

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

THOMAS WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KANOE MARGOL
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

February 13, 2018

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 536, Consideration and Confirmation of Ms. Laurel Johnston as
the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Laurel Johnston to serve as Director of the
Department of Budget and Finance.

Ms. Johnston has managed Governor Ige's offices administrative operations and provided executive support for cabinet officials on policy issues including budget development and budget issues. Her advice and support for the President of the University of Hawaii and Board of Regents aided the successful negotiation of executive budget agency and legislative branch support. Ms. Johnston has demonstrated strong communication, negotiation and management skills. She is highly intelligent, extremely honest, humble and dedicated. Having worked directly with Ms. Johnston over these last several months and having benefited from her knowledge and leadership, I can attest personally to the skills, talent and virtues alluded to above.

It is for these reasons and others that I urge the Committee to confirm Ms. Johnston as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Sincerely,

Thomas Williams
Executive Director
Employees' Retirement System



Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613



TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 13, 2018
10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 536
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET & FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LAUREL A.
JOHNSTON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 536. This measure seeks to confirm Laurel A. Johnston as the State's Director of the Department of Budget & Finance. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

Ms. Johnston has been a public servant for the State of Hawaii for many years now. Her experience in important roles, such as the Deputy Director of the Department of Budget & Finance, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Governor's Office, and the Director of University Budget at the University of Hawaii, provides a solid understanding of the State budget. Ms. Johnston's distinguished career is something that the State of Hawaii will benefit from in her role as the Director of the Department of Budget & Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAUREL A. JOHNSTON
ACTING DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

February 12, 2018

LATE

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

This is a letter in support of Laurel Johnston's appointment as Director of Finance.

Ms. Johnston is a veteran administrator with wide-ranging budget, management and policy-making experience at the Legislature, Department of Education, University of Hawaii, Office of the Governor, and Department of Budget and Finance. She knows State government and its programs and understands budgeting and management principles.

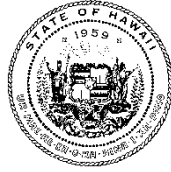
Ms. Johnston is bright and hardworking. In the past thirteen months as Deputy Director of Finance and one month as Acting Director of Finance, she has demonstrated judgment, administrative ability, and people skills.

I believe that Ms. Johnston possesses the experience and skills to lead the Department. I urge the Senate to confirm her appointment.

Sincerely,

Neal Miyahira, Administrator
Budget, Program Planning & Management Division
Department of Budget and Finance

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER
Comptroller

AUDREY HIDANO
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY OF
RODERICK K. BECKER, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

G.M. 536

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LAUREL A. JOHNSTON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 536. I support the nomination of Ms. Laurel A. Johnston to the position of the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance (department).

Ms. Johnston has served as the Acting Director of the Department upon the retirement of its previous Director, Wesley Machida. She was appointed to the position of Deputy Director of the department in December 2016, and previously served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor David Ige where she managed the administrative operations and provided support to Cabinet officials on policy issues, budget development and legislative proposals.

Ms. Johnston's extensive 30-year career in Hawaii includes holding positions including Director of University Budget for the University of Hawaii, Assistant Clerk for the Hawaii State Senate, Executive Director of Hawaii Uninsured Project, and Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Education (DOE). She has served as a public administrator, researcher, and

writer in diverse policy areas of education, health, criminal and social justice, economic development, and public finance.

Ms. Johnston's extensive career, dedication to public service, and good character are a valuable asset of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony of this measure.



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

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Room 211

in consideration of

GM 536
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the
Department of Budget and Finance,
Gubernatorial Nominee, LAUREL A. JOHNSTON,
for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee.

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Laurel A. Johnston to serve as the Director for the State Department of Budget and Finance. My name is Luis Salaveria, and I am Director for the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

I have had the opportunity to work with Laurel under this administration, and feel her confirmation as B&F Director will be beneficial to the people of Hawaii. Laurel is extremely experienced and is highly qualified to serve in the role, having worked in various leadership roles across state government in her career, along with her most recent role as Deputy Director for the same department for the last year.

