

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

July 2, 2020
9:30 a.m., Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of
Governor's Message 503

Submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Taxation,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona Suzuki

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming my appointment of Rona Suzuki to serve as the Director, Department of Taxation.

Ms. Suzuki has been an integral member of the Department of Taxation since 2018 where she served as Senior Special Assistant prior to being appointed as Interim Director in August 2019. In her role as Senior Special Assistant, she managed the Tax System Modernization project which entailed defining, developing, and deploying upgraded functionality. Furthermore, she worked on IRS Security Safeguards by developing and deploying necessary operational policies and procedures to improve information security.

During her tenure with the Department of Taxation, Ms. Suzuki has focused on using technology to support Department of Taxation operations. The TSM technologies deployed enable operational analysis and improvement and data-driven decision making. The improvements she implemented have provided a better result for both taxpayers and the operations of government.

Prior to joining the Department of Taxation, she was the Executive Director of the Office of Community Services within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. In this role, she administered a portfolio of \$30 million in federal grants, subrecipient contracts, and State funded service contracts for low income communities.

Ms. Suzuki's executive experience with local technology companies such as Hawai'i Resource Group, PacXa, Century Computers and Hoike Networks has enabled her to develop and apply technology to solve business problems. I appreciate the work that she has done with special projects such as decommissioning the Hawai'i Health Connector, SafeTravels (v1), Unemployment Insurance, and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. Her willingness and ability to build special project teams in addition to her regular responsibilities is invaluable.

Ms. Suzuki has proven her commitment to the people of Hawai'i. With State tax revenues being severely impacted by COVID-19 and the need to manage the influx of federal relief funds, Ms. Suzuki's leadership will be necessary at the Department of Taxation to navigate the coming years. I know that her experience, dedication, and successes will positively serve to move the state forward.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

ANDREW T. GARRETT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

June 30, 2020

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
For Hearing on Thursday, July 2, 2020
9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Auditorium

By

RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

**Governor's Message 503: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA M.
SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

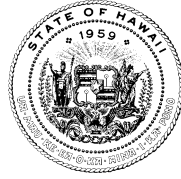
Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Suzuki over the past year since she joined the Ige administration. I have found her to be a committed public servant who is always willing to tackle the state's most pressing matters. This was evident with her leadership in being the administration's point person with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and setting up the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. Ms. Suzuki's varied professional background in both the public and private sectors will serve us well as she leads the Department of Taxation into the future.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 503 and Rona M. Suzuki.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR., CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
HEARING ON JULY 02, 2020 AT 9:30 AM IN THE AUDITORIUM

IN SUPPORT OF

GM503

for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **RONA M. SUZUKI**,
for a term to expire 12-05-2022

June 30, 2020

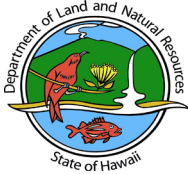
Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

It is an honor to provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Ms. Suzuki's background and public service experience make her well-qualified for this appointment. She has handled federal work, managing a grant and a project for the U.S. Department of Defense. As Executive Director of the State of Hawaii Office of Community Services, she secured the grant to create the Hawaii Defense Economy website and completed an assessment of the Department of Taxation's Tax System Modernization (TSM) project. As Senior Special Assistant at the Department of Taxation prior to this appointment, she was managing that TSM project. Also working in private business, she has provided consulting services to manage data and technical service to clients and their customers, placing high value on client relationships.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, July 2, 2020
9:30 AM
State Capitol Auditorium**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
RONA M SUZUKI
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 502 nominating Rona M. Suzuki as the Director for the Department of Taxation for a term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022.

Ms. Suzuki brings a background of IT innovation, customer service and planning to the Department of Taxation. For the past two years she has managed the Tax System Modernization project for the tax department. Her skills will be much needed in addressing post-COVID19 Hawaii.

In addition to her work at the Department of Taxation, Ms. Suzuki has worked at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) where in addition to addressing high level customer improvements, she completed an assessment of the Department of Taxations (DoTax) Tax System Modernization project. Her time at DLIR will be helpful in finding efficiencies between the new DLIR system and DoTax's System Modernization project.

Ms. Suzuki's professional focus has been on meeting customer needs through new innovative system changes, particularly IT solutions. We think her skill set will be much needed at the helm of DoTax.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's support of Governor's Message 503, nominating Rona M. Suzuki as the Director for the Department Taxation.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE WAYS AND MEANS
JULY 2, 2020
9:30 A.M.
AUDITORIUM**

Governor's Message NO. 503

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA M. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

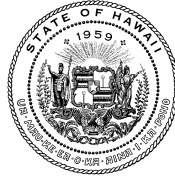
Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM503. Ms. Rona Suzuki has extensive experience in both the private and public sector in the field of technology, most recently serving as a senior executive assistant at the Department of Taxation, where she managed the Tax System Modernization (TSM) program. She has also served at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations in the Office of Community Service, acting as administrator for grant programs benefitting low-income individuals and social service non-profits. The Department is in strong support of the nomination of Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

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

TESTIMONY
OF
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020, 9:30 A.M.
AUDITORIUM, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 503

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 503. I support the nomination of **MS. RONA M. SUZUKI** to the position of Director for the Department of Taxation.

I've known Ms. Suzuki for quite some time while she was wearing various private sector hats. She is always a "go to person" and is very knowledgeable in dealing and working with IT subject matters. She has been in various other governmental agencies and has a broad perspective of doing governmental procedures. Her knowledge and experiences will truly be an asset to the Department of Taxation.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
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
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

JULY 2, 2020, 9:30 A.M.
AUDITORIUM, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 503
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 503. I support the nomination of Ms. Rona M. Suzuki to the position of Director of the Department of Taxation.

Ms. Rona M. Suzuki has served as the Director of the Department of Taxation since August 1, 2019. She has served as the Senior Special Assistant for the Department of Taxation since March of 2018. Ms. Suzuki has served in multiple leadership roles in both the public and private sectors. Ms. Suzuki's experience as a business leader and her commitment to public service makes her an ideal candidate to continue to serve as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Suzuki on the COVID19 direct response and have found her leadership and knowledge to be exactly what the State needs given these unprecedented times. She is dedicated to serve the public and is committed to get results.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
AND
ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 503

July 2, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

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

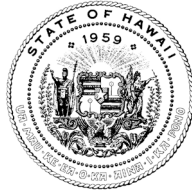
We strongly support the appointment of Rona Suzuki to the position of director of the Department of Taxation (DOTAX).

Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our keiki, our kupuna, and the disadvantaged.

Ms. Suzuki is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Ms. Suzuki has been serving as the director of the Department of Taxation since August 2019. Prior to that, she was the senior special assistant at DOTAX from March 2018 which she managed the Tax System Modernization project. Ms. Suzuki was also the executive director of the Office of Community Services at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and has also worked for private technology companies for over a decade. Her work experience and knowledge of DOTAX will benefit the department and the State; therefore, we support confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
July 2, 2020

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 503
Gubernatorial Nominee Rona M. Suzuki

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

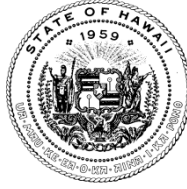
I am submitting testimony in strong support for the nomination of Ms. Rona M. Suzuki as director of the Department of Taxation. Ms. Suzuki has been serving as interim director since August 2019. She most recently was the senior executive assistant managing the \$60 million Tax System Modernization (TSM) program which updated the department's decades old processes and technologies to deliver faster services, improve customer relations, and security compliance, such as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Security Safeguards.

Ms. Suzuki previously was Executive Director of the Office of Community Services at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, administering \$30 million in federal grant programs for low-income families and other social service nonprofits. She also managed grants from the U.S. Department of Defense to identify Hawaii's defense contractor supply chain to meet the changing needs of the military.

Ms. Suzuki has a wide-ranging background in city, county, and state government. Her extensive leadership experience in the private industry includes more than a decade managing technical projects, contracts, and budgets for several prominent technology companies. As executive director at the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, she advised companies on how to accomplish performance excellence goals.

Because of her knowledge and experiences, Ms. Suzuki will be a valuable asset to the department and to the State of Hawaii. I strongly support her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

July 2, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Auditorium

G.M. 503

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA M. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

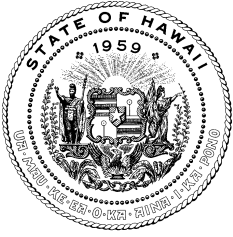
The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation (DoTAX).

Ms. Suzuki received her BA from Claremont McKenna College and her MBA from the University of Hawaii. In 1989, her career began at the DOT as a Program Evaluation Analyst. She then worked at several government agencies for next 6 years before moving on to the private sector in 2000 with several business management companies in Hawaii specializing in data solutions for private businesses, non-profits and government offices. Over the years, she became a well-respected consultant in information technology (IT), even owning her own IT solutions company renowned for its 4 step management method of "plan-do-check-act" a system of controls and continuous improvements in processes and products.

In 2015, Ms. Suzuki returned to public service to assess the DoTAX system modernization project while serving as the Executive Director in the Office of Community Services. In 2018, as the Special Assistant at DoTAX, Ms. Suzuki managed the new DoTAX system which continues to be enhanced to meet customer and user requirements into the future.

