



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary

March 27, 2018
9:00 a.m., Room 016

In consideration of
Governor's Message 638

Submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General, Gubernatorial nominee, Russell A. Suzuki

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Russell A. Suzuki as Director of the Department of the Attorney General (AG).

Suzuki has been acting as the chief legal and law enforcement officer for the state since February 2, 2018, when then Attorney General Douglas Chin resigned to become Lieutenant Governor. Suzuki has served as a public-sector attorney working at the Department of the Attorney General for 36 years. During this time, he served as first deputy attorney general under Attorneys General Douglas Chin, David Louie and Mark Bennett. Prior to that, he was a supervising deputy attorney general of the Administration Division and Education Division.

Suzuki has also served as counsel to various state boards and commissions. Before making the move to the public sector, he practiced criminal defense law, family law, business law and military law at the law offices of Yoshiro Nakamura. Suzuki earned a B.A from the University of Hawai'i and his J.D. from the Ohio State University.

This administration is committed to transforming the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I'm confident that Russell Suzuki will support our employees in the Department of the Attorney General in this effort. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TODD NACAPUY
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
TODD NACAPUY
Chief Information Officer, State of Hawai'i

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICICARY
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018

9:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 638
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RUSSELL SUZUKI
AS ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the committee:

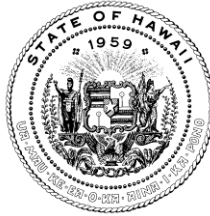
I am Todd Nacapuy, Chief Information Officer of the State of Hawai'i and head of the Office of Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), testifying in **support** of Governor's Message 638, Relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Russell Suzuki as Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Suzuki brings a wealth of experience to the State Department of Attorney General. Serving the State of Hawaii an attorney for the past 26 years, he has served as first deputy attorney general under several attorneys general. He has also handled a landmark case for the State of Hawaii, the Felix consent decree, regarding the delivery of mental health services to special education students.

ETS has consulted the Department of Attorney General on a variety of issues under Mr. Suzuki's leadership as Acting Attorney General and we have the utmost confidence he will continue to serve the office well upon confirmation as its Attorney General.

Thank you for your consideration of ETS's strong support of Mr. Suzuki as the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY**

**Tuesday, March 27, 2018
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 638
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF HAWAII
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
RUSSELL A. SUZUKI
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 638 nominating Russell A. Suzuki to serve as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii to expire on Noon, December 3, 2018.

Mr. Suzuki has been with the Department of the Attorney General for thirty-six (36) years, serving as counsel to the Administration, the Land Use Commission, the Board of Education, the Board or Regents, the Employees Retirement system, the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund and the Judicial Selection Commission. He has also served twice as the Acting Attorney General.

The Department has found Mr. Suzuki to be very knowledgeable and fair-minded. He brings a wealth of experience and respect to the position of the Attorney General, and in the Department's opinion, Mr. Suzuki is well qualified to serve in that capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's strong support of Russell Suzuki serving as the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Research Corporation
of the University of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
March 27, 2018

by

Sylvia Yuen, Executive Director
The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH)

Governor's Message 638 –

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL A. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12/3/2018

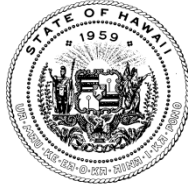
Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Russell Suzuki's appointment as Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i.

Mr. Suzuki is well qualified for the position. He received his J.D. from Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and was admitted to the Hawai'i State bar in 1977. He is knowledgeable and has broad experience in various areas of law having practiced criminal defense law, family law, business law, and military law. He has served in both the private and public sectors. And he has served as First Deputy Attorney under Attorney Generals who were appointed by governors who were Democrats as well as Republican. In all of these positions, Mr. Suzuki was well regarded and held in high esteem by his superiors and colleagues.

Mr. Suzuki has served as the legal counsel for RCUH, the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i for over ten years. His knowledge of the law, particularly the case histories of Hawai'i law, has been an invaluable asset in guiding RCUH's decision making. His calm demeanor, patience, work ethic, and ability to explain legal concepts in simple terms have earned him the trust and respect of clients and staff. Perhaps most important of all, he has a strong moral compass that will not allow him to engage in unethical or illegal actions.

Having served as the acting and interim Attorney General in the past, Mr. Suzuki is well aware of what the Attorney General's job entails. He will serve capably and competently as Hawai'i's Attorney General. He has my strong endorsement, and I urge you to approve his appointment.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROY CATALANI
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWN H. SNIFFEN

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

March 27, 2018
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

G.M. 638

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL A. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General of the Department of the Attorney General (ATG).

Mr. Suzuki is from Leilehua High School (the "Mules") who earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii and his law degree from Ohio State University. He has served 36 years at the ATG and has been the First Deputy Attorney General for 3 Governors Administrations.

Mr. Suzuki has superb knowledge of the law, integrity, and in-depth understanding of government. He possesses tested judgment to assess and weigh conflicting principles and impacts of any particular decision or course of action. He has the intellectual capacity to deal impartially with all matters that come to the ATG and is able to make informed decisions that will stand up to close scrutiny. He is a problem solver focused on finding solutions to overcome roadblocks, mitigate risks and advance the State. He has the skills and experience to perform his duties as the state's ATG at the highest level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Executive Director
Adriana Ramelli

[Advisory Board](#)

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Mimi Beams

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Linda Jameson

Michael P. Matsumoto

Nadine Tenn Salle, MD

Deane Salter

Joshua A. Wisch

Date: March 27, 2018

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Justin Murakami, Policy Research Associate
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

RE: Testimony in Support of GM 638
Gubernatorial Nominee Russell Suzuki

Good morning Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

The Sex Abuse Treatment Center supports the nomination of Russell Suzuki as Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

During Mr. Suzuki's tenure at the State Department of the Attorney General, the Department has increased its support for survivors of sexual violence through its funding of Hawaii's system of sexual assault centers.

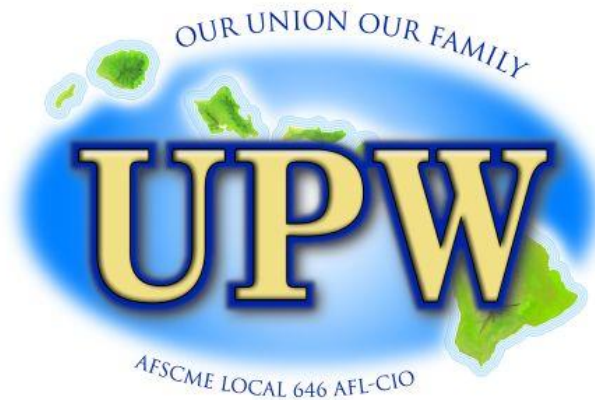
By granting a statewide master contract to SATC, the Department has improved and streamlined delivery of crisis counseling, mental health therapy, and prevention and education outreach services.

In addition, while Mr. Suzuki has served as its Deputy Attorney General, the Department has expanded its programs for disbursing federal funds for sexual assault services and programs that help survivors, such as the Victims of Crime Administrative grant.

We have faith that Mr. Suzuki will continue to support services for sexual violence survivors, their families and their communities, with a commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the people of Hawaii.

This includes, as Hawaii's top law enforcement official, ensuring victims' fair and equitable access to justice, including with respect to the State and its agencies where applicable.

We appreciate this opportunity to testify on Mr. Suzuki's nomination.



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, March 27, 2018
TIME OF HEARING: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 016

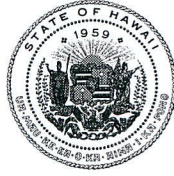
**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM638, RUSSELL A. SUZUKI FOR STATE ATTORNEY
GENERAL**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

Acting Attorney General Russell A. Suzuki is one of the most experienced nominee for the Office of Attorney General spending 36 years in the Office of the Attorney General. He has served with distinction under three previous Attorneys General. The UPW is honored to vigorously support Russell A. Suzuki as the next Hawaii State Attorney General for a term to expire at noon 12-03-2018. We ask that the Senate Committee on Judiciary pass GM638 and forward it to the full Senate for its Advise and Consent.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony of support.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

802 LEHUA AVENUE
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782
elections.hawaii.gov

SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 638

CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
RUSSELL A. SUZUKI AS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

March 27, 2018

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the nomination of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General.

I have known Mr. Suzuki for nearly 20 years, since I started working for the Office of Elections. When I started, our office already had great confidence in the counsel and advice that Mr. Suzuki had provided over the years. He was understood to be an exceptional attorney. He understands the mission of our office, and we were very fortunate to have him representing us.

When our office heard that Mr. Suzuki had been nominated for Attorney General, we felt it was well deserved and that our state's legal needs would be in good hands. I have witnessed that Mr. Suzuki has a great passion for public service and a deep and thorough knowledge of the law and state government. He is also professional, considerate, extremely intelligent, practical, honest, and hardworking.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the nomination of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General.

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
RODERICK K. BECKER, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

G.M. 638

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RUSSELL A. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 638. I support the nomination of Mr. Russell A. Suzuki as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Suzuki has been working at the Department of the Attorney General for 36 years, most recently as the Acting Attorney General since February 2, 2018. Previously, he served as the First Deputy Attorney General under Attorneys General Doug Chin, David Louie, and Mark Bennett. He also served as Supervising Deputy Attorney General of the Administration Division and Education Division of the Department.

One of many highlights of Mr. Suzuki's time with the Department of the Attorney General is his work as the State's lead attorney on the Felix consent decree litigation which lasted more than a decade. The case involved the defense of the Departments of Education,

Health, and Human Services regarding the delivery of mental health services to students with special needs. Mr. Suzuki authored five formal attorney general opinions and was the attorney of record on 38 Hawaii appellate court cases, and served as counsel to the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Departments of Accounting and General Services, Budget and Finance, Education, the University of Hawaii and the State Judiciary. He also served as counsel to a number of State boards and commissions including the Land Use Commission, the Board of Education, the Board of Regents, the Employees' Retirement System, the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, and the Judicial Selection Commission.

Mr. Suzuki's exceptional professional background and extensive knowledge of State government make him well suited to be the State of Hawaii's Attorney General.

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



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DOUG CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**TESTIMONY OF
DOUG CHIN, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 638
Confirmation as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii,
Russell A. Suzuki**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members:

I strongly support Governor Ige's nomination of Russell A. Suzuki to be Hawaii's next Attorney General through December 3, 2018.

Russell has tirelessly served all three branches of government in the State for more than three decades at the Department of the Attorney General. That level of experience is profound. Few individuals within state government possess such deep institutional knowledge or strong command of Hawaii's statutes and regulations as Russell. The State of Hawaii is exceedingly lucky to have a public servant as dedicated to the Attorney General's office and to the state's vast institutions as Russell.

More importantly, it was my honor to work side by side with Russell when I was the Attorney General and he was my chief deputy, and to observe his character and demeanor for three years. Simply put, Russell cares for Hawaii and the people who reside here. His integrity is outstanding. He has earned the respect of his peers. He has my full confidence and support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Russell Suzuki's nomination as the next Attorney General. I ask the Committee to favorably consider this nomination.

Statement of
Mary Alice Evans
Deputy Director, DBEDT

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
GM 638
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Attorney General of the
State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee,
RUSSELL A. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee.

I respectfully urge your **strong support** for the confirmation of **Russell Suzuki** to serve as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

I have had pleasure of working with Russell Suzuki for over twenty years in a variety of assignments. Russell is calm, analytical and thorough. He assigns DBEDT skilled attorneys for the challenging legal issues our programs and attached agencies face.

Russell has served in a number of divisions in the Department of the Attorney General over the years. The State of Hawaii is fortunate that Russell has devoted his career to public service. Russell has a quiet sense of humor that is very helpful when dealing with legal questions.