Laurel has shown exceptional aptitude in the areas of government finance. She has the right temperament and understand the complexities of state budgeting.

For these reasons, I strongly urge her confirmation for B&F Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

JASON MINAMI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

February 12, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
For Hearing on Tuesday, February 13, 2018
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

By

RYKER WADA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Governor's Message 536

(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee;

RE: Consideration and confirmation of Laurel A. Johnston, for Director of the Department of Budget and Finance

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Laurel A. Johnston as Director of Budget and Finance. In the short time I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Johnston in her capacity as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, I have found her to be a dedicated, knowledgeable, measured and a well-prepared person who is well suited for the position of Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. In her current capacity I have experienced Ms. Johnston as cooperative, helpful, and welcoming.

I support the confirmation of Ms. Johnston as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governors Message 536 and Laurel A. Johnston.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

JASON MINAMI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

February 12, 2018

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
For Hearing on Tuesday, February 13, 2018
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 211

By

JASON MINAMI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Governor's Message 536

(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee;

RE: Consideration and confirmation of Laurel A. Johnston, for Director of the Department of Budget and Finance

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Laurel A. Johnston as Director of Budget and Finance. In the short time I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Johnston in her capacity as Acting Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, I have found her to be a dedicated, knowledgeable, measured and a well-prepared person who is well suited for the position of Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. In her current capacity I have experienced Ms. Johnston as cooperative, helpful, and welcoming.

I support the confirmation of Ms. Johnston as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governors Message 536 and Laurel A. Johnston.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 536,
NOMINATION OF LAUREL JOHNSTON AS DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 13, 2018; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** the appointment of Laurel Johnston to be Director of the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F).

Ms. Johnston possesses a wealth of related governmental work and leadership experience. She has been a member of the Administration's leadership team and will be able to seamlessly continue the work of the Department unabated.

PSD respectfully asks that this Committee favorably consider Ms. Johnston's nomination as Director of B&F.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

DAMIEN ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 221

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

www.tax.hawaii.gov/

Phone: (808) 587-1540 / Fax: (808) 587-1560

Email: Tax.Directors.Office@hawaii.gov

To: Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Senate

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

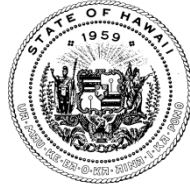
RE: GM 536, Confirmation of Laurel A. Johnston as Director of the
Department of Budget and Finance

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am testifying in strong support of Laurel Johnston for the position of Director of the Hawaii Department of Budget and Finance.

Laurel has proven herself to be knowledgeable and experienced at organizing and facilitating the very complex task of producing a comprehensive budget. In the case of the \$7 billion State budget, it is especially important to have the right person at the controls.

Laurel is that right person today, and I urge you to give her nomination your favorable consideration.

Linda Chu Takayama
384-9030



Testimony of
JADE T. BUTAY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROY CATALANI
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 13, 2018
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

G.M. 536

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, LAUREL A. JOHNSTON, for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** Laurel Johnston as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F).

Ms. Johnston earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology and Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Florida State University.

She possesses a solid, well-rounded career that will equip her as a Director at B&F. For over 30 years, Ms. Johnston has served as a public administrator, researcher, and writer in the diverse policy areas of education, health, criminal, social justice, economic development, and public finance in Hawaii. Recently, she was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor David Ige.

We've had abundant opportunities to work with Ms. Johnston where she both stood her ground and worked hard to find a common ground. We value her recommendations and judgment and have found her to be a person who strongly believes in collaboration and common sense. Her wide range of experience gives her a level of expertise and insight from which B&F will surely benefit.

Ms. Johnston is well-suited for the position and brings a know-how combined with a reasoned perspective to address the complex issues facing our State budget and to keep B&F moving in a positive direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

LATE

GM-536

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 10:29:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Broderick	YMCA of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of GM536, the nomination of Laurel A. Johnston to serve as Director of the Department of Budget and finance, a position which Ms. Johnston now holds on an interim basis.

I have known Ms. Johnston for more than twenty five years in both a personal and professional capacity. Through working together on numerous projects, I have personally observed her strong commitment to community service, as well as her integrity and professionalism.