As a veteran of the DOT, we are very proud of Rona Suzuki's accomplishments and take credit for her passion in engineering solutions. We have no doubts she will be outstanding Director at DoTAX.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5TH Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 | energy.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, July 2, 2020
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Auditorium

In SUPPORT of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503, RONA M. SUZUKI
As the Director of the Department of Taxation
(Written Testimony Only)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of the appointment of Ms. Rona M. Suzuki to serve as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Ms. Suzuki has extensive experience in government and the private sector that make her eminently qualified to serve as the Director of the Department of Taxation. As the current Acting Director, and previously as Senior Special Assistant, she has delivered transformational projects, foremost being the tax system modernization project. Her understanding of federal and state revenues and funding sources well-positions the State to find resources as it seeks to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, July 2, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Auditorium**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 503, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Ms. Rona Suzuki to serve as the director of the Department of Taxation, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

Ms. Suzuki has a wealth of experience in state and local government. Since March 2018, she has served as the senior special assistant for the Department of Taxation, where she managed the multifaceted Tax System Modernization project. Previously, Ms. Suzuki was the executive director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services. She was also an analyst in the Office of the Ombudsman, a planner/customer service initiative manager in the City and

Testimony of DCCA

G.M. 503

Page 2 of 2

County of Honolulu's Department of Customer Services/Planning Department, and a program evaluation analyst for the Department of Transportation.

Ms. Suzuki's diverse professional experience, expertise in technology from the public and private sectors, and dedication to public service will enable her to effectively oversee the Department of Taxation and assist all taxpayers in the State.

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



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

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

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, July 2, 2020
9:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Auditorium

in consideration of
GM 503
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the
Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee,
RONA M. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

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

I **support** the appointment of **Rona Suzuki** to serve as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Rona is highly intelligent and has the ability to break down complex issues into simple step-by-step solutions. She is diligent, competent and fiscally conservative. She will be fair when she administers tax policy and is the right person to lead the Tax Department at this time.

I have worked with Rona over the years, she is dependable and able to accomplish many tasks. For these reasons, I support her confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO
DEPUTY 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

July 1, 2020

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Anne Eustaquio, Deputy Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. No. 503 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of
the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA M. SUZUKI**

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

My name is Anne Eustaquio, and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in strong support of Governor's Message 503, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki, as the Director of the Department of Taxation (DoTax).

Ms. Suzuki has demonstrated that she has the leadership and experience to lead the DoTax. As the Director of DoTax, Ms. Suzuki oversees the administration and operations of the State's tax programs, including the collection of revenue. Ms. Suzuki assisted the DLIR in launching and operating the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. Ms. Suzuki's willingness to assist the DLIR along with her prior service as the Senior Special Assistant at DoTax and Executive Director of the DLIR's Office of Community Services demonstrate her extensive knowledge and ability to manage complex fiscal projects as well as underscore her dedication to public service.

I urge you to confirm Ms. Suzuki to serve as the Director of the DoTax so that she may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Suzuki.



HAWAII CARPENTERS
APPRENTICESHIP AND
TRAINING FUND

June 29, 2020

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM-503, Director of the Department of Taxation, gubernatorial nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Donovan Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Edmund Aczon, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund, it gives me great pleasure to submit my personal and professional support in recommending Rona M. Suzuki as nominee for Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Rona for over 20 years and have worked with her side-by-side, and over those years she has earned my respect for her due diligence at striving to excel in her professional development. As a trusted colleague, I can state with confidence that Rona is a motivated, responsible leader with a high degree of integrity. She is an advocate for continuously seeking knowledge in the best practices for implementing financing policies. Rona has always displayed unselfish dedication and relentless drive to maintain the legitimacy of any organization she served for.

In her role as interim Director of the Department of Taxation, Rona has been the epitome of excellence in the role being a public servant. I respectfully request that Rona M. Suzuki be given every consideration as nominee to be the Director of the Department of Taxation. She would, without a doubt, be an excellent official asset.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 848-0794, Ext. 5.

Sincerely,

Hawai'i Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund

Edmund C. Aczon
Executive Director



June 30, 2020

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

Re: GM 503 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA M. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

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

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM 503, the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation (DOTAX).

Ms. Suzuki has extensive experience serving the people of Hawaii in both the public and private sectors. In addition to currently serving as the interim Director since July 2019, Ms. Suzuki has served as the Senior Special Assistant within DOTAX since 2018. During her time at DOTAX Ms. Suzuki managed the Tax System Modernization project, addressed Internal Revenue Service Security Safeguards remediation activities, and prepared for the decommissioning of the legacy ITIMS systems. She has also served as the Executive Director of the Office of Community Services within the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR) for three years in addition to holding several positions within the private sector.

We believe that Ms. Suzuki's extensive experience coupled with a Master of Business Administration from the University of Hawaii, Manoa as well as a Bachelor of Arts from Claremont McKenna College qualifies her for this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 503. Your consideration for the confirmation of Ms. Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Hawaii Department of Taxation is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong
Vice President, Government Relations

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 7:25:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colbert M. Matsumoto	Testifying for Island Holdings, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

I have known Rona Suzuki since 2005 when she was first hired as a manager with our information technology group. Her role and responsibility with our company continued to progress over her tenure because she consistently demonstrated her management capability. It is with that personal knowledge and experience working with Rona that I strongly encourage your committee's favorable approval of her nomination as the Director of the Department of Taxation. Modernization of that department's systems and processes are critical to ensure the efficient and accurate processing of tax collections. Past effort in that regard have failed at considerable direct and indirect cost to the State. Under Rona's leadership the Department will have a Director who understands the challenges and pitfalls of IT project management and also the importance of modernizing internal processes. Rona will bring the substantive knowledge and experience to bear to better ensure further success in modernizing the DOTAX operations.

Sincerely,

Colbert Matsumoto, Chair

Island Holdings, Inc.

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 10:52:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 7:30:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franz D. Juan	Testifying for The Filipino Community Center, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

Ms. Suzuki has volunteered her time and leadership skills with The Filipino Community Center, Inc. several times prior to her Directorship at the Department of Taxation. Her ability to proactively identify issues and her ability to implement solutions allows her to successfully navigate through obstacles. We support her confirmation.



June 29, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Auditorium
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: IN SUPPORT for Governor's Message 503 submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA M. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

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

I humbly ask for your support in considering the appointment of Ms. Rona Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Ms. Suzuki for over 15 years. She is of high integrity, trustworthy and competent for the position. Her extensive background in technology, social services and business gives her a working knowledge of our state's current projects and issues. Her work experience in both government and business provides her with a diverse perspective and empathy for the problems facing our state today.

I strongly urge the Ways and Means Committee to advise the Senate to confirm Ms. Suzuki's nomination as Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Coppa
President

From: elum9760@aol.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony GM503-Rona Suzuki
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 10:56:24 AM
Attachments: [Testimony in Favor of GM503-Rona Suzuki.pdf](#)

Attached is my testimony in favor of the Confirmation of Rona Suzuki.
Please let me know if you have any questions. Much aloha, Beth

Beth Lum, President



From: [Cheryl Orneallas](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:49:23 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[062920 Rona Suzuki Testimony.pdf](#)

For your consideration.

Mahalo ...
ciao



Cheryl I.A. Orneallas
Executive Assistant

[DTRIC Insurance Company, Limited](#)

1600 Kapiolani Blvd. #1520

Honolulu, HI 96814

P (808) 951-1716 | F (808) 949- 1927 | M (808) 341-0827

cherylo@DTRIC.com

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From: [William Beaton](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 12:44:05 PM

To the members of the Hawaii Senate Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for Rona M. Suzuki to become full time Director of the Department of Taxation. I have known Rona personally for many years and have found to her to be a strong, motivated, kind and honest individual. I have watched her over many years in her professional career and have been extremely impressed with her work ethic, diligence, honesty and “can do” attitude, she will always go the extra mile to get the job done. She’s a hard working and dedicated public employee who fully deserves the support of our entire community! We are very lucky to have someone like her representing our community in that critical position and I hope you will support her nomination.

Aloha, Will Beaton

HDG Hawaiiana Development Group LLC

William L. Beaton | President
[Cell] 808.216.6200
[Email] wlb@hawaiianadevelopment.com

From: [Robert Piper](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 2:06:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[WAMTestimonySupportingRSuzuki062920D1.doc](#)

Aloha, Chairman Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairman Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Thank you for the opportunity and honor to submit this written testimony on GM 503, attached hereto, in **strong support** of the confirmation to the Department of Taxation as its Director, gubernatorial nominee, RONA M. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

I am available to you should you have any questions or concerns. Again, mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Be safe. Be kind. Be well. #DistancingWithAloha

Robert N.E. Piper, Esq., MBA
Executive Director



Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc.

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4323
Tel.: (808) 521-4531
Direct Line: (808) 447-5426
Fax.: (808) 521-4538
www.hcapweb.org



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From: [Renton Nip](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 2:10:24 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Chairperson and Members of the Senate WAM Committee,

I am pleased to add my name to the chorus of support for the confirmation of Rona Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

My name is Renton Nip and I am the Managing Director of HRG Technologies LLC (HRG), a Hawaii company that develops and maintains electronic health record software for the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration. Our company is successful, in no small part due to the contribution and support that Rona provided in our start up years.

Rona was HRG's Resource Director from 2012-2015 when HRG was just beginning its contracting with, and services for, the federal government. With her experience in IT companies and government, incredible ability to work well with people, and native intelligence, Rona provided HRG with leadership and support in our most critical period.

I am a lawyer by profession and prior to 2016 had no previous experience in the health IT. Nonetheless, I now am able to oversee a productive health IT business.

In much the same way, while Rona may not be a tax lawyer by vocation, she has the government experience, ability to work with people, intelligence, and leadership skills that will make her an outstanding Tax Director. Besides, as you and I know all too well, being a lawyer is terribly overrated and typically useless.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide unequivocal support for the nomination of Rona Suzuki as Tax Director.

Aloha pumehana,

Renton

Renton Nip
Managing Director



RentonNip@Hawaiiirg.com

808-927-0999

From: [Greg Frey](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 5:46:39 PM

Aloha, Senate Members of the Ways & Means Committee.

My name is **P. Gregory Frey**, Senior Attorney at Coates Frey Tanimoto & Gibson, AAL, LLLC. In my current role as the 2020 President of the Hawaii State Bar Association, I sign and submit testimony to “both branches” quite often at the direction of our Association’s Board of Directors, but rarely do I submit my own re: “non-HSBA Board matters.” This is one of those times, however.

I fully and completely support our Governor’s nominee, **Rona M. Suzuki**, to be the (next) Director of Taxation. I have known Ms. Suzuki for years, and personally know her to be dedicated, loyal, smart, hardworking and a goal-oriented professional and person. In a few words, Ms. Suzuki gets the job done, no matter how many hours she needs to put in to get it done! Additionally, she presents the correct image to we citizens (or “regular folks”) of Hawaii. Ms. Suzuki presents at press conferences as concerned, level-headed, balanced and well-informed. She is impressive.

Please approve of our Governor’s nominee, and do appoint Ms. Suzuki as the (next) Director of Taxation.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of my request.

P. GREGORY FREY, Esq.
Senior Attorney
Coates Frey Tanimoto Gibson, AAL, LLLC
900 Fort Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 524-4854/Fax: (808) 524-0717



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From: [Blake Bushnell](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki- SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:14:34 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I have known Rona Suzuki for many years. She is very competent and pays attention to details. I think she very qualified for the position of Director of the Department of Taxation and would do a great job. I strongly support this appointment.

Mahalo.

Blake W. Bushnell

Bushnell Law Group
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2500
Honolulu, HI 96813
Tel: (808) 585-6050
Fax: (808) 540-5947
Email: bbushnell@bushnelllawgroup.com

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From: [Jennifer Tokuda](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Dept. of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 9:57:27 PM

Please confirm Rona Suzuki for Director of Taxation. She is extremely dedicated, reliable and loyal. I know that she will serve us well. She has my full support.

If you have any questions, please call or email me. Thank you.

Jennifer N. Tokuda, Lead Litigation Administrator
Coates Frey Tanimoto & Gibson, AAL, LLLC
900 Fort Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 524-4854
Fax: (808) 524-0717
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From: [Noah H. Gibson](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 9:42:45 AM

Aloha WAM Committee Members,

Please accept my email testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Rona M. Suzuki for Director of Dept. of Taxation. I have known Ms. Suzuki personally for years, and her integrity, discipline, and work ethic are what the State of Hawaii needs in these challenging times.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,
Noah

Sincerely,

Noah H. Gibson, Esq.
Managing Attorney
Coates Frey Tanimoto & Gibson, AAL, LLLC
900 Fort Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: [\(808\) 524-4854](tel:(808)524-4854)
Fax: [\(808\) 524-0717](tel:(808)524-0717)
Email: ngibson@coatesandfrey.com



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CFTG staff via traditional channels.

From: [Ann S. Isobe](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support Rona Suzuki
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 9:47:05 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Committee Members:

I am a licensed attorney and practicing member of the Hawaii State Bar. I have been an attorney since 1983. I know Ms. Suzuki for over 14 years. She has an outstanding work ethic and moral character. She is well deserving of this appointment.

Ann Isobe,

Ann S. Isobe, Esq.
Coates Frey Tanimoto & Gibson AAL, LLLC
900 Fort Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 524-4854
Fax: (808) 524-0717
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From: [Debbie Cabebe](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT."
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:07:22 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to express my full support of Rona Suzuki for Director of Taxation. I had the pleasure to work with her when she was the director of the State Office of Community Services.

During her time at OCS Ms.Suzuki was professional, responsive and supportive.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Debbie

Debbie Cabebe, SHRM-SCP, SPHR, NCRT, Chief Executive Officer

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
99 Mahalani St, Wailuku HI 96793
<http://www.meoinc.org>

T: 808-243-4300 **M:** 808-870-1906 **E:** debbie.cabebe@meoinc.org

MEO's mission is to strengthen the community while helping people in need restore their hope, reach their potential, and enrich their lives.

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From: [Art Yamamoto](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 3:58:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

To whom it may concern:

I strongly support the nomination of Rona Suzuki for the Director of Taxation. I have known Rona for over 20 years and know that she is well qualified and the right person for this nomination.

Sincerely

Art Yamamoto



*National Strength.
Hometown Service.*

Art Yamamoto

Branch Manager

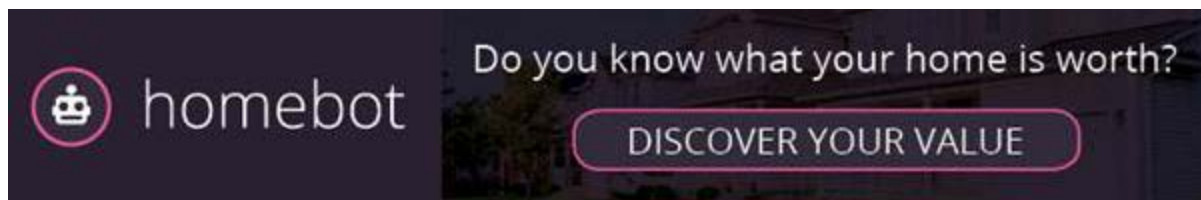
NMLS# 387013

711 Kapiolani Blvd, Suite 1460

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From: keo@keoinc.org
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ronasuzuki@gmail.com; [Keo](#)
Subject: "GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT"
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:21:13 PM

Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

It gives me pleasure and without reservation that I submit my support of Rona M. Suzuki as the State of Hawaii Director of Taxation in her Confirmation Hearing.

As the Chief Executive Officer of Kauai Economic Opportunity, Incorporated (KEO), the statutorily designated Community Action Agency on Kauai, I had the valuable experience of working with Rona as she was the Executive and led the Office of Community Services, (OCS) Department of Labor. Under her direction, OCS administered the Federal Community Services Block Grant for the State of Hawaii, a vital funding source for the Community Action Agencies, in its service to the low income and poverty populations throughout the country. She also administered State of Hawaii and other funding as well. OCS was also responsible for accountabilities and monitoring funding and program performance of its grantees and/or providers as well as providing information, interpretation, training and technical assistance to support the performance of OCS' providers. Rona's responsibilities ran far and deep addressing Federal, State and private requirements, principles and expectations. It is through this partnership, experience and observation that I validate my support for the confirmation of Rona M Suzuki, Director of Taxation for the State of Hawaii.

I experienced Rona's gifted intelligence, her keen ability to understand and convey complicated regulatory documents and transmittals, her fairness in interpretation and execution, her keen ability to research complicated, sometimes aged information and render solid decisions supported by substance of which she then executed timely with results. I witnessed these very fine qualities she had, yet never compromising human compassion and her sincere care for those in need.

It is without hesitation and with true conviction that I submit and ask that you consider my support of RONA M. SUZUKI as the State of Hawaii, Director of Taxation.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions concerning my support.

Thank you for all that you do and particularly what you are doing now in this uncertain pandemic time, keoas well. We all need the results of your untiring work.

I hope you, your family, and all of your loved ones are well and stay well.

I send you my best and submit this in sincerity,

MaBel Ferreiro-Fujiuchi

Chief Executive Officer

--

Kauai Economic Opportunity, Incorporated
2804 Wehe Road

Lihue HI 96766

Ph.: (808) 245-4077

Fax: (808) 245-7476

<http://www.keoinc.org>

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From: [Kathryn Yamauchi](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 6:46:09 AM

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

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Rona M. Suzuki for Director of the Department of Taxation.

Rona is a person that I can turn to for an honest and thought provoking answer to any problem I may have. Besides the obvious intelligence and moral characteristics that have gotten her to this point in her career, she is polished, humble and direct. These are true qualities that I believe the people of Hawai'i crave for in a leader. I have no doubt that as Director, Rona will advance the department and improve efficiency while support the morale and integrity of her office.

It is without reservation that I support the nomination of Ms. Rona Suzuki for Director of the Department of Taxation.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Yamauchi
Business Manager
Commercial Plumbing, Inc.
1812 Colburn St.
Honolulu, HI 96819
Direct Line: (808)441-9192
Mobile: (808)306-0721
Fax: (808)847-1865

From: [Neal Yokota](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 8:31:44 AM

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the nomination of Rona Suzuki for the position of Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Rona for several years and have had the opportunity to work with her in various capacities during that time.