I respectfully urge you to recommend advice and consent to the nomination of Russell Suzuki as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**MARCH 27, 2018
9:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 638
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RUSSELL A. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018**

Chairperson Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 638. This measure seeks to confirm Russell Suzuki as the State's Attorney General. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

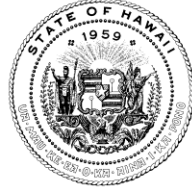
Mr. Suzuki has been a long time public servant for the State of Hawaii working for the past 36 years with the Department of the Attorney General. His experience in important roles, such as the Acting Attorney General and the many years as First Deputy Attorney General, provides a critical, in-depth understanding of local State government. The knowledge that Mr. Suzuki has gained as a result of his career is something that the State of Hawaii will benefit from in his role as the State's Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIJO
DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

www.labor.hawaii.gov

Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

March 20, 2017

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair,
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Leonard Hoshijo, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

GM 638 Russell A. Suzuki to Serve as Attorney General

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leonard Hoshijo and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). I support the nomination of Mr. Suzuki to serve as Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. Mr. Suzuki has 36 years of experience in the Department of the Attorney General, serving in numerous roles, including as the First Deputy Attorney General, the Supervising Deputy Attorney General of the Administration Division and Education Division, and as the current Acting Attorney General.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Suzuki to serve as the Attorney General, so that he may apply his education and extensive experience to honorably enforce the laws and serve the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Suzuki.

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 7:50:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

I have known Russell Suzuki for more than 20 years and have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with him on several projects. On the basis of that experience I strongly support his nomination as Attorney General. I hope he will be confirmed soon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Suzuki's nomination.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth Kent

March 23, 2018

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message 638, Consideration and Confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki

Hearing: Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is in support of Russell A. Suzuki for the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii. I have worked with Russell for twelve years and found him to be an excellent leader, providing a wealth of information on State government to past attorneys general and others in the organization. He is universally respected within the department and I believe he will provide excellent leadership.

I urge you to recommend him for confirmation.

Mahalo,



David T. Moore

March 26, 2018

Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of Russell Suzuki's confirmation as Hawaii's Attorney General. Russell brings extraordinary experience to this role, which is matched only by his decades-long unswerving dedication to the Department of the Attorney General and the attorneys who work there. I respectfully urge the Committee to unanimously support his confirmation.

I am a Deputy Attorney General and have worked at the AGs office for more than 13 years. I've worked closely with Russell many, many times. Since 2014, Russell has assigned and supervised the bulk of my work, a role which was formalized in 2016 when I moved to Special Projects, a small group of attorneys that work directly with the Attorney General and our First Deputy. Russell has served as First Deputy since 2010, for Attorneys General Mark Bennett, David Louie, and Doug Chin. Through my own work and in assisting all three of these attorneys general and working with Russell himself, I have consistently seen what an incredible asset Russell is to the Department. He is incredibly hard working, smart, incisive, and brings extraordinary institutional knowledge into every decision. Without fail, he is calm in a crisis and consistently able to resolve conflicts and bring people together. I rely upon his seasoned judgment, as do so many others. Just as importantly, Russell is a genuinely nice person and a generous and supportive boss.

Russell will make an exemplary Attorney General and I can think of no one I would rather see in that role. I urge the Committee to support his confirmation wholeheartedly.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Deirdre Marie-Iha
Deputy Attorney General

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/26/2018 7:19:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
phyllis shimabukuro	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chairperson Taniguchi, Vice Chairperson Rhoads and members of the committee,

I strongly support GM638, for your consideration and confirmation Russell A. Suzuki for Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

I have worked with Russell Suzuki for over three years and I respect and appreciate his dedication to public service for 36 years. Russell Suzuki has the experience and acknowledge to lead the Department of Attorney General. Russell Suzuki's resume is impressive and he has been supportive and responsive to requests by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. It has been an honor and pleasure to work Russell Suzuki and his high standards of decorum.

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and confirmation of his nomination as Attorney General for the State of Hawaii. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit personal testimony in strong support of GM 638.

Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 11:33:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Joyce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to urge the Committee on Judiciary to approve and confirm the appointment of Russell Suzuki as the Attorney General. We saw in the Governor's announcement of the experience that Mr. Suzuki holds. He is very versed in our state laws and works quite well with many people. It would be a tragedy to deprive him of this just position, and the state of his wealth of knowledge. I do not think there is a better candidate out there to be appointed as the state's top law enforcement officer. Please approve and pass his recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:40:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brenda Kanno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Excellent choice!

Audrey Hidano
1620 Hau Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

TESTIMONY OF
AUDREY HIDANO
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

G.M.638

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **RUSSELL A. SUZUKI**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-03-2018.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 638. I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Russell Suzuki to the position of the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

I am testifying as an individual and I have known Mr. Suzuki for about ten years. He brings to the job his thirty-six years of experience. He is open minded and a good listener which should be a positive trait for the Attorney General position.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Mr. Suzuki for the nomination of the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

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

Francis Paul Keeno
1319 Wawe Place
Honolulu, HI 96818
Ph. (808) 721-5377

March 21, 2018

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee
on Judiciary
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 638, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL A. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am humbly requesting your **vote to confirm** Governor Ige's nomination of RUSSELL A. SUZUKI as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Russell Suzuki since we were Deputies Attorney General working for Attorney General Tany Hong back in 1981. Since then, Mr. Suzuki has dedicated himself to public service by remaining with the Department of the Attorney General and serving in the capacity as a Deputy Attorney General, a Supervising Deputy Attorney General, the First Deputy Attorney General, and as the Acting Attorney General. Throughout those 37 years, he has served as the legal advisor to the Governor, the Legislature, the Judiciary, and to many other Department and Agency Directors. Needless to say, he has a wealth of historical information on how the State Government operates and he is already very familiar with the issues and pending litigation facing the Department of the Attorney General.

However, Mr. Suzuki's strongest qualification to serve as Hawaii's Attorney General is his commitment to the law. He will not be swayed by the political winds or by political expediency. Whatever laws the Legislature passes, Mr. Suzuki will be fully committed to enforcing it and giving it its full faith and credit. I therefore sincerely and respectfully urge you to vote to confirm Russell Suzuki as our next State Attorney General.

