii as a Commissioner to the Land Use Commission.

If confirmed, I pledge to keep an open mind, and make decisions without favoritism or bias.

I will do so by acting in accordance with the Hawaii Administrative Rules, by adhering to the statutes passed by the Legislature, and by being guided by the Hawaii State Constitution, which sets forth the common goals, values and heritage of all of Hawaii's people.

Sincerely,



Gary Y. Okuda

Enclosures:

- (1) Resume
- (2) Financial disclosure

cc: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senator Gil Riviere
Senator Russell E. Ruderman
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Senator Laura H. Thielen
Senator Glenn Wakai
Senator Sam Slom
w/ enclosures

CURRICULUM VITAE

GARY YUKIO OKUDA

gary@leu-okuda.com

Business:

Leu Okuda & Doi
Attorneys at Law
222 Merchant Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel.: (808) 538-1921
Fax.: (808) 523-9585

Residence:

1509 Kalaepohaku Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Tel.: (808) 738-5716 (r)
Tel.: (808) 375-7325 (c)

Place of Birth:

Honolulu, Hawaii

Date of Birth:

February 13, 1956

EDUCATION:

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii. B.A., May 1978.
University of California, Davis, California. J.D., May 1981.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Phi Beta Kappa, 1978.
Phi Kappa Phi, 1977.

EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT:

Attorney and Partner, Leu Okuda & Doi, Attorneys At Law. Honolulu, Hawaii. 1987-present (formerly known as Leu & Okuda).

Attorney, Okumura Takushi Funaki & Wee, Attorneys At Law, A Law Corporation. Honolulu, Hawaii. 1981-87.

Lecturer, College of Education, Graduate Division, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii. Spring, 2010 (Higher Education Law, EDEA 630).

Lecturer, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii. Spring, 1995 (Family Financial Planning, FAMR 361).

Teaching Assistant, Real Property. School of Law, University of California, Davis, California. 1980-81.

Teaching Assistant, Legal Research and Writing. School of Law, University of California, Davis, California. 1980.

Staff, Delegate Masu Dyer, 1978 Hawaii Constitutional Convention.

Other employment included: farm worker, Carmela Orchids, Inc., Hakalau, Hawaii; pineapple trimmer, Dole Pineapple Co.; salesclerk, Holiday Mart, Inc.

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

June 28, 2015, 2015 Litigation Seminar, Hawaii Bar Assoc.(section)
June 8, 2013, Third Cir. Ct. Foreclosure Mediator Training Seminar.
2012 Foreclosure Law Seminar, Honolulu, Hawaii.
2011 Foreclosure Law Seminar, Honolulu, Hawaii.

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

State of Hawaii (1981), United States District Court for the District of Hawaii (1981). United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (1993).



FORM
D-201
(Rev. 05/2015)



HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS: LONG FORM
(PERSONAL INFORMATION ON THIS PAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY LAW)

FILER

OKUDA
Last Name

GARY
First Name

Y.
M.I.

PREVIOUSLY FILED UNDER DIFFERENT NAME _____
(Last, First, M.I.)

SPOUSE/CIVIL UNION PARTNER

OKUDA
Last Name

MARLYN
First Name

H.
M.I.

DEPENDENT CHILDREN

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

RESIDENCE ADDRESS

MAILING ADDRESS *(if different from Residence)*

1509 Kalaepohaku Street

Number and Street

Number and Street or P.O. Box

Honolulu, HI. 96816

City State Zip Code City State Zip Code

CONTACT INFORMATION

(808) 738-5716
Residence Telephone

(808) 538-1921
Business Telephone

Extension

(808) 375-7325
Cellphone

Email Address

FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

FOR STATE BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBERS

Department

Land Use Commission
Board/Commission Name

Division

BEGIN **END**
Term of Office (mm/dd/yyyy)

Position

HAWAII STATE ETHICS COMMISSION DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS: LONG FORM

FILER
Okuda **Gary** **Y.**
 Last Name First Name M.I.