I have always found Rona to be diligent, committed and very effective in all of her endeavors. These are qualities that will continue to serve our community well.

Her knowledge of government, at all levels, has also been a great asset for our State. And she exemplifies the qualities of the kind of person we need to help lead our community through these challenging times.

It is for these reasons, and many more, that I strongly urge you to vote in favor of her nomination.

Sincerely,

Neal

Neal Yokota | President & CEO
Stryker Weiner & Yokota Public Relations, Inc.
841 Bishop Street, Suite 1530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 523-8802 ext. 213
(808) 222-0005 (m)
nyokota@strykerweiner.com



LATE

Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, July 2, 2020 — 9:30 a.m. — Auditorium

Ulupono Initiative supports GM 503, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amy Hennessey, and I am the Senior Vice President of Communications & External Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve our community's quality of life by creating more locally produced food; increasing affordable clean renewable energy and transportation options; and better managing freshwater and waste resources.

Ulupono supports GM 503. Ms. Suzuki has been serving as the Acting Director for the Department of Taxation (DoTAX) since August 2019. Prior to this role, Ms. Suzuki served as a Senior Special Assistant at DoTAX, proving instrumental in completing the Tax Systems Modernization Project. She is extremely knowledgeable of state processes and procedures, including implementation of opportunities to improve effectiveness and efficiency. Ms. Suzuki recognizes DoTAX as the "revenue engine" for the state, providing critical funding to serve the people of Hawai'i. Her knowledge and expertise will serve the state well in the role as Director of DoTAX, especially as we work to navigate the pandemic recession.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Amy Hennessey, APR
Senior Vice President, Communications & External Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

MAX J. SWORD & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Government and Community Affairs

P. O. Box 22782 • Honolulu, HI 96823 • 808.927.3700 • mswordconsulting@aol.com

LATE

The Senate
Thirteenth Legislature
Regular Session of 2020

Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

GM503 – Rona M. Suzuki Confirmation Hearing
Director, Department of Taxation
July 2, 2020

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am in strong support of Rona M. Suzuki's appointment as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Over the years that I have known Ms. Suzuki, I have been impressed with her honesty, integrity, strong work ethic, and commitment. She has never had a problem seeing any task, no matter how challenging, through to completion.

In my professional experiences with her, I have found her to be very straightforward and sometimes brutally honest, but always fair. It is important to have a Tax Director with these qualities for transparency and unquestionable honesty and fairness.

Ms. Suzuki will make an excellent Tax Director and I humbly urge this Committee to look favorably on her nomination for this position.

If you have any questions, please feel free to let me know.

Respectfully submitted,



Max J. Sword
President
Max J. Sword & Associates, LLC



From: [John Michael White](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA M. SUZUKI - SUPPORT."
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 6:33:17 PM

Aloha,

I am pleased to sincerely express my SUPPORT for Nominee MS. RONA M. SUZUKI.

I am and I have been favorably impressed by Ms. Suzuki's presentations recently on behalf of Department of Taxation at numerous televised hearings.

Ms. Suzuki's presentations at such televised hearings have been thorough and very informative. Her responses to questions are always clear and concise.

Our community is fortunate to have Ms. Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

Mahalo nui loa,

John Michael White, President, CEO

JMW:m

--

.....

Sender ID for reply:

HAWAII LAND COMPANY

John Michael White, President/CEO/PB
Offices: 225 Queen Street, Penthouse
Mail: PO Box 10 Honolulu HI 96810
Phone: Oahu island 808-523-1000 offices
Mail: PO Box 10 Kamuela HI 96743
Phone: All Hawaii islands 808-927-1010 cellular
E-Mail: JMW@HawaiiLand.com

.....

LATE

GM-503

Submitted on: 7/2/2020 5:22:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SanHi Government Strategies	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Delacruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I have known Rona both professionally and personally for many years, and I believe she is highly qualified for the position. In my experience, Rona works hard, and always seeks solutions that are fair and practical. She has leadership skills the State will need during these challenging times.

For these reasons, I fully support Ms. Suzuki's nomination and respectfully request that the Committee advise and consent to her nomination.

Sincerely,

Mihoko Ito

CARRIE K. S. OKINAGA, ESQ.

June 27, 2020

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz,
Chairperson
Ways and Means Committee
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM-503 - Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki

Dear Chair Dela Cruz,

Please accept this testimony in unqualified support for the appointment of Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the State Department of Taxation (DoTax). I have known Rona for our entire lives, and she is a born leader (including Student Body President in elementary school!). I have been very proud to call her classmate, friend, and fellow public servant, and every step along the way, I knew that she was destined for service to our community from such a position of great impact and responsibility, not because she ever displayed a desire for power (pretty sure she is the classic reluctant leader), but because of her competence, her brains, her energy, and her very big heart.

Rona is a project manager extraordinaire, and she knows how to get systems up and running, and equally as important, upgraded and maintained, in both the public and private sectors. The most recent example is her work in DoTAX on the Tax System Modernization project, but her experience in managing complex projects, cradle to grave, is evident from her entire resume. The State is such a huge entity, with legacy systems and outdated rules and regulations, and having people at the helm like Rona who know how to, not just navigate in this complex environment, but actually achieve system and process improvements is a luxury and a blessing. Especially as we work to reimagine our world post-pandemic, we really need people like Rona to help us figure out how get to that new place relatively quickly.

No one will work harder as DoTAX director, and her approach to this job is consistent with her approach to not just prior jobs, but everything else she does. Rona is a force of nature, and she already has given 150 percent to her current assignment, and the Governor has recognized her competence by expanding her responsibilities to include oversight over the very significant CARES Act monies.

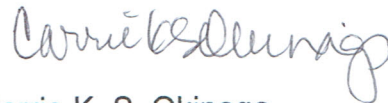
Finally, as everyone who knows her is aware, Rona has the heart of a lion. Like her family, she is generous to a fault, and there are no lengths that she will not go to for those who she believes she can assist. That kind of passion and generosity is truly rare.

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz
June 27, 2020
Page 2

In summary, Rona has the management, fiscal and even IT expertise, in addition to the leadership skills and the passion that this position requires. Rona will continue to bring tremendous experience, knowledge, energy, relationships, enthusiasm, and heart to the Department of Taxation, as she has to everything she has done. I respectfully submit that the people of Hawaii are extremely well-served by her appointment to this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for the appointment of Rona Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation. If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carrie K. S. Okinaga". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carrie K. S. Okinaga

Blake K. Oshiro, Esq.
222 S. Vineyard Street, Suite 401
Blake.Oshiro@808cch.com

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Ways and Means
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Ways and Means
Member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Support for GM503 – RONA M. SUZUKI, Director Department of Taxation

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members:

I write in strong support of Governor's Message 503 Nominating Rona M. Suzuki as Director, Department of Taxation (DoTAX).

I first met Ms. Suzuki when I was in the House of Representatives. We worked on some community and political events and I was immediately impressed by her strong work ethic and willingness to take on any task and see that it got done. Since that time, I have gotten to know her better professionally and personally especially in her various roles of public service. There were times when we interacted in her role at the Office of Community Service, as well as her different roles at the DoTAX.

I continue to be impressed by her hard work and diligence. From my prior role at the Governor's Office, I understand how important it is to have a Director at the DoTAX that is forthright and honest because it is essential that the DoTAX functions in a manner that is always perceived as fair and transparent. It is also important that the Director of DoTAX be responsive and clear when responding to requests for information sought by the legislature. I believe Ms. Suzuki fulfills and meets all of those expectations.

Thus, I hope that you will look favorably upon her nomination to this position. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Blake K. Oshiro, Esq.

From: [Shane Yoshimoto](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:00:21 AM

Testimony of

Shane Yoshimoto

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, July 2, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Governor's Message 503.

I **strongly Support** the nomination of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity and not on behalf of any organization.

I know her to be fair, intelligent, committed, forward-thinking and innovative in ways that will benefit all taxpayers in the State of Hawaii.

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

From: [John Hayakawa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki -Support
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 12:59:45 AM

Be assured that she is a highly qualified nominee based upon her past work experience.

John M. Hayakawa

From: [Robert Hayakawa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:04:54 AM

To whom it may concern,

Please support the confirmation of Rona Suzuki as Director of the Dept. of Taxation.

Thank you,

Robert Hayakawa

From: [John Schmidtke](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 6:23:09 AM

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I strongly support Rona M. Suzuki's nomination as the Director of the Department of Taxation. Her intelligence, diligence, and hard work will help our state respond to and recover from the financial challenges it faces in these strange times. Please confirm her appointment.

Thank you.

John W. Schmidtke, Jr.
Law Offices of John W. Schmidtke, Jr.
Suite 1410 Pacific Guardian Center
733 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 599-4100, ext. 101
(808) 599-4749 (fax)

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From: [Tim E. Ho](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Dir. of Dept. of Taxation Nominee Rona M. Suzuki
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:43:31 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Re: GM 503 Dir. of Dept. of Taxation Nominee Rona M. Suzuki

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

I am writing to **SUPPORT** the nomination of Rona Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation. I know Rona to be a highly competent, hard working public servant. She is infectious with her collaborative and energetic work ethic. In other words, she betters everyone around her.

