

*Blake K. Oshiro, Esq*  
*222 S. Vineyard Street, Ste 401*  
*Honolulu, HI, 96813*  
*(808) 531-4551*

April 9, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee Members

**Re: Governor Message 700: BLAKE OSHIRO Nomination to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my statement in support of my appointment to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (Commission).

I believe that I bring a unique combination of experiences that could be useful for the Commission's work. I practiced law in the private sector in 2 different law firms doing various civil litigation areas for 15 years. At the same time for much of that period, I served as a legislator for 11 years, most of which I served as the Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee. I also have 3 years in the Governor's office with Executive/Administrative oversight, and now 4 years in private sector advocacy. As such, I been on different sides of the public policy table.

The Commission's work is statutorily an "advisory capacity" to the Attorney General (AG) and the Hawaii State Legislature (Legislature) on "matters relating to the promotion of uniform legislation." Haw. Rev. Stat. (HRS) Section 26-7. In an advisory role on a bill, I can bring a frank and forthright assessment of an issue that could be helpful to the AG and the Legislature during its process and deliberations.

Hawaii is unique and special, and there could be many valid reasons why a uniform law would not be the proper fit for Hawaii to adopt. But, I hope to be able to provide perspective on when those issues may be ill-advised, and when those issues could be helpful for Hawaii to have uniformity with other jurisdictions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my perspective and reasoning for my interest to serve on the Commission.

Sincerely,

Blake K. Oshiro

*Blake K. Oshiro, Esq*  
*222 S. Vineyard Street, Ste 401*  
*Honolulu, HI. 96813*  
*(808) 531-4551*

March 29, 2019

VIA EMAIL

[senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 204  
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor Message 700: BLAKE OSHIRO Nomination to the  
Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation

Dear Chair Rhoads:

Thank you for your letter of congratulations. Below are my responses to the questions in your March 29, 2019 letter.

1. Please describe your understanding of the role and jurisdiction of the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (Commission).

Under Haw. Rev. Stat. (HRS) Section 26-7, the Commission is established within the Department of the Attorney General (AG) to advise the AG and the Hawaii State Legislature (Legislature) on “matters relating to the promotion of uniform legislation.” Furthermore, under HRS § 3-2, Commission members represent Hawaii “in conventions of like commissioners of the several states and territories” or the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, also referred to as the “Uniform Law Commission” (ULC), which has had every state and territory participating in its meetings since 1912.

The ULC is a unique institution created to consider state law and to determine in which areas of the law uniformity is important. Each year, there are various bills on proposed uniform laws introduced at the Legislature for its consideration. Adoption of these laws help to ensure consistent approaches to policy issues and help to develop a body of law, which in the event of any court analysis, could be instructive in a state even if the case occurred in another state. There have been certain areas of

law where all states and territories adopt the uniform law ensuring that conflict of law issues are less likely to arise.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission?

I believe Commission members should primarily be a resource to policymakers, there to provide information on the proposals for the Legislature. Since the role is statutorily described as “advisory” to the AG and Legislature, I would be careful to ensure that the role continues to stay within an advisory capacity, and does not overstep into too much into an advocacy role.

3. Why do you wish to serve 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.

Having been in the Legislature and seeing the issues addressed by the ULC, as well as the comprehensive and thoughtful approaches embodied therein, I think service on the Commission would be an interesting experience towards gaining a deeper and more thorough understanding of certain issues.

Looking at the agenda for the upcoming ULC Meeting in July, there are several issues, many of which I think are emerging issues with which there’s a need for a comprehensive policy, and also potential benefits for a uniform and consistent multi-state policy.

- Athlete Agents Act
- Electronic Wills Act
- Highly Automated Vehicles Act
- Registration of Canadian Money Judgments Act
- Tort Law Relating To Drones Act
  
- Alternatives to Bail Act
- Anti-Slapp Act
- Management of Funds Raised Through Crowdfunding Efforts
- Relocation of Non-utility Easements
- Unregulated Transfers of Adopted Children

While I do not have any experience yet with the ULC’s process and understand that many of these are not at the stage of a uniform proposal being ready for recommendation and introduction, I do see that some of these are cutting-edge sort of technology related issues that could be quite interesting and fascinating.

4. Please describe why you believe that you are qualified to be a member of the Commission, including your designation as having substantial expertise in promoting uniform legislation. Please discuss any skills, expertise, knowledge, or volunteer involvement that would aid in your decision-making ability.

My experience in different government-related and private sector roles provide me with an amalgam of unique skills that I think could be useful for the Commission. As a legislator for 11 years, most of which I served as the Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, as well as 3 years in the Governor's office with Executive/Administrative oversight, and now 4 years in private sector advocacy, I have gotten to see and be on different sides of the public policy table.