FOR STATE EMPLOYEES Department Division Position	FOR STATE BOARD/COMMISSION MEMBERS Land Use Commission Board/Commission Name BEGIN END <i>Term of Office (mm/dd/yyyy)</i>
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FOR EACH ITEM, EXCEPT ITEM 9, DISCLOSE INTERESTS OF FILER, SPOUSE, AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN.
 USE ABBREVIATIONS: "F" for filer, "SP" for spouse, "DC" for dependent children, and "JT" for joint interests of the spouse and filer.

ITEM 1: INCOME FOR SERVICES RENDERED FOR PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR

List the source and amount of all income of \$1,000 or more received during the preceding calendar year for services rendered (INCLUDING INCOME EARNED FROM YOUR STATE POSITION), and the nature of the services rendered.

F, SP, DC, JT	NAME OF EMPLOYER / OTHER SOURCE(S) OF INCOME	AMOUNT	SERVICES RENDERED
F.	Leu Okuda Doi, Attys.	H.	Legal
Sp.	Dept. Of Education.	B.	Teacher

Check here if entry is None
 Check here if additional sheets are attached

ITEM 2: OWNERSHIP OR BENEFICIAL INTERESTS IN BUSINESSES

List the amount and identity of every ownership or beneficial interest held during the disclosure period in any business in or outside of the State if the interest has a value of \$5,000 or more or is equal to 10% or more of the ownership of the business. YOU ARE REQUIRED TO LIST ALL STOCKS, MUTUAL FUNDS OR OTHER NON-RETIREMENT INVESTMENT INTERESTS VALUED AT \$5,000 OR MORE. Please see instructions available at <http://ethics.hawaii.gov>.

F, SP, DC, JT	NAME OF BUSINESS	NATURE OF BUSINESS	NATURE OF INTEREST	VALUE OR NO. OF SHARES
F.	Leu Okuda Doi.	Law.	Partner.	B.

Check here if entry is None
 Check here if additional sheets are attached

ITEM 3: TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OR BENEFICIAL INTERESTS IN BUSINESSES

List any ownership or beneficial interests in businesses transferred during the disclosure period and the date of transfer.

F,SP, DC,JT	OWNERSHIP OR BENEFICIAL INTEREST TRANSFERRED DURING THIS DISCLOSURE PERIOD	DATE OF TRANSFER

Check here if entry is None Check here if additional sheets are attached

ITEM 4: CREDITORS

List the name of each creditor to whom the value of \$3,000 or more was owed during the disclosure period and the original amount and amount outstanding. Exclude debts from retail installment transactions for the purchase of consumer goods.

F,SP, DC,JT	NAME OF CREDITOR	ORIGINAL AMOUNT OWED	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING
JT.	American Savings (Mortgage on residence).	J.	J
JT.	MB Financial. (Car loan).	D.	D
JT.	Hawaii Federal Credit Union.	D.	D
JT.	MOHELA (student loan).	C.	B
JT.	Nelnet (student loan).	D.	C

Check here if entry is None Check here if additional sheets are attached

ITEM 5: OFFICERSHIPS, DIRECTORSHIPS, TRUSTEESHIPS

List every officership, directorship, trusteeship, or other fiduciary relationship held during the disclosure period in any business or organization, the term of office, and the annual compensation.

F,SP, DC,JT	NAME OF BUSINESS	TITLE HELD	TERM OF OFFICE	ANNUAL COMPENSATION
F.	Young Children's Trust.	Trustee.	Continuing.	None

Check here if entry is None Check here if additional sheets are attached

ITEM 6: INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY HELD, EXCLUDING PERSONAL RESIDENCE(S)

List interests in real property in or outside of the State held during the disclosure period, if the interest has a value of \$10,000 or more. Real property that is your personal residence or the personal residence of your spouse or dependent children need not be listed.