Ms. Johnston has a well-deserved reputation for accomplishing challenging public projects efficiently, effectively and with a style that engenders trust in government.

I respectfully ask that you confirm her nomination.

Michael Broderick

Wesley K. Machida
98-399 Puaalii Street
Aiea, HI 96701



February 13, 2018

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 536, Consideration and Confirmation of Ms. Laurel Johnston as
the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I highly recommend Ms. Laurel Johnston to be confirmed as the State Director of Finance. She is intelligent, very knowledgeable about the State's finances and budget, experienced in government operations, and very hard working and dedicated to everything she undertakes.

I had the privilege of working with Ms. Johnston during her time as the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Governor's Office, and recently as the State's Deputy Director of Finance. As the previous State Director of Finance, I believe that I have the experience to understand what it takes to perform the duties and functions of the position. In working with Ms. Johnston over the 2017 year, I know that she will do an excellent job as the State's Director of Finance if given the opportunity. During the 2017 calendar year, Ms. Johnston made process improvements to the department's operations, including becoming more electronically friendly.

One of my goals as the previous Director of Finance was to have someone who could improve the State's finances, financial position, and related operations. I am confident that Ms. Johnston will be able to do so.

With all the experience and knowledge that she possesses, I highly recommend Ms. Johnston be confirmed as the State Director of Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for Ms. Laurel Johnston.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wesley K. Machida".

Wesley K. Machida

LATE

TESTIMONY OF DAMIEN ELEFANTE
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018 10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

GOV. MSG NO. 536

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LAUREL A. JOHNSTON,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee. I am testifying as an individual and I am in strong support of the confirmation of Laurel Johnston for Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

I have known Laurel for over twenty years and during this time she has demonstrated a strong dedication and commitment to public service and the people of the State of Hawaii. Based on her governmental work experiences, she has developed an institutional knowledge and understanding of the administration of state government. It is this background and knowledge that I believe will be an asset and resource, as well as, makes her qualified to be Director. Moreover, Laurel's objectivity, integrity, judgement and understanding, ability to collaborate with people, and commitment to improve state government make me confident that she will be a good leader for the department.

I urge you to confirm Laurel Johnston for the nomination of Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

LATE

GM-536

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 7:34:55 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/13/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gladys Quinto Marrone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF
LAUREL JOHNSTON AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND
FINANCE

February 13, 2018

To: Chairman Donovan Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am an attorney licensed in the State of Hawaii and have been primarily involved in government affairs for various clients. I am testifying in strong support of Laurel Johnston as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

I have known Ms. Johnston for many years beginning when she was a clerk in the Senate up to the present time. I have had the opportunity to work on several issues for various clients with her throughout the years and more recently when she was Deputy Chief of Staff at the Governor's office through her present position as Deputy Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. She has always worked diligently at her job, is fair and makes the effort to balance the position of the state on with the needs of third parties. She always listened to the position of others and works to resolve the issues she is confronted with.

She has had various positions in state government throughout her career and one of her strong abilities is to quickly adapt to the job she is in, learn and deal with the issues and problems that comes with the job, and to work with the public in an appropriate manner.

I wholeheartedly support her nomination and urge this committee to recommend her for this position and for the Senate to confirm her as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

LATE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2018

Tuesday, February 13, 2018
10:00 a.m.

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 536, NOMINATING
LAUREL A. JOHNSTON TO DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND
FINANCE.**

TO THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Colin Hayashida and I strongly support the nomination of Laurel A. Johnston to Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Ms. Johnston's extensive career in developing policy issues, and budget execution will be a tremendous benefit to the Department of Budget and Finance. A genius of the legislative process with an ability to grasp complex policy issues like the uninsured population in Hawaii makes Ms. Johnston an exceptional nominee. Ms. Johnston's understanding of the nuances of government budgets and innate ability to put ideas into policy is a rare find. This combined with experience in the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, the University of Hawaii, and the non-profit sector provides her a unique perspective.

For those reasons I ask for your favorable consideration on the appointment of Laurel A. Johnston to Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee.