

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, April 20, 2018
1:30 PM

GM 729 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, EDMUND ACZON, for a term to expire 6-30-2022.

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC") supports Mr. Edmund Aczon's appointment as a member to the Land Use Commissions.

Since 2004, Mr. Aczon has been the Community Relations Director for the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters and, concurrently, served as the Field Representative for the Office of U.S. Senator Daniel K Inouye (2003-2013). He has extensive experience in local government, holding numerous board positions and is well-versed in development and land use issues.

Mr. Aczon's appointment will expand the depth and broad representation of land use management and regulation issues already on the Land Use Commission and would be a welcomed asset. For these reasons, we respectfully

Page 2 of 2

ask for your support of Mr. Aczon's appointment to serve as a member of the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-729

Submitted on: 4/19/2018 1:18:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/20/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 20, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON GM 729

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, EDMUND ACZON, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Room 224
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports the confirmation and appointment of Mr. Edmund Aczon to the Land Use Commission.

HFB believes Mr. Aczon's leadership background will serve him well. Mr. Aczon is the current community relations director and manpower specialist at the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters. He is also a former field representative for U.S. Senator Inouye and the owner of Aczon Construction.

In addition, Mr. Aczon serves and supports many community organizations, including agriculture. Through Mr. Aczon's efforts aquaponic systems and other agriculture programs were established in few of our local schools, like Waipahu High School, giving students an opportunity to have a "hands-on" educational experience.

Through our work experience with Mr. Aczon, we find him to be fair and honest and believe he will serve the people of Hawaii well.

We respectfully request your support of Mr. Aczon to the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for Mr. Aczon.

Testimony in support of GM 729 Edmund Aczon

Senate Committee on Water and Land

April 20, 2017 1:30 pm

Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 224

To: Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members

From: Amy Agbayani, chair
FILIPINA ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN)
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819
amy_agbayani@yahoo.com

My name is Amy Agbayani, I am submitting testimony as chair of the Filipina Advocacy Network (FAN). FAN seeks to improve the status of Filipinos and inclusion of Filipinos in education and policy-making bodies. We are in strong support of Edmund Aczon's nomination and re-appointment to the Land Use Commission. I have known Mr. Aczon for over three decades. We have worked together in various community organizations (e.g. Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights, Filipino Community Center and the National Association of Filipino American Associations, Hawai'i Democratic Party). I am now an Emeritus Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Diversity and during my tenure at the University of Hawai'i, Mr. Aczon helped me with activities to encourage under-represented students to participate in job training programs, community college and Manoa academic programs and careers.

Although Mr. Aczon is best known for his leadership and service with statewide labor organizations, policies related to our economy and workforce, my comments will focus on his leadership within the Filipino community and his efforts to increase representation and success of Filipinos in Hawai'i, a group that is generally under-represented in public and private sector management and policy making boards. I believe representation and diversity on boards is fair and results in better policies for our community. It is my understanding that Mr. Aczon is the only Filipino member of the Land Use Commission. Mr. Aczon will add ethnic diversity and his competence and experience to the board. The Filipino community sees the need to get more Filipino college graduates, more professionals in government and private business, more appointed to policy making bodies.

For a brief summary of Filipinos in the state and in education, I am including the following quote from bills relating to the UH Pamantasan Council:

"The legislature finds that the Filipino community has grown since the first immigrants came to Hawaii in 1906. According to the United States Census, people of Filipino ancestry are the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i, with fifteen per cent of residents identifying themselves as Filipino alone and twentyfive per cent of residents identifying themselves as Filipino and another race. Students of Filipino ancestry are also the second largest ethnic group in the department of education and represent more than half of the student population at Farrington high school, Waipahu high school, and Lanai high and elementary school.

The legislature also finds that, despite their high representation in the general population and schools within the department of education, students of Filipino ancestry are underrepresented in the University of Hawaii system. Filipino students comprise only twelve per cent of the entire University of Hawaii system student population. Six per cent of the community colleges faculty and two and a half per cent of the University of Hawaii at Manoa faculty are of Filipino ancestry. The fifteen per cent postsecondary degree rate held by Filipinos is the lowest among all ethnic groups in Hawaii. “

We are extremely proud of Mr. Aczon’s past accomplishments and service to the state. For over three decades, Mr. Aczon has demonstrated his competence, integrity, and active community leadership and he will continue to be a responsible and independent member of the Land Use Commission. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his significant contributions to improve the status and representation of Filipinos in Hawai’i. He has a deep appreciation of the history of our state and our future. I respectfully ask you to confirm his nomination to be re-appointed to the Land Use Commission.