F,SP, DC,JT	STREET ADDRESS	TAX MAP KEY NUMBER (IF TAX MAP KEY NUMBER EXISTS)	VALUE
JT.	1509 Kalaepohaku Street (residence).		K

Check here if entry is None Check here if additional sheets are attached

ITEM 7: INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED, EXCLUDING PERSONAL RESIDENCE(S)

List interests in real property in or outside of the State acquired during the disclosure period, if the interest has a value of \$10,000 or more. Real property that is your personal residence or the personal residence of your spouse or dependent children need not be listed.

F,SP, DC,JT	STREET ADDRESS AND TAX MAP KEY NUMBER (IF TAX MAP KEY NUMBER EXISTS)	AMOUNT & NATURE OF CONSIDERATION PAID	NAME OF PERSON RECEIVING THE CONSIDERATION

Check here if entry is None Check here if additional sheets are attached

ITEM 8: INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY TRANSFERRED, EXCLUDING PERSONAL RESIDENCE(S)

List interests in real property in or outside of the State transferred during the disclosure period, if the interest has a value of \$10,000 or more. Real property that was your personal residence or the personal residence of your spouse or dependent children need not be listed.

F,SP, DC,JT	STREET ADDRESS AND TAX MAP KEY NUMBER (IF TAX MAP KEY NUMBER EXISTS)	AMOUNT & NATURE OF CONSIDERATION RECEIVED	NAME OF PERSON FURNISHING THE CONSIDERATION

Check here if entry is None Check here if additional sheets are attached

ITEM 9: CLIENTS PERSONALLY REPRESENTED BEFORE STATE AGENCIES

List the names of clients personally represented by you before state agencies, except in ministerial matters, for a fee or compensation during the disclosure period, excluding clients represented before courts.

NAME OF CLIENT	NAME OF STATE AGENCY

Check here if entry is None

Check here if additional sheets are attached

ITEM 10: CREDITOR INTERESTS IN INSOLVENT BUSINESSES

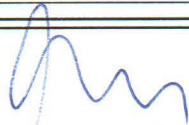
List the amount and identity of every creditor interest in insolvent businesses, held during the disclosure period, if the interest has a value of \$5,000 or more.

F, SP, DC, JT	NAME OF BUSINESS	NATURE OF BUSINESS	NATURE OF INTEREST	VALUE

Check here if entry is None

Check here if additional sheets are attached

FILER



4-14-16

Filer's Signature

Date

CERTIFICATION: By checking this box, you signify and affirm that you are the person whose name appears as the "Filer" above and the information contained in the form is true, correct and complete to the best of your knowledge and belief. You further certify that you understand that there are statutory penalties for failing to report the information required by Hawaii law.

April 15, 2016

Water Land and Agriculture Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

I support the nomination and confirmation of Gary Okuda, as commissioner with the Land Use Commission. [GM869]

My name is Gilbert Matsumoto, I am a Certified Public Accountant, State of Hawaii since April 1971. I own a private accounting practice, The Matsumoto Group CPA, Inc and have known Gary Okuda for at least 5 years.

I have dealt with him both professionally and personally.

He is a practicing attorney and partner with the firm of Leu Okuda & Doi, Attorneys at Law. Gary Okuda is a well respected member of the legal community and the community at large. I have high regard for his knowledge and commitment to see that things be done right.

He is of high moral fortitude and character. To get to know him is to like him.

With his background and qualifications he would be a great addition to the Land Use Commission.

Yours truly,

Gilbert Matsumoto
Certified Public Accountant

From: [Jim Lyon](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: 869: Testimony in Support of Gary Okuda
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 7:54:03 PM

Aloha:

Having known Gary Okuda for two years;
I am impressed with his absolute resolve in doing the right thing.

As a civil engineer for 30 years;
I have personally been involved in a contested LUC case.

Without a doubt, I know Gary will consider both sides;
& make the right decision as the law dictates.

It is without doubt;
Gary Okuda will be an excellent member of the Land Use Commission.

Mahalo,

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

LYON
LYON.US.com

This letter is in support of Gary Okuda's nomination for Commissioner to the Land Use Commission. As an attorney, licensed in the state of Hawaii, Gary is well aware of the legal process and the Constitution of Hawaii regarding land use permits and designations.