5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service on the Commission?

While I cannot definitively identify one area of uniform law or issue that I am hoping to see addressed at the Legislature, I am hoping to see the Commission be successful at introducing and bringing forth serious discussions on issues that are recommended by the ULC. Hawaii is unique and special, and there could be many valid reasons why a uniform law would not be the proper fit for Hawaii to adopt. But, I hope to be able to provide perspective on when those issues may be ill-advised, and when those issues could be helpful for Hawaii to have uniformity with other jurisdictions.

6. 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?

The Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act was adopted by the Hawaii State Legislature (HB2120) in 2002 and became Act 124.

Description: Enacts the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act. Provides home state continuing exclusive jurisdiction over custody matters. Authorizes enforcement proceedings in states other than that issuing the custody order. Authorizes the attorney general and prosecutors to locate the child and enforce custody orders. Provides uniformity among the states.

This was during my first term in office and I was the House Judiciary Vice-Chair. While I never practiced family law, I remember in law school (that was then merely 7 years prior) learning that competing state jurisdiction issues on custody often left families in continued disarray as parents each secured competing custody orders in

different states. This proposal attempted to bring uniformity to recognizing which state would be the “home state” so that there would be one jurisdiction, and therefore one order, that would establish custody.

According to the current ULC website, all states now have this uniform law and so the issue of competing orders in differing jurisdictions, is no longer as pressing issue for family courts.

<https://www.uniformlaws.org/committees/community-home?CommunityKey=4cc1b0be-d6c5-4bc2-b157-16b0baf2c56d>

At this time, I don’t think I am in a position to identify any issues that the Commission has not yet undertaken that I think should be addressed in the future.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests involving you that could arise during your service on the Commission? How would you address any possible conflicts of interest?


Based on the current list of proposals for consideration, I do not see any direct conflicts. However, should one arise, I would first disclose the potential conflict of interest to a prospective/existing client to let them know that my role on the Commission could create a conflict that therefore should preclude me for working on that issue on their behalf. Secondly, I would find out if the conflict is still present if my firm (business partner) works on the issue and we create an internal ethics wall within the firm to ensure confidentiality and non-disclosure between me and my business partner. This is a common approach we have with other clients were indirect, or business-related conflicts could exist, but not direct conflicts (opposite sides of same issue). Third, if it is a direct conflict, then I would likely have to recuse myself from the client or client work since the appointment on the Commission is a statutory role that does not clearly provide for a way to recuse myself from an issue proposed by the Commission.

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

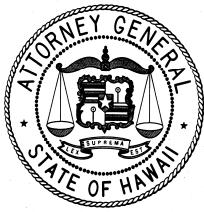
To the extent that passage of uniform laws in Hawaii would be an indicator of the Commission’s effectiveness, I think that my experience as a registered lobbyist will be helpful towards that end, even if I am more of a resource than an advocate. Moreover, I think that even in an advisory role on a bill, I can bring a frank and forthright assessment of an issue that could be helpful to the AG and the Legislature during its process and deliberations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my responses and perspective on the possible role with the Commission. Should you have any questions, or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Blake K. Oshiro



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

G.M. NO. 700, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE UNIFORM LEGISLATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BLAKE OSHIRO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019                      **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016

**TESTIFIER(S):** Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or  
Dana O. Viola, First Deputy Attorney General, or  
Maurice S. Kato, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General supports the appointment of Mr. Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation ("CPUL") of the Department of the Attorney General.

The CPUL is advisory to the Attorney General and to the Legislature on matters pertaining to uniform legislation. Members of this state commission are Hawaii's representatives to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which is also referred to as the "Uniform Law Commission." The National Conference requires that each appointed commissioner be a lawyer licensed to practice law and that each commissioner personally attend and participate in its annual meeting.

Mr. Blake Oshiro is a lawyer licensed to practice law in Hawaii. He has practiced law in the private sector and has served in state government. He served as the Representative of District 33 in the State Legislature in 2000 to 2011 and as the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of Governor Neil Abercrombie from December 2011 to December 2014, when his duties included leading the Governor's legislative bill review process. Mr. Oshiro is presently the Executive Vice President of Capitol Consultants of Hawai'i and has been involved in government relations, lobbying, and legislative and legal research.

Based on Mr. Oshiro's experience in legislative matters and his expressed interest in the promotion of uniform laws, Mr. Oshiro's service as a member of the CPUL and of the National Conference will be beneficial to the State of Hawaii and the National Conference. Consequently, the Attorney General respectfully requests that this Committee recommend the confirmation of the appointment of Blake Oshiro to the CPUL.