Respectfully submitted,



Francis Paul Keeno

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:30:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marie Laderta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Russell Suzuki to the position of Attorney General. I have known and worked intermittently with Mr. Suzuki for the past 16 years both as colleagues and later as his client. Mr. Suzuki is an individual with supreme integrity, and a wealth of legal experience representing and defending the State for longer than I have known him. He is a hands-on, conscientious individual. I urge this committee's confirmation of Russell Suzuki as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

Marie Laderta, Member of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appelas Board

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 1:36:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Richardson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 2:00:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Maeshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support of Russell Suzuki to be the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 4:53:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members - I strongly support the confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. Mr. Suzuki possesses vast experience and knowledge regarding the functioning of state government as well as with the various legal issues encountered by state departments. He will also provide strong leadership for the Department of the Attorney General (Department) and make for a seamless transition from his predecessor. I know that the Department will be in very competent and capable hands under guidance of Mr. Suzuki. I trust that this honorable Committee will recognize the high qualifications of Gubernatorial Nominee Russell A. Suzuki, accept, and confirm him as the next Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

Very truly yours,

Ryan W. Roylo

Deputy Attorney General

March 19, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 638
Confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki as Hawai'i Attorney General; Testimony in
Strong Support

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Russell A. Suzuki to be the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i.

I have had the honor and pleasure of closely working with Russell Suzuki for the past nineteen (19) years. When I transferred into the division Russell was supervising, I had already been with the Department of the Attorney General for ten (10) years; and had previously been in private practice before that. Despite my years of practice, I cannot even begin to share how much I learned from Russell while working with him. I worked closely with Russell on a daily basis until 2003, when then Attorney General Mark J. Bennett asked Russell to head the Administration Division and I took over as the Supervisor of the Education Division. To this day, fifteen (15) years later, I still contact Russell frequently to bounce ideas off of him and discuss various education issues with him.

Russell is the one Deputy Attorney General who, in my opinion, has the most knowledge about all of the various legal areas and aspects of the State. Because of his knowledge and expertise, he has served well as the First Deputy Attorney General and is the best choice to be the Attorney General. Russell is extremely well-versed and can analyze issues quickly and effectively. He always has the best interest of the State in mind as we, in the Department of the Attorney General, work on the various issues that the State faces on a daily basis.

I have no doubt that Russell will be a great Attorney General. He has served in the capacity of an Interim or Acting Attorney General a number of times, each time doing so effectively and efficiently without the assistance of a First Deputy Attorney General.

Russell has the integrity and honesty that is required of the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. Russell also possesses the necessary management skills and experience. He is a hard worker, has the right temperament, and no doubt the intellectual ability, to be an outstanding Attorney General. The Department of the Attorney General, and the State of Hawai'i would be extremely lucky to have Russell Suzuki as its next Attorney General.

I cannot think of a better person for the position of Attorney General than Russell Suzuki.
I strongly recommend that the Senate confirm Russell Suzuki for Attorney General.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly T. Shikada". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Holly T. Shikada

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 12:29:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nelson Sakamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Please accept my testimony in support of Attorney Russell Suzuki for Hawaii's Attorney General.

I have known and worked with Russell Suzuki for over 20 years. He has and continues to be a highly competent legal counsel. His strength lies not only in his knowledge and experience, but most of all he is very "cool under fire". He will not let Hawaii down. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my support for Russell Suzuki.

Nelson Sakamoto

March 21, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 638
Confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki as Hawai'i Attorney General; Testimony in
Strong Support

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

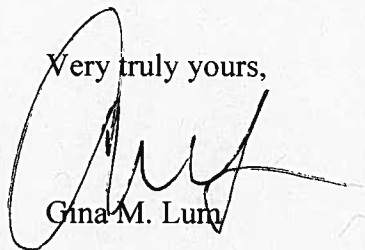
This testimony is submitted in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Russell A. Suzuki to be the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i.

I began working in the Education Division of the Department of the Attorney General when Russell Suzuki was the supervisor. I started as a Legal Clerk and am currently the Legal Secretary in the Education Division.

Russell was a good supervisor and worked extremely hard. It was clear that all of the deputies respected him and he was always available to assist them and provide them with guidance. The division continues to follow many of the practices Russell put in place when he was the supervisor here.

I believe Russell will make an excellent Attorney General and I recommend his confirmation.

Very truly yours,



Gina M. Lum

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 3:11:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colette Honda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Russell Suzuki as the Attorney General, State of Hawaii. I have interacted with Mr. Suzuki many times in the course of my practice at the Dept. of the Attorney General and have found him to be thoughtful and knowledgeable about many different areas of government practice. With his extensive legal experience with several government agencies and in several areas of the law, Mr. Suzuki will make an excellent Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on Mr. Suzuki's nomination.

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 4:33:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Candace J. Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, & Committee Members:

I strongly support the confirmation of Russell Suzuki as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. That he was chosen to serve as First Deputy under Attorneys General Mark Bennett, David Louie, and Doug Chin, speaks for itself. Russell is truly a pillar and a cornerstone of the Department.

Candace Park

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 3:38:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Won	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Russell Suzuki to be Attorney General of the State of Hawaii based on his extensive knowledge and experience. He is well qualified for this position and has proven leadership experience as the Acting Attorney General, First Deputy Attorney General and Supervising Deputy Attorney General.

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 8:54:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug Tonokawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

During the past five years that I have worked at RCUH, Russell Suzuki has been our attorney. Russell has provided excellent service. His counsel is always on point. I fully support his appointment to the position of Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

Doug Tonokawa

Director of Finance, RCUH

Valri Lei Kunimoto
1060 Maunanani Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

March 22, 2018

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

Re: GM 638 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee RUSSELL A. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-3-2018; WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Russell Suzuki's appointment as Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i. My name is Valri Lei Kunimoto and I am a Deputy Attorney General and I write this testimony in my personal capacity.

I have known Russell for approximately 35 years. During that time, Russell has worked for the Department of the Attorney General and capably represented numerous clients, including the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the University of Hawai'i, the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i, the Department of Education, the members of the Legislature, and various boards and commissions. Remarkably, Russell has served as the First Deputy for the last ten years for three Attorneys General. He has handled difficult and sensitive issues and personnel matters capably. During his tenure at the Department, he has provided loyal and exemplary service to the people of the State of Hawai'i. Russell is steadfast but quick to analyze complex legal issues, and relying on his extensive and invaluable institutional knowledge, provides guidance and advice to his clients and the deputies and staff of the department.