Working with Gary, I have found him to be fair minded, willing to listen to opposing views and able to take constructive action. Gary has experienced the rapid economic growth of Hawaii's economy during the 70's and 80's and desires these opportunities for his children and grandchildren. He has also seen how economic development has affected the island culture and natural environment and seeks to preserve the best of Hawaii while moving the state forward in terms of technology and sustainability.

As a Commissioner I am confident that Gary Okuda will consider all viewpoints and work diligently to arrive at a fair resolution for all parties. His humble manner and his unique sense of humor will be an asset in resolving contentious issues.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: karlk@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM869 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 3:41:11 PM

GM869

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karl Kim	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am pleased to support the nomination of Gary Okuda as member of the LUC. I've been an urban planning professor at the University of Hawaii for more than 30 years. I've known Gary for much of this time. He is a person of high integrity, knowledgeable about law and legal processes, and a commitment to make the right decisions. In my view, he would be an excellent choice for the LUC. Sincerely, Karl Kim

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

April 15, 2016

TO: Water Land and Agriculture Committee
FROM: Kuuipo Kumukahi
RE: GM 869 / Testimony for Gary Okuda

Aloha mai kākou e nā lālā o ke komike wai, 'āina a me ka 'oihana mea 'ai,

It is with great aloha that I am respectfully submitting testimony for the appointment of Gary Okuda to the Land Use Commission.

Gary is a soul of integrity, dignity, respect, honesty, trustworthiness and most of all, aloha (unpretentious, loyal, kind, humble, patient) as defined by our elders.

I've known Gary Okuda for more than twenty years, he is not only a friend, I've made him and his family members of my 'ohana.

The choice to appoint Gary Okuda to the Land Use commission is a right one. Hawai'i and the commission can rest assured that Gary will not waiver from the law and will do the right thing - upholding rules and regulations, compliance issues and not making decisions based on favoritism.

Gary is a community minded keiki o ka 'āina (child born of this land) imbedded with values set forth by elders. His understanding of "community" is shown in his selfless character – always giving of himself – thinking of others first – and reaching for the greater good of humanity.

Gary is transparent in everything he does, there's nothing left for anyone to guess about Gary's intentions or deeds. In my twenty plus years of knowing Gary, a simple fun conversation ends up in some kind of teaching of morals and values session – something I remember as a kid growing up around the elders. His wisdom is impeccable and his stories entertaining.

As a child raised on Hawai'i Island and hearing the history of the 'āina, approving/confirming Governor Ige's appointment of Gary Okuda to the Land Use Commission will certainly be the cause for a huge sigh of relief for the land - land use will not turn into land abuse.

'O au nō me ka ha'aha'a a me ke aloha nō,



Kuuipo Kumukahi
Manager of Hawaiian Culture and Community Relations
Hyatt Regency Waikīkī Beach Resort & Spa

L.P. Neenz Faleafine

98-1277 Kaahumanu Street #106-129
Aiea, HI 96701
808-542-5207
neenz@faleafine.com

April 16, 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, room 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 869 / Testimony in Support of Gary Okuda

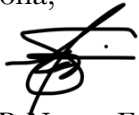
Dear Senator Gabbard,

This letter is in support of Governor David Ige's nomination of Gary Okuda to the Land Use Commission.

I first met Gary Okuda in 2014 and since then, he's become a valuable resource for me as a business owner, communication strategist, and community member. He's industrious, straight-forward, and community-minded.

I strongly recommend that the Water, Land and Agriculture Committee and full Senate approve Governor Ige's nomination of Gary Okuda to the Land Use Commission.

Aloha,



L.P. Neenz Faleafine

From: [LEIGHTON LEE](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 869 Gary Okuda: Testimony in Favor Of Mr. Okuda"s Nomination
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 5:20:41 PM

Chairperson Senator Mike Gabbard:

Please accept this email as an whole hearted endorsement for the nomination of **Gary Okuda** as a commissioner with the Land Use Commission.