**GM-700**

Submitted on: 4/6/2019 4:42:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Testifying for Oahu County Committee, Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:

The Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats is proud to support the confirmation of Mr. Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation.

Ms.Oshiro has previously served the public for many years as a legislator and staffer. An attorney by background, he is reputable for his versatility, broad knowledge of public policy and government process, and legal expertise. We Democrats are confident that he will do well in this role, and are thankful for his nomination.

Please vote in favor of confirming Mr. Blake Oshiro.

Thank you,  
Dylan P. Armstrong, Vice Chair  
Oahu County Committee, Oahu County Democrats



**G.A. MORRIS, INC.**  
Governmental Affairs/Real Estate Counselor • since 1963

April 9, 2019

**LATE**

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol, Room 016  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Strong Support for GM700 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAKE OSHIRO, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.**

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

It is my honor and privilege to testify in strong support of Mr. Blake Oshiro for the position of Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation.

Having known Blake for the years he's been elected to public office and now that he has worked in the private sector, I can attest to the fact that his contribution to the Commission of Uniform Legislation will be of immense rewards to the overall work product of the commission. His knowledge of the issues that require uniform legislation and how it can be implemented will be of great help to this organization.

He has already evidenced this by his legislative leadership on social issues over the years. His knowledge of the process can only work in favor of the ultimate mission of the Uniform Legislation Commission.

Mahalo for your favorable consideration of his appointment.

Respectfully Submitted,

G.A. "Red" Morris  
Chairman



**Ken H. Takayama  
5567 Pia Street  
Honolulu, HI 96821**

**Governor's Message 700**

**Confirmation of BLAKE OSHIRO to the  
Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation**

**Presented to the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Thirtieth State Legislature, Regular Session of 2019**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019**

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ken Takayama, and I am a member of the state Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (CPUL). Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the confirmation of Blake Oshiro to the Commission.

Based on my twenty-four years of service as a commissioner on the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (CPUL), I believe that Blake Oshiro will make an excellent commissioner. I have known Blake since he was first elected to the state House of Representatives in 2000. As a legislative staffer, I had an opportunity to observe him "in action". I found him to be consistently engaged, conscientious, and a "quick study" on a wide range of issues.

By and large, I see the work of our CPUL commissioners as falling into three general areas in working with our colleagues who are commissioners from other states. The first role, is involvement in study and drafting committees that transform the proposed concepts for uniform laws into actual proposals for consideration by the Uniform Law Commission as a whole, and ultimately, the state legislatures. The second is participation in the floor discussions, debates, and interactions with other commissioners. The third role involves the CPUL's efforts to enact proposed uniform laws in Hawaii.

I believe it fairly self evident that Blake has the potential to excel in all three roles, as he virtually lived them for all the years he served in the Legislature, and continues to do so now as a lobbyist. But beyond the formal or "official" roles as a commissioner, I believe Blake will be a friendly and personable member of the CPUL, will get along well with his fellow commissioners, and be a team player.

I personally believe it would be difficult to find a better person to serve on the CPUL than Blake Oshiro, and I support him with my strongest recommendation.

Ken Takayama  
Commissioner  
Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation

Phone: 808-542-3659 (cell)  
808-377-5734 (home)

Email: [KTakayama13@gmail.com](mailto:KTakayama13@gmail.com)

**Peter J. Hamasaki**  
**P.O. Box 2800**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

April 5, 2019

Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to  
Promote Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAKE OSHIRO, f  
or a term to expire 06-30-2023

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

I would like to express my **strong support** for the nomination of BLAKE OSHIRO, GM No. 700, to serve as a member of the State of Hawai'i Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation ("Commission").

I have been a member of the Commission for the past 14 years and also had the opportunity to work with Mr. Oshiro on various matters. I believe that Mr. Oshiro will be a valuable addition to the Commission because of his strong legal and analytical skills, as well as his extensive knowledge of and experience with the legislative process. Mr. Oshiro's previous service as a member of the Hawai'i Legislature and as part of the executive branch demonstrate his strong commitment to serving and representing the State of Hawai'i, and I hope that he will have the opportunity to continue to do so as a member of the Commission.

For the foregoing reasons, I ask that you please favorably consider Mr. Oshiro's nomination for appointment to the Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Peter J. Hamasaki

**GM-700**

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 3:24:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Blake Oshiro's nomination to the Commission to Promote Uniform Laws. As a current commissioner I am very excited at the prospect of working with Mr. Oshiro. His experience will be so helpful, and combined with his work ethic and integrity, I cannot think of a better colleague to join our current team of commissioners.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Kent

Statement of  
**Mary Alice Evans**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Wednesday, April 10, 2019  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of  
**GM 700**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Commission to Promote  
Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
BLAKE OSHIRO, for a term to expire 6-30-2023.**

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

I respectfully urge your **support** for the confirmation of Blake Oshiro to serve on the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation.