Franz D. Juan, CPA, Esq.
Law Offices of Franz D. Juan LLC
P.O. Box 110
Pearl City, HI 96782

April 18, 2018

Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President and
Members of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Edmund C. Aczon, Land Use Commission

Dear Honorable Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

Mr. Edmund C. Aczon has been a leader in the community ensuring that the best interests of the State of Hawaii are examined and heard. His patient, balanced, and methodical approach to addressing issues continues to this day in his current position as the Executive Director with the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund as well as his volunteer activities with various community boards.

His experience, expertise, and accomplishments are many yet his humility and passion supersedes each one of them. His support of the community at large is cemented in his volunteerism as well as in his various contributions.

It is with neither hesitation nor reservation that I strongly support Mr. Aczon's continued service on Hawaii's Land Use Commission. The State of Hawaii should continue to reap the benefits of this public servant. Thank you for considering my letter of recommendation and praise of Mr. Aczon.

Respectfully,
LAW OFFICES OF FRANZ D. JUAN LLC



Franz D. Juan

GM-729

Submitted on: 4/17/2018 1:56:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/20/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse K. Souki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

April 17, 2018

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 729 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, EDMUND ACZON, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I strongly support Governor's Message 729, nominating Edmund Aczon to the State Land Use Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2022.

The nine-member volunteer Commission is charged with the awesome power of overseeing land use at the highest level in the State of Hawaii. Projects that come before the Commission are complex, quasi-judicial contested cases that require the ability to pour through copious technical pleadings, reports, testimony, and documents. Decisions before the Commission are often controversial, without a simple right or wrong decision. Instead, Commissioners must balance the impacts and benefits of every proposal on Hawaii's economy, environment, and community.

Mr. Aczon has the patience and temperament to take on the difficult balancing act that is required under Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 205. This will be his second term on the Commission. I urge you to confirm his continued service and contribution to the community in this capacity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,
Jesse K. Souki



Case Management Professionals, Inc.

TO: Hawaii State Senate
Honorable Chair: Senator Karl Rhoades
Honorable Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee
State Capitol Room 204
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Agnes Reyes, RN
President, Case Management Professionals, Inc.
94-235 Hanawai Circle Suite 1B
Waipahu, HI 96797
Tel: (808) 689-1937 ext 112
Fax: (808) 686-9709
E-mail: agnes@cmp-hi.com

DATE: April 17, 2018

RE: In Support of the Gubernatorial Nomination of Edmund Aczon to the Land Use Commission
for a term to expire 06/30/2022.
GM 729

My name is Agnes Reyes, a community volunteer, registered nurse and the Executive Director of Case Management Professionals, Inc. a licensed home and community based case management agency serving the islands of Oahu, Kauai, Big Island, Maui and Molokai.

This letter is in SUPPORT of the nomination and confirmation of Edmund Aczon for another term to the State of Land Use Commission.

I personally work with Mr. Aczon for 4 years now as one of the Board of Directors of the Filipino Community Center which he had been chairing for more than the past 5 years. Through all its challenges, he remained focused and steadfast in leading the organization through all its projects and programs balancing the needs of the Center and the community. I have come to witness his dedication and hard work in leading and motivating the rest of the members to not only fulfill their volunteerism and community service to the best of their abilities but also to be confident in making the hard decisions for better positive outcomes. I'm sure his service for the last 4 years have earned him the knowledge and experience to continue on for another 4 years as a public servant to the State of Hawaii as he has been a great asset at the community level.

It is with great pleasure to support Edmund Aczon for consideration and confirmation for another term with Land Use Commission.

Thank you.

Agnes Reyes, RN

GM-729

Submitted on: 4/18/2018 5:33:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/20/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan Likeke Scheuer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

April 20, 2018

Senate Committee on Water and Land

State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM729, Strong Supportfor the Nomination of Edmund Aczon to the Land Use Commission (LUC)

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Jonathan Likeke Scheuer. I am a member and First Vice Chair of the LUC, but offer this testimony in my personal capacity.

It has been my great pleasure to serve with Mr. Aczon since my own appointment to the LUC in 2014.

Most notable is that Mr. Aczon served as Chairperson of the LUC for two years. He effectively led us through a number of challenging proceedings. He continually encouraged full, fair, and open deliberation among the members of our diverse Commission.

I **strongly** encourage you to recommend the Senate Advise and Consent to this nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration of my mana`o.

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Ph.D.

GM-729

Submitted on: 4/18/2018 9:17:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/20/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rona Suzuki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Edmund Aczon to continue to serve on the Land Use Commission. Mr. Aczon is a dedicated community volunteer who is committed to doing what is right for the people of Hawaii. He has faithfully fulfilled his responsibilities as a Commissioner by thoughtfully balancing long term goals with short term demands.

I am confident that Mr. Aczon will continue to provide valuable contributions to the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Aczon's re-appointment.

GM-729

Submitted on: 4/19/2018 8:55:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/20/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-729

Submitted on: 4/19/2018 10:15:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/20/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maribel Tan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of Edmund Aczon for the State Land Use Commission.

I have known Edmund for over 15 years and have worked with him closely in the Filipino community. He is intelligent, compassionate, has incredible foresight, and is experienced in land use matters. He is able to balance the need for growth with the need to conserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Bryan Andaya

Chair Karl Rhoades and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol, Room 204
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF GM 729
Nomination of Edmund Aczon to the LUC

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, a community leader in our Filipino-American community and I write in strong support of the nominee, Edmund Aczon to the Land Use Commission.

I have known Mr. Aczon for more than twenty years, and I know him as a person of integrity and leadership. I have served with him on many boards and commissions, including the Filipino Community Center, where he serves as Chair, and I am on the Board of Directors for more than five years.

In all my dealings with Mr. Aczon, I have found him to be diligent in his duties, open to new ideas, even-tempered, and always prepared. He also has an extensive wealth of experience that he brings to the table, having worked in both the private sector as well as owned his own business in the past.

I strongly believe that Mr. Aczon has the qualities and skill sets necessary to continue to serve on the LUC.

I think the State's interest will be well served with participation from business and community leaders like Mr. Aczon.

Very Truly Yours,



Bennette Espineli Misalucha

GM-729

Submitted on: 4/19/2018 11:47:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/20/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Suzuki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Law Office of Abelina Madrid Shaw, AAL, LLC

810 Richards Street, Suite 960
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 523-5979 Fax: (808) 523-5979

TO: Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Members: Lorraine R. Inouye, Gil Riviere, Laura H. Thielen

FROM: Abelina Madrid Shaw, Esq.

DATE: April 20, 2018 (1:30 p.m.) Conference Room 224

RE: SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LAND
USE COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, EDMUND ACZON,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2022

I write in support of the confirmation of Mr. Edmund Aczon to the Land Use Commission. For over 20 years that I have had the pleasure of knowing him, he has never wavered in his personal and professional commitment for the betterment of others and the community, both in the public and private sectors. He is unselfish in his commitments which I believe will continue while serving on the Commission, as well as other community endeavors.

As a resident of the State of Hawaii, it would be reassuring to know that a person of Mr. Aczon's caliber is a participant in the decisions of the Land Use Commission. Please confirm Mr. Edmund Aczon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Edmund C. Aczon
94-403 Punono Street
Mililani, Hawaii

April 11, 2018

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Water and Land Committee
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol, Room 204
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Honorable Karl Rhoads,

Subject: Governor's Message 729
Land Use Commission

Thank you for your letter dated April 3, 2018 informing me of my nomination to the Land Use Commission by Governor David Ige for another term.

Per your request, here are my responses to your questionnaires:

- Q1: Please describe your understanding of the role and jurisdiction of the Land Use Commission (Commission).
- A1: The Commission's primary role and jurisdiction is to ensure that areas of state concern are addressed and considered in the land use decision-making process. The Commission establishes the district boundaries for the entire state. The Commission acts on petitions for boundary changes submitted by private landowners, developers and State and county agencies. The Commission also acts on request for special use permits within the Agricultural and Rural Districts.

Q2: How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission?

A2: The members of the Land Use Commission have a challenging role and responsibility to the people of Hawaii. My experience in the construction industry-as a former general contractor, former president of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii and former staff member of the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters-has allowed me to gain knowledge of land use rules, regulations, policies and procedures. Moreover, my experience in the industry has allowed me to understand important community and government issues involved in the land use process, such as cultural, environmental, business/economic and social factors that can potentially impact the proposals the Commission considers.