I have know Mr. Okuda for 40 years. He has always been a person of integrity and wisdom. Perhaps of more relevance, Gary has always believed in and practiced respect for our land and people. I know that he will dedicate himself to his responsibilities as a Commissioner, follow the law as expressed by the Constitution and statutes, and be fair and impartial in his evaluation of issues that may come before the Commission.

He is a person that I have the utmost respect for. He will be honoring to the Commission and the State of Hawaii`i.

thank you,

Leighton K Lee

Law Office of Leighton K. Lee
222 Merchant Street, Suite 201
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
T 808.531.3244 F 808.531.3247

April 14, 2016

Hearing: Monday, April 18, 2016 at 2:45 p.m., in Conference Room 224

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

RE: **SUPPORT GM869 - Nomination of Gary Okuda as a member to the Land Use Commission.**

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

My name is Lisa Shozuya, and I am grateful to offer testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Gary Okuda to serve on the Land Use Commission.

Over the last few years, I've had the honor and pleasure of working with Mr. Okuda very closely in a number of ways within our community. I have gotten to know him by participating with and watching him work through mutual volunteer activities. His character, integrity, and commitment to serving our community and the State of Hawaii at large are character traits in him that I completely trust.

He has a strong understanding of processes and the law and I believe will always stand up for what is right and good for all concerned. He draws on solid experience, a successful track record, and life experiences that contribute to his vast knowledge, heart, compassion, and ability to focus and hone in on what matters most.

His education, work in his law practice, and community service make him an ideal candidate for this commission and I believe you will see that in his resume and by meeting him.

Once again, I would like to state for the record that I **SUPPORT** the Governor's nomination of Gary Okuda to the Land Use Commission. He will be a valuable asset and team player on the Commission, and will provide the kind of leadership, perspective and voice that will make this group stronger and more effective.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Lisa Shozuya
Director of Training and Community Outreach
Lyon Associates Community Preparedness Training Division

From: [Mackie Vecilla](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Endorsement of Gary Okuda to Land Use Commission
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 4:42:55 PM

Reference: GM869 / Testimony for Gary Okuda

I have known Gary Okuda for the past 20 years and regard him as a well balanced individual who will enhance the Land Use Board not only with his knowledge but as a individual who can contribute to the well being and growth of our Aina. In today's society with so much going on, understanding one's needs and protecting valuable assets in our environment is important. Prioritizing what is important and what needs to be recognized should be kept in mind when addressing these matters. Past, Present, and Future depend on individuals such as Gary whom I know will work with others to obtain the overall objective. Maintain, Preserve and Help Grow the Island to its best resources.

Mahalo

Mackie Vecilla
3512 Kumu Street
Honolulu, Hi 96822

email: mackie.avecilla@gmail.com

From: [Ronald T.Y. Moon Sr.](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 869 Testimony for Gary Okuda
Date: Sunday, April 17, 2016 12:26:35 AM

Aloha Members of The WLA Committee,

I am Chief Justice Ronald T.Y. Moon (retired). Thank you for this opportunity to submit my endorsement of Gary Okuda to be a member of the Land Use Commission.

I have known Gary ever since he became a member of the Bar in 1985. I have known him on a personal and professional basis. He is an exceptional and outstanding individual and lawyer and has established an excellent reputation for honesty, diligence and integrity in the lay and legal community.

He has developed into a highly skilled lawyer possessing expertise in a wide area of legal matters including real estate and land use issues. He has represented members of my family in various legal disputes as well friends I have referred to him, each in a highly competent and professional manner.

Also, during my career as a Judge at the Trial and Appellate levels, I had several occasions throughout the years to observe Gary represent several of his clients in various cases before me. He was always knowledgeable of all issues, well prepared and professional in every respect.

If selected, Gary will undoubtedly be a Great Asset to the Land Use Commission and will serve with Honor and Distinction. I therefore, endorse him wholeheartedly, without any reservations.

Please contact me at Cell No. (808)286-5608, if I may be of any further assistance in this matter.