Russell is fair and conscientious and has dedicated his career and life to public service. He remains the respectful and humble person from Wahiawa, and a proud graduate of Leilehua High School and the University of Hawai'i. He is deserving of this appointment, and if confirmed, I am confident that Russell will competently lead our office and continue to represent the State of Hawai'i to the best of his ability.

I respectfully ask that you confirm Russell Suzuki's nomination as Attorney General. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



Valri Lei Kunimoto

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Committee on Judiciary
The Senate
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki (GM 638)

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

This letter is written in strong support of the confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki's appointment to Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. I have known Mr. Suzuki since 2015 as his assistant in the Attorney General's Office.

Russell is honest, trustworthy and a sincere person and no one deserves to be Attorney General more than him. He cares about the people of this State, he cares about victims of crimes, and he cares about the people with whom he works at the Office of the Attorney General and his staff respects him for it.

As a State taxpayer, I am very grateful for Mr. Suzuki's service to this community, and his willingness to continue his public service and I am so proud to call him my boss.

I respectfully ask the Committee to make a favorable recommendation on Mr. Suzuki's nomination as the Attorney General. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ardis L. Arakaki', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ardis L. Arakaki

March 23, 2018

GM 638 - Testimony in Support of Russell A. Suzuki for Hawaii State Attorney General

Aloha Senator Taniguchi, Chair, Committee on Judiciary

My name is Patricia Hamamoto, former Hawaii State Department of Education Superintendent (2001-2009.) I am submitting testimony supporting the confirmation/ appointment of Russell A. Suzuki, as Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

I have known Mr. Suzuki since 1991 when I was appointed as the Deputy Superintendent for the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE.) During my tenure as Deputy Superintendent, he was lead DAG for the DOE which meant we worked together on legal matters specific to the DOE as well as the Felix Consent Degree (Federal Sanctions/Mandate related to students identified as in need of special education services.) In time his area of support shifted away from the DOE, nevertheless, he was always available share his expertise with the DOE.

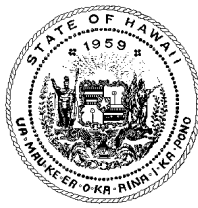
Mr Suzuki is a level headed, thoughtful individual who is most resourceful as well as highly knowledgeable about the legal intricacies related to State government. Saying that he is forthright, ethical and responsible is to understate his value, skills and experiences in assisting and supporting the state departments he has advised.

To his credit, he is also compassionate and caring about both what and how legal matters impact our State. His professional practices are consistent and clear which means, he does not give "mixed messages."

I ask for your favorable consideration in confirming Russel A. Suzuki as State Attorney General. He is the value added to the Governor's cabinet.

Thank you for your attention.
Patricia Hamamoto

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Cathy Ross
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 638,
NOMINATION OF RUSSELL A. SUZUKI AS ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

by
Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 27, 2018; 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **strongly supports** the nomination of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Suzuki has served honorably as the First Deputy Attorney General under three Attorneys General, serving three executive administrations beginning in 2010 with Governor Linda Lingle, followed by Governor Neil Abercrombie, and currently, Governor David Ige. He is keenly aware of the vast myriad of ongoing legal issues and related matters facing the State.

This breadth and depth of experience will make him invaluable in continuing the initiatives started under his predecessor, Attorney General Douglas Chin, as well as, spearheading the initiatives recently embarked upon by the Ige Administration.

The Department respectfully urges the Senate's advise and consent on the nomination of Russell Suzuki as the State's Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

FROM: James W. Walther
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
DATE: March 22, 2018

RE: GM 638
Consideration and Confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General
Hearing before the Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 27, 2018

CHAIR TANIGUCHI AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I write in support of Russell A. Suzuki for your consideration to be confirmed as the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii. Mr. Suzuki is uniquely qualified to lead the Department of the Attorney General based on his long experience as a Deputy Attorney General, including serving several years as the First Deputy Attorney General.

I have been a Deputy Attorney General for over 20 years, and Mr. Suzuki has been a constant presence within the Department during that time. Mr. Suzuki has broad legal knowledge, as well as excellent analytical skills and logical reasoning. His knowledge of the workings of our Department and all other State agencies is unsurpassed. As an administrator for the Department, Mr. Suzuki sets a high standard; he expects the same level of expertise and professionalism from Deputies in the Department that he expects of himself.

Finally, I would like to say that besides being an exemplary attorney, administrator, and public servant, Russell also cares genuinely about the people who work for him and the people we represent. He looks out for the public interest in every way.

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 5:13:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Ahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Russell Suzuki for Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

My name is Margaret Ahn and I am a Deputy Attorney General. I have worked with Mr. Suzuki for 14 years. Mr. Suzuki possesses all of the qualities of an ideal Attorney General:

- Extremely high intellectual capability
- Sound legal reasoning
- A commitment to being fair and honest
- Institutional knowledge
- A commitment to public service and the State of Hawaii; and
- The respect of the Department of the Attorney General.

I cannot think of a better choice for this important position. Thank you for your consideration.

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/24/2018 7:47:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Shimizu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi

Chairperson, Senate Judiciary Committee

Hawaii State Capito]

Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Taniguchi and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Re: GM 638; Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Russell A. Suzuki

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Russell A. Suzuki as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. I first met Mr. Suzuki over twenty years ago when he was the supervising deputy attorney general acting as legal advisor to the Hawaii State Board of Education. I was immediately impressed by Mr. Suzuki's intelligence, integrity, knowledge of the law, and calm and even temperament. Mr. Suzuki is a highly skilled and competent attorney and will make an excellent Attorney General. Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Daniel Shimizu

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 638 – Gubernatorial Nominee Russell A. Suzuki

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I strongly support Governor Ige's nomination of Russell Suzuki for Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

I am a deputy in the Department of the Attorney General and have worked with Russell Suzuki for more than ten years. My comments are based on my experience working with him.

Russell Suzuki is uniquely qualified to be the Attorney General. He has a broad historical perspective and deep understanding of Hawaii's legal issues borne of his more than thirty years with the department. He cares very much about the work of the Department and works hard to ensure that the Department takes consistent, legally sound positions on issues.

Russell was asked by three prior Attorneys General to be the First Deputy. Having worked as First Deputy, Russell has demonstrated his ability to work with people without regard to political or social views or ideology. He is steadfast in his legal analysis and conclusions regardless of who is seeking his advice.