Mahalo, Tim Ho

Timothy E. Ho, Associate Attorney



IMANAKA ASATO | A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY
Topa Financial Center, Fort Street Tower
745 Fort Street Mall, 17th Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813
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From: [Thomas Aiu](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee Rona M. Suzuki
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 6:53:20 AM

Dear Sir/Madam Chair of the Senate Confirmation Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to humbly write in great support for Ms. Rona M. Suzuki for the office of Director of the Department of Taxation. I have known Ms. Suzuki for over a decade and know her to be a conscientious, hard working, and personable individual who gives selfless hours not only to the business of government but to wonderful charitable organizations as well. I am quite certain that Ms. Suzuki's quintessential work ethic and servant leadership will drive those within DOTAX to give the best of themselves in service of others. Her example will also be the reflection of positive leadership in the Administration. Ms. Suzuki has an unassuming management style, reflecting the best the Administration has to offer, and is well suited to make effective and efficient changes in direct benefit to the DOTAX community she serves. As someone who has been in government for over 30 years, Ms. Suzuki possess all the qualifications to be the the necessary change agent at DOTAX; placing community needs first and foremost.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas (Tommy) Aiu
U.S. Department of Justice/DEA (retired)

From: [Todd Murata](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:04:15 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I know Rona for a very long time and we have many mutual friends. She's an all-around person with a great heart and good work ethics. I support her nominations.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call or email.

Thank you,

Todd T. Murata RB-20349

Heyer & Associates LLC 1288 Ala Moana Blvd. 108 Honolulu, HI 96814

Mobile (808) 222-3145 Office (808) 692-0060 Facsimile (808) 692-0061

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From: [S.Moon DroidMail](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 6:59:13 AM

I would like to register my support of Rona for the Director position she's being considered for.

Sincerely,

Scott D.M. Moon, MD

From: [Todd Kubo\(Old\)](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 6:49:16 AM

Dear sirs,

Please accept this email in full support of Ms. Rona Suzuki to be the Director of the Department of Taxation.

She is already doing a very good job and I would wish that our state benefit from her continuing to do so.

Sincerely,

Todd T. Kubo, MD, JD

DNR Club Hawaii

From: [William Harrison](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 6:32:22 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

Please accept this email as a letter in STRONG SUPPORT of RONA M. SUZUKI as Director of the Department of Taxation!!!

Mahalo ~ Bill Harrison

HARRISON & MATSUOKA

Attorneys at Law • 1001 Bishop Street
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• f (808) 538-7579 • www.wharrisonlaw.com

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From: [Eric Nakamura](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:35:36 AM

Dear committee,

Sending my support of Ms. Rona Suzuki for Director, Department of Taxation. In my experience, Rona has not only displayed the utmost integrity in her work but, her tireless efforts during this pandemic is an even bigger endorsement of her commitment to serve the State of Hawaii during this unprecedented time.

Aloha,
Eric Nakamura

From: jillyoshi@aol.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 6:51:42 AM
Attachments: [Rona testimony.docx](#)

Testimony of

Jill Yoshimoto

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, July 2, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Governor's Message 503.

I **strongly Support** the nomination of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity and not on behalf of any organization.

Through 40 years of friendship, I know her to be fair, intelligent, committed, forward-thinking and innovative in ways that will benefit all taxpayers in the State of Hawaii.

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

From: [Michael Nishida](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:29:24 AM

Testimony of
Michael Nishida

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, July 2, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON
ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Governor's Message 503.

I strongly SUPPORT the nomination of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity and not on behalf on any organization.

I have known Rona for almost 20 years and in that time I've found her to be very supportive and caring. She has the highest level of integrity and extremely innovative and will be a benefit to the taxpayers of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this nominee.

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From: [Adelbert Green](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:53:52 AM

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii. I submit this email testimony in support of the nomination of Rona Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Suzuki for more than a decade. I support her nomination because I've been able to observe her over an extended period of time and have come to know her to be a consistently capable, reasonable and hard-working leader who would be extremely qualified and well-suited for the position for Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Del Green

Adelbert Green, Esq.
Case Lombardi & Pettit, A Law Corporation
Pacific Guardian Center, Mauka Tower
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2600
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Phone: (808) 547-5400
Email: AGreen@caselombardi.com

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TESTIMONY OF THOMAS D. FARRELL
Regarding GM 503, Nomination of Rona Suzuki
Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

I support the nomination of Rona Suzuki to be Director of the Department of Taxation, State of Hawaii.

I have known Ms. Suzuki for several years. She has a wide range of experience in government, and is an extremely dedicated public servant. Of late, she has been actively involved with many state projects involving billions of dollars in Federal stimulus money.

Director of Taxation is not a coveted job, particularly in times like these. Ms. Suzuki's willingness to take on this difficult and challenging task speaks volumes about her commitment to the people of Hawaii.

I urge your favorable action on this nomination.

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From: [Joe Holtz](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 9:24:18 AM

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the confirmation of Rona Suzuki as Director of Taxation.

As a Certified Public Accountant specializing in income taxes, I have the opportunity to interact with the Hawaii State Tax Department on a regular basis. Although Ms. Suzuki's tenure as interim director has been short, and marred by the Covid 19 outbreak, we applaud the changes we were already noticing within the department.

Before shutdowns reduced the amount of working staff in the tax department's offices, we were noticing a much faster response time and commitment when working with the tax department in our efforts to sort through taxpayers' problems and questions. In fact, in one instance, a tax auditor called my office back three times in the same afternoon to assist us in sorting out a taxpayer's account with their office – this is something that in 30+ years of tax work I personally had never experienced before.

I understand from watching the news that over the past few months Ms. Suzuki has reached beyond her capacity as Interim Director of the State tax Department to assist with interisland travel and unemployment issues as well. I look forward to the time post-Covid 19 when Ms Suzuki can once again devote her time 100% to directing the state tax department. I wholly recommend her confirmation as the new Director of the Department of Taxation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Holtz

Certified Public Accountant

Summit Accounting Solutions

1123 11th Ave, Ste 401

Honolulu, HI 96816

phone: 808-739-0577 fax: 739-0580

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From: [Scott LaFontaine](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 9:44:35 AM

Aloha All,

I would like to share my support in the nomination of Rona Suzuki as the Director of Taxation. Rona is extremely dedicated to the position and has been working day and night since she has been appointed. If the Senate is looking for an individual with impeccable values, dedication and care for her community than Rona is perfect for this job.

Thank you,
Scott LaFontaine

From: [Don Eovino](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Rona Suzuki
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:24:33 AM

I hereby give my support to confirm Rona in her roll with the taxation department. She's a hard worker and loves people! Don

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lance Kaneshiro](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Rona Suzuki Confirmation
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 9:22:57 AM

Please add my support for Rona Suzuki's confirmation to Director of Taxation, State of Hawaii. I have personally known Ms. Suzuki and have been keenly aware of her work over the past 17 years. Ms. Suzuki's technical abilities and ethical standards far exceeds that of her peers.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

L. Kaneshiro

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From: [Jill Nunokawa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support for GM 503: Director of the Department of Taxation
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:04:42 AM

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

I am submitting strong support of GM 503 in favor of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the State Department of Taxation. Prior to the pandemic, Director Suzuki was instrumental in designing and implementing new and innovative systems of accountability for collection of outstanding taxes.

Since the pandemic, Ms. Suzuki works tirelessly on behalf of the State of Hawaii in her current capacity as the Director and is involved with securing billions of dollars in Federal stimulus monies, as well as other technological advances to address the unprecedented times we are living in as a state and nation.

It is both justified and prudent to approve GM 503 and confirm Rona Suzuki as the State of Hawaii's Director of Taxation.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Jill Nunokawa

From: [David Tsuda](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support Rona Suzuki Director Department of Taxation
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 9:33:41 AM

Rona Suzuki exemplifies integrity, caring and strong leadership. I have confidence that Rona will do a fantastic job leading her department through this trying times.

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From: [James Rouse](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki-SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 10:10:52 AM

Aloha and thank you for allowing me to write this email in support of Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the Department of taxation. This is an easy letter of recommendation because Rona is so well qualified for the position. Her work ethic alone would be enough to advocate on Rona's behalf. However when you combine her work ethic with the expertise she is bringing to the job, you should all take comfort in knowing she is an ideal person for the position. I have known Rona for 20 plus years and she further posses the good character needed for this important position. Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me for any follow up questions you may have. Thank you.....Jim Rouse

Contact Information

James Rouse
Attorney At Law
1647 Kuuipo St.
Lahaina Hi. 96761
(808) 269-1999
mauirouse@yahoo.com

Testimony of

GARY Y. MIYASHIRO, CPA

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, July 2, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Governor's Message 503.

I **strongly Support** the nomination of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity and not on behalf of any organization.

I am a practicing CPA and have extensive contact with the personnel at the Department of Taxation working on behalf of various individual and business clients. Since her appointment in 2019, I have seen many improvements to the department happen in a very short amount of time. The responsiveness of the Department is the best I've seen in my 30 year career. She possesses qualities that will benefit all the taxpayers in the State of Hawaii - forward-thinking, innovative and energetic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this nominee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Miyashiro', written in a cursive style.