Mahalo,

CJ Ron Moon

Testimony of Sharon Y. Moriwaki
Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

Monday, April 18, 2016
2:45 p.m. Conference Room 224

Statement in Support of Governor's Message No. 869,
Nominating **Gary Okuda** as a Member of the Land Use Commission

Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Clarence Nishihara and Members:

I am Sharon Moriwaki, Associate Director of the University of Hawaii Public Policy Center and Co-chair of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum. I have also served as the principal investigator for the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan (2008-11) and worked with Hawaii Green Growth to put the sustainability priority guidelines into the Hawaii State Plan ("State Plan").

The State Plan has served as a guide to ensure that the vision and goals continue to guide Hawaii to preserve, enhance and ensure that our precious natural resources are not depleted but instead sustains future generations.

This is why the Land Use Commission was created. It should be led by those who hold our land and resources as sacred, with use designations revised only when necessary for the public interest. Board members must have the character, experience, knowledge, commitment and foresight to preserve our natural resources for the long-term.

Today we face great competing demands – affordable housing, schools, hospitals, streets and roads, etc. -- that require commissioners who can listen carefully to all stakeholders, analyze the short and long-term impacts of decisions, and come to fair decisions that will to the greatest extent possible meet the current need without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

I have worked with Gary Okuda for the past couple years on various projects, including Kaka'ako's overdevelopment. In our discussion he has continued to counsel on what is fair and he has been conscientious in seeking *pono* solutions. I know he is committed to apply the law fairly, to hearing all parties and interests, and deciding in the public interest. In his law practice and community service, he has demonstrated his legal abilities, good judgment and sound ethics. I believe he would make an excellent commissioner and ask that the Senate consent the nomination of Gary Okuda to the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: [Steven J.T. Chow](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: Governor's Message 869/Testimony In Support Of Gary Okuda For Land Use Commission (LUC); Monday, April 18
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:47:12 AM
Importance: High

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

I am writing in support of the nomination of Gary Okuda to the Land Use Commission (GM 869). I apologize for not submitting a written letter but I am about to leave for a trip to the mainland but when I learned of Mr. Okuda's nomination I felt compelled to do this email in support before I leave.

I have known Mr. Okuda for more than 30 years, first as when he was an advisor to the Associated Students Of The University of Hawaii on which I was a student Senator, and then as a practicing attorney in which I have had numerous dealings with him. With Mr. Okuda, you will not find a more perfect and dedicated member to the LUC. He works hard, studies the issues and makes very practical decisions. I am sure he will bring a very practical viewpoint on issues before the LUC. Above all, Mr. Okuda's character and ethical beliefs are beyond reproach and question!

I have no doubt that Mr. Okuda's addition to the LUC will be an asset to the LUC, the State and most of all—the people of Hawaii.

I would appear to testify if I was in town, however, business obligations takes me out of town during the hearing which I understand is on Monday, April 18. However, if you wish to call me to discuss any questions you may have, I am available by cell phone at 808-225-3969.

Mahalo,

Steven J.T. Chow

Steven J.T. Chow, Esq.
The Pacific Law Group
745 Fort Street,
Fort Tower, Suite 1415
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. No. (808) 523-2999, Ext. 208
Fax No. (808) 523-7885
E-mail: schow@paclawgroup.com
Website: www.paclawgroup.com

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at (808) 523-2999. Thank you.

April 15, 2016

Hearing: Monday, April 18, 2016 at 2:45 p.m., in Conference Room 224

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

RE: **SUPPORT GM869** - Nomination of Gary Y. Okuda to the Land Use Commission

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

My name is Susan H. Kitsu, and I am writing testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of the Governor's nomination of Gary Y. Okuda to serve on the Land Use Commission.

I have known Gary Okuda for several years. His educational background combined with his extensive work experience makes him an exceptional candidate for this particular position on the Land Use Commission. Gary Okuda has proven ability as an attorney on how to research, interpret and apply the laws relating to the utilization of Hawaii's precious land. Gary Okuda's background shows a deep commitment to Hawaii, as he understands the values which makes Hawaii uniquely our home.