As a colleague, Russell is generous with his time and knowledge. He is an effective team leader; he has clear ideas about issues and arguments to be raised but is open to others; he rolls up his sleeves to help meet a deadline and is self-effacing, readily giving credit to others for a successful outcome even though the winning argument or analysis was his.

Russell Suzuki will make an excellent Attorney General.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments in support of Russell Suzuki's nomination.

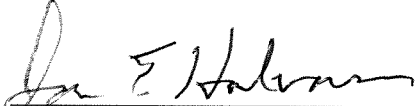
Robyn B. Chun
Deputy Attorney General

March 23, 2018


We write in strong support of Russell A. Suzuki's nomination for Attorney General of Hawai'i. He is the perfect choice for the position.

We are supervisors in the Department of the Attorney General and, therefore, have worked directly with Russell as he served as First Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General. Russell worked as First Deputy Attorney General under three Attorneys General: Mark Bennett, David Louie, and Douglas Chin. He has provided much needed continuity and historical context. His depth of knowledge is unparalleled: he has a comprehensive mastery of many areas of law, with answers at his fingertips. Despite the dizzying pace of work, especially now while fulfilling the responsibilities of both the Attorney General and First Deputy Attorney General, Russell remains calm, approachable, and even-tempered.

We urge you to recommend confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General of Hawai'i. Thank you.



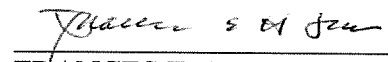
JAMES E. HALVORSON



JULIO C. HERRERA



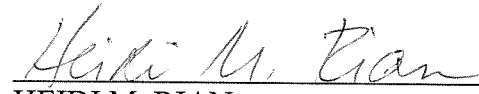
CARON M. INAGAKI




FRANCES E. H. LUM



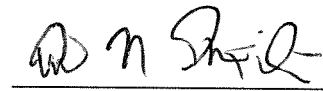
PATRICIA T. OHARA




HEIDI M. RIAN



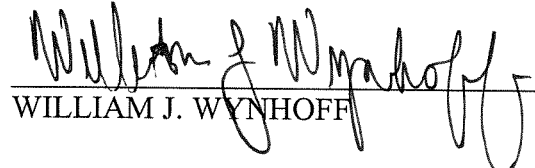
GARY S. SUGANUMA



ERIN N. SUGITA



CLYDE J. WADSWORTH



WILLIAM J. WYNHOFF



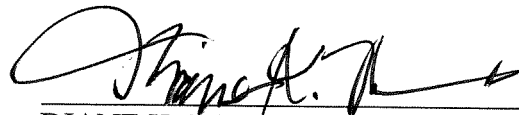
BRYAN C. YEE



LYNETTE J. LAU



KEVIN K. TAKATA



DIANE K. TAIRA

GM-638

Submitted on: 3/25/2018 4:53:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/27/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Horiuchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to testify in strong support of Russell Suzuki's confirmation as Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

After many years in private practice, I joined the Department of the Attorney General in January 2017. In that time, I have had several occasions to work directly with Russell, and saw that he is smart, strategic, and reasonable. He is an excellent attorney. But what is most telling to me is the high esteem in which he is held by other deputy attorneys general and staffers alike. There is no better person to lead our Department.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of Russell Suzuki's confirmation.

Testimony of Diane S. Kishimoto

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary

On

Governor's Message 638 re Russell A. Suzuki

Hearing on Tuesday, March 27, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 016

Chair Taniguchi, Chair, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the confirmation Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i.

I am a retired Deputy Attorney General. During most of my fifteen years with the Department of the Attorney General, Mr. Suzuki was either my Supervising Deputy Attorney General or the First Deputy Attorney General.

I was continually impressed by Mr. Suzuki's knowledge of government law. Whenever I had a difficult legal issue to deal with, I could count on him to provide insight, or even a specific case citation, that would help me find a solution.

Mr. Suzuki set high standards for professionalism, ethical conduct and service to our clients and to the public. He helped us to meet those standards by his example.

Mr. Suzuki was an efficient and calm administrator. It was a pleasure to work with and for him.

For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request that this Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to the appointment of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony.

March 23, 2018

Written Testimony of
Susan Pang Gochros
to the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
on
Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016

GM 638

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General
of the State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL A. SUZUKI,
for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing to enthusiastically support Russell Suzuki's confirmation as attorney general. I have had many different professional relationships with Russell over the years. In 1986, he was in charge of orienting me at the department of the attorney general. At that time, Russell served the DOE and the UH and I recall sitting in his office waiting my turn to seek his advice. It was before the advent of email and I remember wondering how he could ever get any work done, as the phone was always ringing off the hook in his office.

I soon realized, however, that those non-stop phone calls were a testament to how much Russell's advice was valued—his clients called him constantly as they knew they could count on his sage and practical advice. Russell knew the importance of being responsive to clients who wanted to do the right thing but needed guidance. He imparted legal knowledge and sometimes just as important, practical advice. He was as invaluable to his clients as he was, I later realized, to the entire AG Department.

When Russell became my supervisor and mentor several years later, the values he exemplified in leadership, integrity and collaboration were invaluable. I recall when we realized that a deputy in another division had failed to write the legal brief he had been assigned and the filing deadline loomed the following day. Russell spearheaded a small team of deputies and we stayed up all night writing that brief. We did it solely out of loyalty to Russell who was by our side working that night and into the morning when we triumphantly filed the brief. I recall debriefing (literally) with a pre-dawn breakfast at the Wisteria where we proceeded to blast the deputy who dropped the ball. Russell did not join us in pointing fingers. He was quick to thank us but also to remind us that we are a team and, as a team, we must remember the importance and integrity of the work we do for the department and for the state of Hawai'i. That reminder resonated with us then and continues to do so today.

When I moved from the department of the attorney general to the Hawai'i State Judiciary, the division Russell supervised provided legal representation for the Judiciary. Russell worked with the chief justice, the administrative director of the courts and the staff attorneys office on many different legal matters. He assisted with litigation, legislation, provided consultation and was usually the first person we called upon for legal advice and assistance. We were grateful for his calm and reasoned approach and the guidance he provided on so many different issues.