I have known and worked with Blake Oshiro during his ten years as a state representative and his service as Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff. Blake knows the framework for state statutes as a state representative and as an attorney. He understands the value and efficiency of adopting uniform laws.

I respectfully urge you to recommend advise and consent to the nomination of Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
BLAKE OSHIRO TO THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE UNIFORM LEGISLATION

April 10, 2019

To: Chairman Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am a commissioner (life member) from Hawaii to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. I am testifying in strong support of Blake Oshiro for a position as a Hawaii Commissioner.

I have known Blake Oshiro since he was a member of the House of Representatives in 2001 and have had many interactions with him as a legislator. I have also worked with him when he was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Abercrombie and more recently as a government affairs consultant.

I feel that Blake is an ideal person to be a Uniform Law Commissioner. Not only does he have the background as a practicing attorney but also as a legislator and a lobbyist. His background as a former legislator is important because the drafting of potential uniform acts is a primary function of the National Conference. However, the work of the Commission is not only to draft the various uniform laws but also to advocate for their passage at the state legislative level. I am currently a member of the Commission's Legislative Council and responsible for monitoring six states on their legislative efforts and Blake will bring additional expertise and effort to the Hawaii delegation.

Lastly, equally important is Blake Oshiro's commitment to operating at the highest level of integrity and competence, and I have witnessed this over the past 19 years.

I wholeheartedly support his nomination to the Commission and urge this committee and the Hawaii State Senate to confirm him. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# JOHN H. RADCLIFFE

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1010 Wilder Avenue, Apt. #703, Honolulu, HI 96822 Phone (808) 754-4026 Email [jhr@808cch.com](mailto:jhr@808cch.com)

April 9, 2019



Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Governor Message 700 submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAKE OSHIRO, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.**

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

Blake Oshiro has an earned reputation as a fastidious and careful lawyer, law maker, and lobbyist. He is an outstanding choice for a position on this important Commission. Please vote "Yes" to confirm his nomination. Hawaii will be the beneficiary.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John Radcliffe

**GM-700**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 5:27:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Miyamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



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Sen. Karl Rhoads  
Hawaii State Senate  
Chair, Judiciary Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**IN SUPPORT**  
**Governor's Message 700**  
**Nomination of Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation**

April 10, 2019  
10:00 a.m.  
Room 016

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the committee:

It is my honor and privilege to testify in support of Mr. Blake Oshiro's nomination to the Hawaii State Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation. I consider Blake to not only be a close friend but also an incredible person of tremendous integrity and character who would be a valuable asset to the commission.

Together, we are business partners and colleagues at Capitol Consultants of Hawaii and prior to that, served as the Governor's Chief of Staff and Deputy under the previous administration. Over this span, I have come to regard Blake as one of the sharpest legal and legislative minds in Hawaii working today.

Blake's earlier experience as a Representative in the legislature, where he served as Majority Leader and Judiciary Chair, gives him a unique and valuable perspective as the only former legislator to potentially serve on the commission. In addition, he is an attorney with the education, expertise, and experience to serve our state in this capacity. His extensive resume should speak for itself.

Hawaii would be hard-pressed to find a more qualified candidate to serve on the Hawaii State Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation.

I strongly urge the Judiciary Committee to advise the Senate to confirm Mr. Oshiro to this important post.

Mahalo,

Bruce A. Coppa  
President

**GM-700**

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 9:17:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
genevieve salmonson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**GM-700**

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 8:31:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/10/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elmer Kaai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit late testimony in strong support for Blake Oshiro. Blake is a dynamic leader and as such will be a valuable asset to the commission.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**LATE**

April 10, 2019 10:00 am  
State Capitol, Room 016

Submitted by Doris Ching, Educator  
Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i System  
Chief Academic Officer, Academy for Creative Media, University of Hawai'i System

***GM 700 – Consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission,  
Gubernatorial Nominee BLAKE OSHIRO, for a term to expire 06-30-2023***

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

I am pleased to support the consideration and confirmation of Blake Oshiro to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. Mr. Oshiro has a long history of advocacy and protection of non-discrimination of all individuals, Mr. Oshiro will be an asset to the Commission in assuring the protection and preservation of the civil rights of all individuals.

Thank you for the privilege opportunity to testify in support of GM 700 in support of the confirmation of Mr. Blake Oshiro to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.