

# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

March 28, 2017  
Rm. 016, 9:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: William Hoshijo, Executive Director  
Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

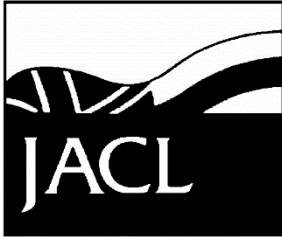
Re: G.M. No. 557

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

G.M. No. 557 submits the nomination of Joakim Peter to the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission, for Senate consideration and confirmation.

The statutory qualifications for HCRC Commissioners are laid out in HRS § 368-2(a): “The members appointed to the commission shall be selected on the basis of their knowledge and experience in civil rights matters and on the basis of a demonstrated commitment to the preservation of the civil rights of all individuals.”

HCRC staff are appreciative of the willingness of Joakim Peter to serve as an HCRC Commissioner. Mr. Peter brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Commission, and an impressive record of demonstrated commitment to civil rights for Hawai‘i’s people. He will contribute a valuable perspective on civil rights as they impact members of our community who are from Micronesia and Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations.



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## JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1291, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96807

EMAIL: [jaclhon@gmail.com](mailto:jaclhon@gmail.com) WEBSITE: [www.jaclhonolulu.org](http://www.jaclhonolulu.org)

*Working For A Greater America*

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March 27, 2017

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To: Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Alison Kunishige  
President, Japanese American Citizens League – Honolulu Chapter

Re: SUPPORT OF GM557 Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, JOAKIM PETER

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Honolulu Chapter is in strong support of Joakim Peter's nomination to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization. Locally our organization works to protect the civil and human rights of all. This work includes Native Hawaiian self-determination, protection of immigrant rights and protection of COFA migrant health care.

In 2012, the JACL Honolulu Chapter began working with the Micronesian community to support COFA healthcare. It was at that time that we worked closely with Mr. Peter. Through this work then and the years that followed, we have found Mr. Peter to be a dedicated, effective advocate for all those disenfranchised in Hawai'i and across the United States. He is a tireless community leader and has committed his life to civil rights and equality for all. He is thoughtful, collaborative and effective. Mr. Peter is an ideal choice to carry out the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission's work to uphold our anti-discrimination and equal protection laws.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM557 on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Friday, March 24, 2017 9:53:54 PM

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**GM557**

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cinzia Olter	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT the nomination of Joakim "Jojo" Peter to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. For decades, Mr. Peter has worked tirelessly to uphold the civil and human rights for the disenfranchised in Hawai'i and across the United States. His lifetime of experiences, education, and extensive community involvement, as well as his thoughtfulness and demonstrated commitment to meaningful equality for all, makes him an ideal choice to carry out the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission's important kuleana to uphold our anti-discrimination and equal protection laws. Please vote to CONFIRM Mr. Peter's nomination to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

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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Dina Shek  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017

**RE: Support for Nomination of Joakim Peter  
to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (GM 557)**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to support the nomination of Joakim "Jojo" Peter to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. I have had the great privilege of working with Mr. Peter over the last seven years to address matters of discrimination and civil rights in the contexts of healthcare, education, housing, and public accommodations. He has especially focused on the enforcement and education about civil rights for Micronesian and other immigrant communities, students with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

Mr. Peter's decades of professional, scholarly, and community achievements reveal his commitment to equal rights and dignity for all. Mr. Peter always demonstrates a depth of knowledge, critical analysis, and compassion, making him an ideal candidate to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for his nomination to this important Commission.

Please vote to CONFIRM Mr. Joakim Peter's nomination to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you for your consideration,



Dina Shek

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM557 on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 26, 2017 6:16:01 PM

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**GM557**

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT the nomination of Joakim "Jojo" Peter to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. For decades, I have witnessed Mr. Peter work tirelessly to uphold the civil and human rights for the disenfranchised in Hawai'i and across the United States. His lifetime of experiences, education, and extensive community involvement, as well as his thoughtfulness and demonstrated commitment to meaningful equality for all, makes him an ideal choice to carry out the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission's important kuleana to uphold our anti-discrimination and equal protection laws. Please vote to CONFIRM Mr. Peter's nomination to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM557 on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 26, 2017 10:06:42 PM

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**GM557**

Submitted on: 3/26/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leslie Novosel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT the nomination of Joakim "Jojo" Peter to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. For decades, Mr. Peter has worked tirelessly to uphold the civil and human rights for the disenfranchised in Hawai'i and across the United States. His lifetime of experiences, education, and extensive community involvement, as well as his thoughtfulness and demonstrated commitment to meaningful equality for all, makes him an ideal choice to carry out the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission's important kuleana to uphold our anti-discrimination and equal protection laws. Please vote to CONFIRM Mr. Peter's nomination to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

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"I SUPPORT the nomination of Joakim "Jojo" Peter to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. I have known Mr. Peter for 12 years, and for all of his adult life he has worked to uphold the civil and human rights for the disenfranchised in Hawai'i. His lifetime of experiences, education, and extensive community involvement, as well as his thoughtfulness, selflessness, clear intellect and communication style, and demonstrated commitment to meaningful equality for all, makes him an ideal choice to carry out the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission's important kuleana to uphold our anti-discrimination and equal protection laws. Please vote to CONFIRM Mr. Peter's nomination to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission."

Submitted by Marie Iding

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**To:** [JDLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM557 on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 27, 2017 8:27:49 AM

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**GM557**

Submitted on: 3/27/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 28, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Compton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT the nomination of Joakim "Jojo" Peter to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. For decades, Mr. Peter has worked tirelessly to uphold the civil and human rights for the disenfranchised in Hawai'i and across the United States. His lifetime of experiences, education, and extensive community involvement, as well as his thoughtfulness and demonstrated commitment to meaningful equality for all, makes him an ideal choice to carry out the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission's important kuleana to uphold our anti-discrimination and equal protection laws. Please vote to CONFIRM Mr. Peter's nomination to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

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