Gary Y. Miyashiro, CPA

June 29, 2020

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

From: Tina Yamamoto

Re: GM 503
Nominee Rona Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation
with term expiring December 5, 2022

Hearing: July 2, 2020 9:30 am

POSITION: Strong Support

Good afternoon Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Agaran and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

I am Tina Yamamoto submitting testimony in strong support of nominee Rona Suzuki for the position of Director of the Department of Taxation.

Ms. Suzuki has served Hawaii with distinction for many years in the City and County of Honolulu, and the State Departments of Transportation, Labor & Industrial Relations and currently in Taxation. She has proven herself a capable and collaborative manager. She understands first-hand the need for creative and thoughtful solutions to the hard problems and knows what it will take to implement strategic initiatives to solve crises. Because of her competence, the Governor has appointed her a point person in dealing with the federal stimulus money during this COVID-19 crisis.

Prior to her taking over the Directorship of the department, her position was managing the Tax System Modernization (TSM) program. With her 11 years of extensive private industry experience in system management, she has been instrumental in implementing new processes for the collection of taxes. Customers have actually been complimentary about DoTAX's faster response times and transparency in decision-making. Rona's honesty, compassion and remarkable work ethic will be an asset to the State.

I respectfully ask your committee to support this nomination and thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,
Tina Yamamoto

Testimony of Ku'uhaku Park
On Behalf of Matson
Support GM503
Before the Committee on Ways and Means
July 2, 2020

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

Matson supports GM503, which nominates Rona Suzuki to serve as the Director of Taxation (DoTAX). We believe that DoTAX and the State will benefit from Ms. Suzuki's vast experience in both the government and business worlds.

In Matson's dealings with Ms. Suzuki, we have always found her to be open, fair, and transparent, and we believe she will continue to execute her duties with fairness and competence.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Ways and Means
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Ways and Means
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Strong support for GM 503 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

July 2, 2020, 9:30AM

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I write in strong support of GM 503 and the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation (DOTAX).

I have known Rona for almost 20 years. In that time, she has always demonstrated an impressive work ethic and unwavering commitment to the community, and she continues to amaze by her diligence and willingness to accept any challenge that comes her way.

For the last five years, I have been fortunate enough to work for her at both the Department of Labor, Office of Community Services, and the Department of Taxation. While I admit my bias, both places have been made better by Rona's leadership. She leads through action and embodies all the desirable qualities in a department director. She creates a positive team dynamic and brings out the best in those around her by maintaining expectations and holding people accountable. She is forthright, fair, and honest in all her interactions and has never been afraid to do the work to understand the issues facing her employees and experience what they experience. At DOTAX, this has included answering calls in the call center, assisting taxpayers in the courtyard, keying in and reviewing returns for accuracy, and reviewing audits and collection cases, to name a few.

Rona has the experience and heart to lead DOTAX through the challenging times we are facing. No one will work harder or be more dedicated to ensuring that we make it to the other side of this unprecedented pandemic than Rona. She is an asset to the administration and her confirmation is vital to DOTAX's success.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 503 and the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I humbly ask for your vote in support of GM 503.

Sincerely,
Joy Kobayashi

Testimony of

Tricia Oftana

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, July 2, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Governor's Message 503. I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Rona M. Suzuki.

As a member of Ms. Suzuki's team at the Department of Taxation (DoTax), I have witnessed a hardworking, dedicated, passionate individual who strives to better the inner workings of state government. For example, her focused efforts to update the tax system. She works tirelessly to ensure that system issues are identified and addressed to provide a more user-friendly experience to taxpayers.

When tasked with a job, I have witnessed her go above and beyond to make sure the right people are involved. This is clearly illustrated when Ms. Suzuki works with the different State departments to communicate federal funds available from the various coronavirus relief packages. And I continue to see it as DoTax provides additional support for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.

Rona Suzuki is a fine example of state service and will be an excellent Director for the Department of Taxation.

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 7:38:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franz D. Juan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Ms. Rona Suzuki to be of sound character over the many years that I have known her. Her ability to problem-solve and leadership style are traits of a government leader. Her principled nature and ability to assemble a supportive team to meet stated objectives will continue to serve her well. I support her confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation.



Kaimana Hila

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Relating to the Nomination of Rona M. Suzuki, Director, Department of Taxation July 2, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Dela Cruz and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

We write in strong support of Ms. Rona M. Suzuki for confirmation as Director of the Department of Taxation. We have known Ms. Suzuki for almost 25 years, as both a personal friend and professional acquaintance. She has done an excellent job in her previous roles in the Ige Administration, demonstrating her commitment and competence. We wholeheartedly urge her confirmation such that she may continue as Director of the Department of Taxation.

Ms. Suzuki is not only intelligent and can quickly grasp complex thoughts and ideas, but more importantly, has the interpersonal and communication skills necessary to lead large projects and direct a department in dire need of leadership during these unprecedented times.

As we all know, the Department of Taxation, for way too long, was reliant on an outdated information system incapable of meeting current needs. After too many starts and stops in previous administrations, Ms. Suzuki has been at the forefront of the systems overhaul that will finally bring Hawaii into the 21st century in information technology thereby allowing for accurate tax collection and reporting. This is a credit to Ms. Suzuki's tenacity and technical skills. In addition, she stepped up to assist with both the Unemployment Insurance System and the establishment of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance System to support workers in need during the COVID pandemic.

Her vision, technical/IT skills, ability to communicate and just plain willingness to work hard and get things done are some of the traits that make her a great choice for Tax Director. Hawaii needs her continued leadership.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration and confirmation of Ms. Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation. We recommend her fully and without reservation.

Jennifer Sabas and Sara Hamakawa
Kaimana Hila

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 8:58:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kekoa McClellan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Ways on Means,

I have known Rona M. Suzuki professionally and personally for more than 15 years. The majority of our work together has been through our shared volunteerism for various organizations and causes here in Hawai'i. Most recently, I have had the opportunity to support a number of initiatives relating to tax payer protection while Ms. Suzuki served at the Department of Taxation.

Rona's experience speaks for itself, but what may not come through in her glowing resume is the tremendous decorum with which Rona conducts herself. Rona is the consummate professional. She understands the need to maintain both an arms-length relationship between parties involved in 'the people's work' and to conduct public engagements with respect and aloha.

If allowed to continue her work at DOTAX I have every confidence that Rona will be a resource to the Legislature as you and your colleagues navigate the looming revenue shortfalls that are a result of the COVID recession. In times like these, an honest, open communicator like Rona will be an integral part of our State's ability to recover from this crisis.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of this testimony in support of Rona M. Suzuki's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Me ka pono,

Kekoa McClellan

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 9:33:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Carkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of Rona M. Suzuki for confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation for the State of Hawaii.

Besides adeptly running the Tax Department, Rona has been an integral part in numerous projects that impact the State. She has worked tirelessly and has been devoted to assisting the needs of Hawaii's citizens during these challenging times. Her hard work and commitment to the Department make her the best candidate for this position. In addition to her acumen, Rona is warm, intelligent, and diligent. I have no doubt that Rona will help to lead the Department towards its goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

TRISHA Y. NAKAMURA
P.O. Box 61619 • Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96839
trishanakamura@gmail.com

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: June 29, 2020

Hrg: July 2, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Re: GM 503; Strong Support for the Nomination of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Rona M. Suzuki and her nomination to lead the Department of Taxation (DOTAX).

I have known Ms. Suzuki in different ways: as an acquaintance, as the supervisor of former colleagues from government work, and most recently, as a potential partner and collaborator. Rona’s strengths and skills were consistent in these encounters; they include the desire to take on challenges and strong management skills. As we work through and will live with the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we need leaders who possess these strengths and skills.

Rona is someone who seeks to take on challenges. In recent conversations with Rona, I found her to be focused on problem-solving through creative partnerships. While, she was not afraid to think outside the box, she also maintained a clear focus and understanding of what was practical and possible. Our state will benefit from Rona’s smart, quick and creative problem-solving mindset.

In addition to this interaction, I have witnessed Rona build up her staff, investing in developing new leaders. She did not micromanage, but assigned tasks to both meet staff members’ existing abilities while still presenting challenges to maximize their talents and grow their skills. This is an indication of someone who is not focused on themselves or their accomplishments, but working in the betterment of others and ultimately the government. As many “baby boomers” retire, they leave with significant institutional memory and experiences. Too frequently their knowledge has not been passed down. I believe that Ms. Suzuki’s management style will combat this and position DOTAX to better serve the State even with a changing workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testify in support of GM 503 and the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I humbly ask for your vote in support of GM 503.

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 9:40:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Hiraki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Over the past several months, Director Suzuki has provided superior leadership inder extreme circumstances. She deserves our praise and unconditional support for her confirmation.

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 11:54:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandie Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known and worked with Rona Susuki for many years and she is smart, willing to listen, and serves the public well. I strongly support her confirmation as Director of DoTax.

Thank you,

Sandra-Ann Y.H. Wong

Attorney at Law

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:16:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
PL Fritz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Karen Piltz
999 Bishop Street, 21st Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

July 2, 2020

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee On Ways and Means
Hawaii State Senate
415 S. Beretania St., #208
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

RE: GM 503 Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022

I am testifying in very strong support of Rona M. Suzuki Gubernatorial Nominee, for consideration and confirmation as Director of the Department of Taxation.