His commitment to do the right thing, the right way is evident in the way he has conducted business as a lawyer and as a positive community organizer. I have personally worked with Gary to bring people in our community together to bring about positive change and to work through many challenging events to bring awareness and information to the public. He is an outstanding advocate who cares deeply about the people in our community.

His character and integrity is evident by the trust and respect he has from his colleagues and peers in and out of the legal profession. One of the most important aspects of this position is to be fair. Gary Okuda already has a proven track record to not only to be fair, but to ensure that things are done properly.

I unequivocally support the Governor's nomination of Gary Y. Okuda to the Land Use Commission. He will be a valuable asset as a member on the Commission, and will provide a different perspective and voice to the group.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of the nomination of Gary Y. Okuda.

Sincerely yours,
Susan H. Kitsu

From: [Tim Farr](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Reference: GM 869 / Testimony for Gary Okuda
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 1:01:03 PM

Honorable Members of the Hawaii Senate:

It is a pleasure to add my recommendation for Governor Ige's appointment of Gary Okuda to serve as Commissioner on the Land Use Commission.

I have known Gary for nearly 40 years, since hiring him to be a staff researcher for the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii (ASUH). He immediately impressed me then with his intelligence, abundant and focused energy, and his unwaveringly high ethical standards. These qualities have persisted over the years, and commend him to further public service for the people of Hawai'i.

After our productive years with ASUH, Gary went on to law school, returning to Hawai'i soon thereafter to enter private practice. I've had occasion to rely on Gary on various personal and family legal matters over the years and found him legally astute and unquestioningly professional. He brings a vast resource of energy to whatever he works on, which will be put to good use on the Land Use Commission should his nomination be approved.

Above all else, Gary Okuda has the highest personal and professional ethical standards. At a time when members of the public are concerned with transparency and fairness from all levels of government, I'm confident Gary will conduct himself with exceptional diligence and bring honor to the Land Use Commission.

I wholeheartedly urge the Senate to consider favorably the nomination of Gary Okuda.

Sincerely,

Tim S. Farr

ASUH President 1978-1979

Member, UH Board of Regents 1981-1982

Member/Chairperson, Hawaii State Ethics Commission 1984-1986

From: [Walter Kirimitsu](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: [Walter Kirimitsu](#)
Subject: GM 869/TESTIMONY FOR GARY OKUDA, ESQUIRE
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:21:27 AM

Dear Honorable Members of the Water Land and Agriculture Committee,

I am writing to highly recommend GARY OKUDA, ESQUIRE as a commissioner with the State Land Use Commission. I am a former Associate Judge of the State Intermediate Court of Appeals, past President of the State Bar Association, former University General Counsel of the University of Hawaii, and in these respective roles, have gained much experience in judging the quality and character of members of our legal profession. Having known Mr. Okuda for the last several years and of his reputation for the past 25 years, I rate him as a highly skilled attorney and litigator, very well respected in the legal profession and in our community. He is always diligent, hard working, thoughtful, and knowledgeable of the law and processes. He has always exhibited the highest of integrity and character.

I am convinced that Mr. Okuda has all the qualities to be an outstanding member of the State Land Use Commission. I am honored to endorse him and will be glad to personally answer any questions you might have.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Walter S. Kirimitsu
email wskirimitsu@gmail.com
cell phone 282-8107

April 18, 2016
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol Room 224

TO: Hon. Mike Gabbard, Chair,
and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

FROM: William Hoshijo, as an individual

RE: Governor's Message No. 869
Nomination of Gary Okuda to the Land Use Commission

While I currently serve as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, this testimony is offered as an individual, not in any official role or capacity.

I have known Gary Okuda since 1979. I recommend him as an exemplary person, attorney, and citizen. Mr. Okuda is principled, honest, hard-working, and smart. He has a strong sense of justice and a real commitment to the public interest in the broadest sense.

I am absolutely confident that, if confirmed, Mr. Okuda will take his role and duties as a member of the Land Use Commission seriously, and his performance will inure to the benefit of the people of Hawai'i. I am sure he will be technically sound, applying the law as required, but will also be guided by an abiding appreciation of his public trust responsibility.