Russell's intelligence, superb work ethic and integrity are particularly important in a time when our president sees fit to denigrate government departments (DOJ, FBI) with apparent disregard for the adverse morale upon hard working career government workers.

The impact of morale on a department's ability to fulfill its mission cannot be underestimated. It is what makes people enjoy coming to work every morning and view their jobs with enthusiasm and pride. When Governor Ige announced Russell's appointment, the deputy attorneys general collective sigh of relief was almost audible. Confirmation of Russell's appointment can only enhance the morale of the AG's Department. And that is because all who have worked with him know that Russell is the calm, reasoned and seasoned visionary who can provide outstanding leadership to the department's deputies, staff and clients on behalf of the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

David Kimo Frankel
1638-A Mikahala Way
Honolulu, HI 96816

March 27, 2018

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO GM 638

Senator Taniguchi and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

I want to offer the lonely public dissent to Russell Suzuki's nomination as the Attorney General.

I have nothing against Russell personally. He's a nice guy.

I believe I have only litigated against him in one case. I represented a charter school which was not being provided the funds to which it was legally entitled. We settled the case. Russell insisted on inserting a gag clause in the settlement that prohibited dissemination and discussion of provisions of the settlement – in violation of both HRS chapter 92F and the First Amendment. His insistence on that position was quite troubling, but that is not the reason I am opposing his nomination.

The Attorney General's Office has suffered from long-standing, systemic problems. And Russell Suzuki is not the person to address them. He has served as acting attorney general more than once and served as First Deputy Attorney General (i.e. in a leadership role) under Attorneys General Douglas Chin, David Louie, and Mark Bennett. Based on my experience as well as what I have learned in conversations with various state employees and officials, the Attorney General's Office has often failed to serve the interests of its clients and the public.¹

Failure to Allow Clients to Make Major Litigation Decisions

A lawyer should keep her or his client informed about the status of a lawsuit and should obtain a client's approval for major litigation decisions – such as, whether to appeal a court decision, and whether (and how) to settle a lawsuit. That's a basic professional responsibility. And the Attorney General's Office is required to do so. *See Chun v. Bd of Trs. of the Emps.Ret. Sys.*, 87 Hawai'i 152, 174-75, 952 P.2d 1215 1237-38 (1998) – a case that the Attorney General's Office dislikes and has difficulty following. While there are times when it may be unclear who the attorney general's client is, when a state agency is named as defendant in a lawsuit, that agency needs to be kept informed and must be able to make major litigation decisions.

We know that the Attorney General's office, too often, does not do this.

For example, while the Hawaiian Homes Commission routinely identifies specific cases on its agenda for discussion or consultation with its attorneys, the Board of Land and Natural Resources almost never does. I have sued the BLNR many times and only once has the case been placed on the BLNR's agenda – because a judge required the deputy attorney general to do so. In

¹ To be clear, many of the examples I provide in this testimony took place prior to Doug Chin's tenure as Attorney General.

that case, the deputy attorney general offered to settle the case even though the BLNR had never been briefed and had never authorized a settlement. Unless the Attorney General's Office is circumventing HRS chapter 92, it cannot discuss a case with a board or commission unless the case is placed on an agenda.

In other situations, the attorney general's office has filed appeals when the affected board never met to discuss the circuit court's decision and never voted to file an appeal. The attorney general's office should not be making these decisions. Its clients should be.

Too often, the Attorney General's Office seeks to set policy rather than to provide legal representation and advice.

Finally, the Attorney General's Office should be informing boards and agencies about relevant court decisions – as well as changes to state statutes. The office routinely does not do so.

Will Russell Suzuki change the long-standing practices of the Attorney General's Office?

Failure to Staff the Island Burial Councils

It is my understanding that every major board or commission is supported by the Attorney General's Office. That means whenever there is a meeting, a deputy attorney general attends. For a few years, the Attorney General's Office attended the meetings of the island burial councils established pursuant to HRS chapter 6E. It is my understanding that no longer occurs. And when the island burial councils disagree with the state historic preservation division, the Attorney General's office refuses to assist the councils – with the one notable exception being *Kaleikini v. Yoshioka*, 124 Hawai'i 53, 283 P.3d 60 (2012) when we forced the Attorney General's Office to do so. Will Russell Suzuki fix this problem?

Environmental Court

Several years ago, the state legislature voted to radically reorganize our court system to create a set of environmental courts. The Attorney General's Office, however, is still organized in the same way that it has been for decades. Those attorneys who litigate in the environmental court should all be in the same division in the Attorney General's Office. It makes much more sense for the attorneys who are supposed to be protecting our natural resources – those that assist the Department of Health and the Department of Land and Natural Resources – to all be in one division. Doing so would enhance enforcement efforts and ensure better coordination.

We've seen no effort by the Attorney General's Office to do so.

Failure to Provide Sound Advice Regarding HRS Chapter 343

The Attorney General's Office is blessed to have a really bright, competent deputy attorney general who advises the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the Environmental Council. Unfortunately, the way the Attorney General's office is set up, when other state agencies seek advice as to how to comply with HRS chapter 343, they ask their own deputy attorneys general, who are not as well versed in that law. And many of these deputy attorneys general provide really bad legal advice to state agencies. It would save everyone a lot of work if

all these agencies could funnel their requests to the deputy who really understands the law. The Office has shown little initiative and creativity in addressing this issue.

Failure to Uphold Trust Obligations

Our courts have ruled over and over again, that the state has public trust duties when it comes to our natural resources. Unfortunately, the Attorney General's Office has failed to impart the lesson from these court decisions to their clients. It has been shocking and disillusioning to witness the Attorney General's Office provide advice to its clients and take positions in court that are antithetical to public trust interests. For example, in *Gold Coast Neighborhood Ass'n v. State*, 140 Hawai'i 437, 403 P.3d 214, the Attorney General's Office disclaimed interest in property vital to public access. The Water Commission's decisions have been reversed virtually every single time, thanks to bad advice from the Attorney General's Office. Will Russell Suzuki change this attitude?