Ms. Suzuki has innumerable skills that have been honed through her many work and life experiences. She is a proven, successful leader and is very capable of administering large departments that require diplomacy as well as street smarts.

She is effective and has a strong work ethic. I have known Ms. Suzuki for over a decade and have witnessed that she is honest, a strong communicator and has the ability to balance her many priorities. She has an ability to find fair and equitable solutions to situations and issues, which is a very valuable skill to possess.

I strongly urge you to support Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Karen Piltz

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE WAYS AND MEANS

JULY 2, 2020
9:30 A.M.
AUDITORIUM

Governor's Message NO. 503

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA M. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon on 12- 05-2022.

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of the confirmation of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Rona Suzuki for over 18 years, having met her during the gubernatorial campaign in 2002. Our paths crossed repeatedly in the political arena over the years, as I grew to appreciate Ms. Suzuki's hard work and strong organizational skills in managing volunteer projects. The Governor has chosen well in his nomination of Ms. Suzuki to serve as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Ms. Suzuki brings a broad wealth of 30 years of experience in both the public and private sector, with a concentration in developing data and financial systems, managing projects, and troubleshooting and fixing broken data systems. These skills and experiences make her an invaluable asset now more than ever as the State of Hawaii struggles to deal with the challenging economic uncertainties caused by Covid-19.

In addition to her highly relevant professional experiences, Ms. Suzuki has demonstrated character and personality traits very well suited for this difficult and politically sensitive position. Specifically, she is smart, forthright, learns technical facts and issues quickly, is highly organized and adeptly grasps policy and political issues in order to integrate this understanding into her decision making. Even more important, she is a seasoned manager and leader who accepts the challenge of making hard decisions balanced with the realities of collaboratively working with all stakeholders and interested parties.

The Governor and the State of Hawaii is fortunate that Ms. Suzuki decided to return to public service after many years in the private sector. She brings her strong work ethic and commitment to serving the public to this endeavor. I urge you to confirm Ms. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Very truly yours,

Ember Lee Shinn
June 30, 2020

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Aiu <bobbyaiu@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 5:09 PM

[REDACTED]

Subject: DOTAX Rona Suzuki

Hello [REDACTED] Honorable Senators of the Hawaii State Legislature:

I respectfully write to oppose the confirmation of Rona Suzuki as DOTAX director. I'm a firm believer that government managers are appointed to do a good job by protecting the State and its resources, and assisting and responding to the public he/she serves.

Ms. Suzuki has been nonresponsive. On August 23, 2019, I reported misconduct by DOTAX employees to Ms. Suzuki via letter. I did not, and have not received a response to my complaint.

I believe this is unacceptable. A government official should, at a minimum, acknowledge a complaint. Not only did Ms. Suzuki not acknowledge, but nothing has been done about the misconduct reported.

Your consideration of my comments is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert Aiu
255-9737

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 6:52:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donn Takaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the [COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS](#)

I've known Rona Suzuki personally for 30 years and professionally for over 20 years. I worked with her in 2 of her private sector jobs directly, and was impressed with how she found solutions to issues we were confronted with. I know she will do the same if confirmed. Thank you for your consideration.

Stafford J. Kiguchi
1474 Kamole St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in Support of GM503 – Rona M. Suzuki, Director - Department of Taxation

It is a pleasure to offer this testimony in support of Rona Suzuki's nomination as Director of the Department of Taxation (DoTax). I have known Ms. Suzuki for more than 20 years and have the utmost confidence in her ability to lead DoTax. She brings a valued combination of public and private sector experience that will serve her well in this role. She is intelligent, energetic and does not shy away from hard work. Her approach to problem solving is strategic as well as practical.

I admire Ms. Suzuki's penchant for public service. In my interactions with her she has proven to be ethical, responsive and attentive to details with good follow through.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify and I respectfully encourage the Committee's favorable consideration of her nomination.

Sincerely,

Stafford J. Kiguchi

GM-503

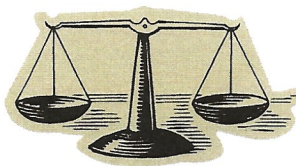
Submitted on: 6/30/2020 9:16:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Seu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please register my strong support for Rona Suzuki's appointment. Give her the chance to lead, and she will work hard on behalf of the people of Hawaii.



GORDON M. ARAKAKI

Attorney at Law, LLLC
94-1176 Polinahe Place
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
Cell: (808) 542-1542
E-mail: gordonarakaki@hawaiiantel.net

Hearing Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2020

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Place: State Capitol Auditorium

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Subject: **GM 503** – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, **RONA M. SUZUKI**, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

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

I strongly and whole-heartedly support the confirmation of **Rona M. Suzuki** as Director of the Department of Taxation.

Over the past 20+ years, I've gotten to know Rona both personally and professionally. She is a committed and caring leader, a gifted organizer and administrator, and an enthusiastic hard worker. Most importantly, she is a fundamentally decent person.

As a citizen, private attorney, and former Chief of Staff/Committee Clerk for the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I believe that Rona is an excellent choice to lead and carry out the fair and efficient functioning of the State Department of Taxation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly by phone at (808) 542-1542 or by e-mail at gordonarakaki@hawaiiantel.net.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon M. Arakaki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gordon M. Arakaki

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 11:07:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannan Yoshimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support for Rona Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation. She has exceptional leadership skills that will be an asset to the department. There is no question that her knowledge, skills, abilities, dedication, and hard work will lead department towards success.

Please confirm Rona Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you,

Shannan Yoshimura

TESTIMONY OF CLYDE SONOBE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

JULY 2, 2020

9:30AM

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 503

The nomination of RONA M. SUZUKI as the Director of the Department of Taxation

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. Over the many years that I have known Ms. Suzuki, she has demonstrated exceptional financial, planning, and technical skills that would translate into a very successful tenure as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Please accept my strong support for her nomination.

Thank you again for this opportunity to submit testimony.

GM-503

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 11:28:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

GM 503 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, RONA M. SUZUKI, for a term to expire at noon 12-05-2022

July 2, 2020

9:30am

Capitol Auditorium

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

My name is Gladys Quinto Marrone and I am submitting my testimony in **strong support** of GM 503, consideration and confirmation of Ms. Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have had the privilege of knowing Ms. Suzuki over thirty years in both personal and professional capacities. Rona has extensive experiences and proves successes in management, operations, project and fiscal management, business, and government. As displayed during recent legislative hearings during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Suzuki leads with integrity and the department will benefit from her intelligence, work ethic, strong sense of accountability, and experience. She is a problem solver, collaborator, reasonable, and always open to discussion.

I have complete confidence in Ms. Suzuki and respectfully request your support in confirming her appointment as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you,

Gladys Q. Marrone

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF
RONA M. SUZUKI AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

July 2, 2020

To: Chairman Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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

I have had the opportunity to work on several issues for various clients with Ms. Suzuki and she has always been accessible and willing to listen to all sides of the issue I was involved with. She has a very positive attitude and is primarily interested in solving the problems and/or issues that she is confronted with. I feel that this is one of her strengths besides her attitude to be fair and honest in her dealings.

Her administrative ability and skills and her ability to listen to everyone and to solve problems makes her well suited to be the Director of the Tax Department. Also, it is evident that she is not averse to making the hard decisions in order to resolve any issue. Further, she has displayed a very solid background on the many tax issues she is dealing with. Her performance and communication skills during the recent Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on Hawaii's tax revenues and impending economic crisis is an example of her ability to oversee this Department.

On a personal note, I have known Rona for many years and she is not only a very optimistic and personable individual but has always been one of the hardest workers in whatever she undertakes. I wholeheartedly support her nomination and urge this committee to recommend her for this position and for the Senate to confirm her as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Ways and Means
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Ways and Means
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Strong support for GM 503 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

July 2, 2020, 9:30AM

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I work for the Department of Taxation and have witnessed first-hand how the Department has evolved under Rona's leadership.

Rona's unwavering commitment and dedication to not only the job, but the community is something that we all benefit from. She is a quick problem solver, makes informed decisions, and motivates those around her to do their best. She leads by example. She leads with compassion. And she leads with the intent to resolve issues.

Rona has high expectations of herself and those around her. She is thoughtful and fair, and takes the time to understand her employees and the issues they face. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from her and work for her.

Her experience in government and in the private sector makes her uniquely qualified to lead the department and I am confident that the Department of Taxation will continue to advance under her leadership.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 503.

Alika Ke-Paloma

Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2020

Thursday, July 2, 2020 9:30 a.m.

Testimony on Governor's Message No. 503:

Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki, for a Term to Expire on December 5, 2022.

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

My name is Danielle Bass, and I am testifying as an individual, in support of the appointment of Ms. Rona Suzuki to serve as Director of the Department of Taxation, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

I have worked with Ms. Rona Suzuki in different capacities since around 2007 as we have both held different positions over the years. Throughout that period, I have had the opportunity to closely observe Ms. Suzuki's work ethic and found her to be dedicated in serving the public's interest. In addition, I believe she is extremely hard-working, detail-oriented, collaborative, with tremendous energy and will continue to be a thoughtful leader of the Hawaii Department of Taxation. Ms. Suzuki is a truly dedicated public servant who brings nothing but professionalism to her work. In addition to her deep knowledge on a wide breadth of subjects, Ms. Suzuki brings a positive, can-do attitude that inspires her staff and others around her.