Having been a member of the Commission for the past four years, I know occasionally, meetings can be personal and emotionally charged. I view serving on the Commission to be an important and serious responsibility.

Q3: Why do you wish to continue serving as a member of the Commission? Please note if you initially applied to be nominated to the Commission or if you were invited to apply.

A3: I am honored to be asked and reappointed by the Governor to serve a second term as a member of the Land Use Commission. I welcome this opportunity to serve our community and ensure that the Commission balances the interest of private landowners, developers, government, and the community in making decision about land use in Hawaii.

Q4: Please describe why you believe that you are qualified to be a member of the Commission, including your designation as representing the City & County of Honolulu. Please discuss any skills, expertise, knowledge, or volunteer involvement that would aid in your decision-making ability.

- A4: Based on my understanding of the role and responsibilities of LUC members, I believe that I have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to effectively meet the needs of this serious responsibility.

I am a former general contractor and worked for the United States Senate for 10 years. I also worked for the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters as their Community Relations Director/Manpower Specialist. I am currently the Executive Director for the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund. With my public/private/labor experiences and various involvement in the community, I am knowledgeable about a wide range of issues that affect private landowners, developers, the community, and State and county agencies. I am able to work with all parties to achieve common goals. I give my 110% to any project I take on. I am confident that I can effectively fulfill the responsibilities of serving as a member of the Land Use Commission.

- Q5: What are some of your accomplishments as a member of the Commission and what would you like to accomplish during an additional term?

- A5: During my first term, I was honored to chair the Commission for two consecutive years. We focused on transparency by revising some of our rules and upgrading our computer system. We made some difficult decisions but based only on true facts and evidence in front of us. We listened carefully and treated witnesses fairly and with respect, leaving the room feeling that their voice are being heard.

If confirmed for a second term, I hope to bring more discussions on smart growth, a balance between needs for housing and jobs, and the need to establish sustainability in Hawaii through the conservation and protection of our precious, but limited resources.

Q6: What issues do you believe that the Commission has handled well in the past? What issues do you believe that the Commission should address in the future?

A6: The Commission's staff has done a good job in communicating with the petitioners of our rules and policies to make our hearings more efficient. It avoids surprises and reduce controversies.

In light of the Bridge `Aina Le`a case, the Commission needs to take a look at its enforcement powers. We can set conditions but we don't have any power to follow through if the petitioner is not in compliance. Our only recourse is to revert the property to its original designation which is hard to enforce as you see what happened in the Bridge `Aina Le`a case.

The Commission should also look into how it can be part of the solution in our affordable housing and sustainability issues. Sea level rise is also something that the Commission should take a look at.

Q7: During your service on the Commission, were there possible conflicts of interests involving you that arose? How were those potential conflicts addressed? If you were to continue to serve, can you foresee any other possible conflicts involving you?

A7: None arose. Although before a hearing on Ho`Opili Development which I was the chair of the commission, I disclosed and ask for an opinion from the Deputy Attorney General regarding my previous employment with the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters. I was advised that there is no conflict based on previous court rulings. For the sake of transparency and before the hearing began, I asked all parties involved if there are any objections in my participation. All parties responded, no objections.

I don't see any future conflict. If a conflict does arise, I will disclose the conflict to the Chair of the Commission and ask for legal opinion.

Q8: Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered for your nomination?

A8: I was fortunate to be on Senator Daniel Inouye's staff for 10 years. Every year, I had the privilege to accompany several of the Senator's staff on the Senate Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on Agriculture during their travel to Hawaii. We visited various agriculture and conservation areas on Oahu and the Neighbor Islands to assess the federal funding needs for the state. During those visits, several local farmers shared their stories, and I learned how many of them had succeeded with the help of federal funding. I also learned that despite these success stories, we still have a long way to go to achieve sustainability in our islands. Government funding is not the only answer. What is most needed is the overall framework of land management to preserve, protect, and encourage the best use of Hawaii's valuable land.

I hope this answers all of your questions. If you need additional information or have any questions, you may call me at (808) 222-3109. I'm looking forward to be able to meet you in person during this confirmation process.

Sincerely,



Edmund C. Aczon