Bad Advice

Lawyers disagree. Some lawyers are better than others. There are some really good attorneys in the Attorney General's Office. But I have been appalled at the quality of the advice that the Attorney General's Office has provided when it comes to issues of stewardship of natural and cultural resources and public participation in decisionmaking. And the quality of this advice has been borne out by the number of cases that the Attorney General's Office has lost. Here's a partial list: *Sierra Club v. DOT*, 115 Hawai'i 299, 167 P.3d 292 (2007); *Kaleikini v. Thielen*, 124 Hawai'i 1, 237 P.3d 1067 (2010); *In re Petition to Amend Interim Instream Flow Standards for Waikamoi*, 128 Hawai'i 497, 291 P.3d 395 (ICA 2012); *In re 'Iao Ground Water Mgmt. Area High-Level Source Water Use Permit Applications & Petition*, 128 Hawai'i 228, 287 P.3d 129 (2012); *Kaleikini v. Yoshioka*, 128 Hawai'i 53, 56, 283 P.3d 60, 63 (2012); *Blake v. Cnty. of Kaua'i Planning Comm'n*, 131 Hawai'i 123, 127, 315 P.3d 749, 753 (2013); *Diamond v. Dobbin*, 132 Hawai'i 9, 35, 319 P.3d 1017, 1043 (2014); *Mauna Kea Anaina Hou v. Bd. of Land & Natural Res.*, 136 Hawai'i 376, 363 P.3d 224 (2015).

When will this systemic problem be addressed?

Out of date rules

The Attorney General's Office should be proactive. Hawai'i Supreme Court decisions over the past few decades have rendered agency's rules of practice and procedure woefully out-of-date. But the office has taken no visible action to get agencies to update their rules. For example, the Board of Agriculture's rules pertaining to contested case hearings need to be amended in light of *Pele Defense Fund v. Puna Geothermal Venture*, 77 Hawai'i 64, 881 P.2d 1210 (1994) and *In re Maui Elec. Co.*, 141 Hawai'i 249, 408 P.3d 1 (2017).

I'm not convinced that Russell Suzuki is the person to address these issues, and that's why I'm opposing his nomination.

Aloha,


David Kimo Frankel

March 23, 2018

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Senate
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

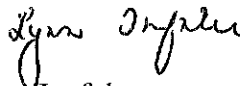
Re: GM 638 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, Russell A. Suzuki

Dear Senators Taniguchi and Rhoads:

I am writing in strong support for the confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i. I have worked with Russell in my capacity as a staff attorney for the Hawai'i State Judiciary. I first worked with Russell when he was the supervising Deputy Attorney General for the Administration Division, which was assigned to provide legal services for the Judiciary. Russell helped me from day one on my job. He is intelligent, professional, dependable, and helpful, and provides sound and practical legal advice. Russell's knowledge, skills and experience make him well qualified to serve as Attorney General.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Lynn Inafuku

From: [Owner](#)
To: [JDCTestimony](#)
Subject: Confirmation of Russell A. Suzuki as Attorney General. GM 638 Tuesday March 27, 2018. 9:00.
Date: Sunday, March 25, 2018 11:19:26 PM

GM 638

Hearing Tuesday March 27, 2018 9:00 am

Nomination of RUSSELL A. SUZUKI as Attorney General for the State of Hawaii

Chair Taniguchi, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I write in strongest support of the confirmation of Russell Suzuki to be the Attorney General for the State of Hawaii.

When I first started at the Department of the Attorney General over 20 years ago, Russell Suzuki was my mentor and the center of calm and integrity for the Department. He continues to be steadfast in advancing the public interest and advocating for the rule and respect for the law. He has a superb understanding and appreciation of the responsibility placed on government attorneys. His wisdom, perspective, and courage to take the high ground have earned him the respect of staff and attorneys at the Department.

Over the years we have become more than just colleagues. We have become good friends. My son calls him “uncle” when he joins our family on trips to the mainland. We trade stories of our pet dogs. When our knees were younger, we played on the AG's volleyball team.

He exemplifies the best and only the best qualities of a public attorney. Your confirmation of Russell Suzuki would send a clear and welcomed message—this is what the top lawyer for the State should be; this is what public service attorneys should strive to become.

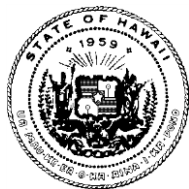
Please send that message.

Presley Pang, Esq.

3346 Kaohinani Drive

Honolulu, Hawaii. 96817.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339



March 26, 2018

TO: The Honorable Senator Brain T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **GM0638** - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL A. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-03-2018.

Hearing: Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

As the Director of the Department of Human Services, I am writing in strong support for Governor's Message 638 – nomination of Russell A. Suzuki as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. Russell Suzuki has served Hawaii as a deputy attorney general for 36 years and exemplifies the professionalism and standards expected of the office of the Attorney General. He has been a dependable and constant resource to the Department of Human Services, and will continue to advise, defend, and represent the State on behalf of the people of Hawaii.

Please confirm Russell A. Suzuki as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support.

March 26, 2018

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Re: GM 638 – Gubernatorial Nominee, Russell A. Suzuki

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of nominee Russell A. Suzuki as the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii. In my opinion, there is no person better suited for this position.

Russell has been the backbone of the Department of the Attorney General for as long as I can remember, and his value was recognized in his selection as the First Deputy by the last three attorneys general – Mark Bennett, David Louie, and Doug Chin. Russell's unsurpassed knowledge of state government, his legal acumen, and his fair and steady disposition are the qualities that have made him the ideal First Deputy and what will make him a successful leader as the State's Attorney General.

But Russell is not only a talented lawyer and valued government employee, he is also a sincere, honest, and kind person - someone who garners trust and admiration from all who have the pleasure to work with him.

All of these exceptional qualities, as well as his dedication to public service, makes Russell the best choice for Attorney General. I respectfully ask that you recommend him for confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Dana Viola

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

Email: Tax.Directors.Office@hawaii.gov

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: G.M. 638 Relating to Russell Suzuki

My name is Linda Chu Takayama, and I am currently serving as Director of Taxation for the State of Hawaii. I am in strong support of the confirmation of Russell Suzuki as Attorney General.

I have known and worked with Russell for many years and have always respected his legal acumen and thorough analysis on issues covering the broad swath of government activities.

He would be an excellent Attorney General, and I urge your favorable consideration of his confirmation.