I strongly believe Ms. Suzuki will continue to be a valued and highly productive leader of the Department of Taxation, and respectfully request that you recommend approval of her nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support G.M. No. 503.

GM-503

Submitted on: 7/1/2020 8:46:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherry broder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Dela Cruz and Committee Members, I am writing to give Ms. Rona Suzuki the highest recommendation possible for the position of Director of the Hawai`i State Department of Taxation. Her background including business, technology and working with low income communities is impressive and will enable her to excel in this position. She has the education, training and experience required and the personal skills to head a state department. I am confident that she will make a significant contribution to our community at a time when her knowledge and abilities are really needed. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Sherry P. Broder

GM-503

Submitted on: 7/1/2020 9:25:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Hirai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Rona Suzuki as the director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Rona, both personally and professional, for more than 30 years. During that time, I have had the opportunity to work directly with her on several projects. She is extremely smart, hard-working and a dedicated public servant. I believe that Rona is the right person to lead DoTAX during these unprecedented times and I encourage you to recommend and support her nomination as its director.

Mahalo in advance for your consideration.

TESTIMONY OF DAMIEN ELEFANTE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, July 2, 2020
9:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol

GOV. MSG NO. 503

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M.
SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee. I am testifying in strong support of Rona Suzuki's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

In my capacity as Deputy Director for the Department of Taxation, I have worked with Ms. Suzuki and witnessed her professionalism and practical approach in leadership to and move the Department in a positive direction. I have known Ms. Suzuki when she was assigned as the Senior Special Assistant to manage the implementation of the Department of Taxation's Tax System Modernization. She helped put the project on the right track to deliver the functionality that the Department needed to process tax information, returns, and compliance for now and into the future.

From the day she was appointed as Director of Taxation, she has been working steadily with managers and employees to improve processes and procedures. Ms. Suzuki's overall background and experiences working in the public and private sectors is an asset and resource for the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

From: [Mary Schmidtke](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 10:32:15 AM

June 29,2020

SUBJECT: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT

I have known Rona Suzuki for over twenty years personally and professionally and there is no one who exemplifies all the best qualities of an outstanding public servant better than Rona. She is incredibly smart, an effective and efficient decision-maker, dedicated to her team and co-workers, an amazingly efficient multi-tasker who always comprehends the big picture as well as the complexities and nuances of any situation. She has proven leadership skills and the highest ethical standards as evidenced throughout her career accomplishment.

In my role at the Honolulu City Council, our office has relied on Rona for complex and helpful information associated with state tax laws. She is always efficient, responsive and on-point.

I congratulate you on your decision to consider her appointment, and I can think of no one who is as committed, knowledgeable, ethical, and dedicated to assuring the maximum functioning of this important department, as Rona Suzuki. She has my enthusiastic and complete SUPPORT.

Mary Schmidtke
1045 Kaumoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: [Kyle Mitsumori](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:28:43 AM

Aloha,

I fully support the nomination of Rona M. Suzuki to the the Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Rona for over 15 years and have considered her a very trustworthy, disciplined, and professional person. She has been a very dedicated and enabling asset to our State, especially during the recent trying times of the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you,
Kyle Mitsumori
808.218.0938

From: [Reed Muraoka](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT."
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 10:38:51 AM

I support the nomination of Rona Suzuki for Director of The Department of Taxation.
I have known Rona for over 10 years.
She is a person who stands for honesty, compassion and integrity.
I have watched over her testimony on various occasions. She constantly is able to provide concise and succinct information.

Thank you,
Reed Muraoka

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [David Coker](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the as Director Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona Ma. Suzuki -
SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:32:01 AM

Sir/Madam:

I know Ms. Rona Suzuki personally and believe her to possess the character, leadership skills, technical competence, work ethic and dedication to do an outstanding job as Director. Thank you for your consideration of this favorable recommendation.

R/s

David Coker

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Flash Hansen](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:40:42 AM

Aloha!

To whom it may concern:

I have known Rona Suzuki for quite some time now. She has been working TIRELESSLY during covid to help our community in every way possible.

The long hours week in & week out speak to her dedication not only to her job but to our people, our family & our friends.

Moving forward, during times like these, Rona is exactly the kind of person I want on my team.

Mahalo!

Flash Hansen

808.723.1449

<http://www.modernemedia.com/>

@ModMediaHi

From: [Bill Carey](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 12:37:56 PM

To the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I am providing you with this email as my testimony in support for Rona M. Suzuki for her appointment as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you,

William J. Carey

From: [Thomas Bush](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 11:59:25 AM

Dear Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing this email to strongly **support** the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of Taxation.

Ms. Suzuki is exactly the right person for this very important position during these unprecedented times. Ms. Suzuki has been working tirelessly in the Taxation department since the start of the fiscal crisis occasioned by the pandemic. Her dedication, intelligence, and ability to get things done makes her invaluable to the State. We need her.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Thomas E. Bush, Esq.

Thomas Bush Law Office LLLC
1001 Bishop Street, Suite 1560
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 536-BUSH (2874)
Facsimile: (808) 536-2875
Email: Tom@tblawhawaii.com

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From: [Ron Brandvold](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation Support for Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:34:48 PM

Aloha,

I'm writing to strongly encourage Rona Suziki's confirmation and appointment to the role of Director of the state of Hawaii Department of Taxation.

Rona is a very bright and highly motivated person committed to doing well both professionally and in her personal/family life. She has integrity and strong moral character, which are essential traits in this role and these trying times.

Regards

Ron Brandvold
(808) 223-9422
Ronbrandvold@gmail.com

From: [Paul W. Soenksen](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Dept. of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 1:40:26 PM

I've known and been impressed by Rona for over 20 years. Please confirm her for Director of Taxation. She will serve us well.

I am available for further questions. Thank you.

Paul W. Soenksen, Esq.
Coates Frey Tanimoto & Gibson, AAL, LLLC
900 Fort Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 524-4854
Fax: (808) 524-0717
Email: psoenksen@coatesandfrey.com



Coates Frey Tanimoto & Gibson, AAL, LLLC
Divorce • Paternity • Custody • Abuse/TRO • Mediation • All Family Law



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From: [Megan Kau](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 2:49:00 PM

My name is Megan Kau. I have known Rona since I was very young. She was one of the older girls in high school that looked out for me because I did not have much family. She always took care of me. Now that I know her as an adult, I see that she is the same hard working, caring, compassionate person that cared for me when I was young. I fully support Rona Suzuki for this position.

Mahalo,
Megan K. Kau, Esq.
820 Mililani Street, Suite 701
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
(808) 864-8896
mk@megkaulaw.com

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NO TAX ADVICE. I do not give tax advice. I recommend that you speak to a licensed CPA or tax attorney for any tax related issues.

From: [Dr. Shelly Kawamoto](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 2:15:58 PM

Dear nomination/election committee,

I am emailing to express my unwavering support for Rona M. Suzuki for Hawaii Tax Director. The hard work and dedication she has shown during this unprecedented time speaks for itself. Please strongly consider her for Director.

Thank you for your consideration,
Shelliann Kawamoto

Shelliann Kawamoto DDS, MS
Hawaii Orthodontist
1441 Kapiolani Blvd. #503
Honolulu, HI
(808) 947-3737 Fax: (808) 947-3544
www.hawaiiorthodontist.com
Other Location: Kunia Shopping Center



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From: [Kamakana Fitchett](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 2:18:40 PM

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of Ms. Rona M. Suzuki, the gubernatorial nominee for the position of Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Ms. Suzuki in a professional and personal capacity for over ten years and have found her to be efficient, competent, and fair. She will be an excellent director, ensuring projects and programs are completed correctly and in a timely manner. Ms. Suzuki will also ensure that her employees enjoy a safe, fair, and well organized workplace environment. I strongly urge this committee to approve Ms. Suzuki's nomination.

Mahalo,
Kamakana Watanabe

From: [Jack Bennett](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 4:20:53 PM

Aloha Senate committee,

I am writing to express my SUPPORT for Ms. Rona M. Suzuki for the position of Director of the Hawaii Department of Taxation. I know Ms. Suzuki to be highly intelligent, likable, dedicated, hard-working, honest and ethical. It's my impression that colleagues and staff would enjoy working with her and thrive under her leadership. I believe Ms. Suzuki would serve the State of Hawaii well in this capacity. Mahalo for your consideration,

Jack E. Bennett
Environmental Attorney/Engineer
1717 Mott-Smith Dr. Apt. 610
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Ryan](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 4:39:49 PM

Dear Ways and Means Committee Members,

I would like to share my support for the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of Taxation. As her younger brother, I have seen firsthand the good and bad, but through it all she has always been there for myself and more importantly my family. With the current COVID-19 situation, I have personally seen her working tirelessly with an unquestionable passion to help the State of Hawaii fight through this pandemic and am proud to be her brother. (Please don't share this with her!)

Thank you,

Ryan M. Suzuki

From: [Jodie Ann Mori](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 4:26:41 PM
Attachments: [RSuzuki-Support.pdf](#)

Attached, please find my testimony in support of Rona Suzuki for the Director of the Department of Taxation position.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Jodie Ann Mori

From: [Colby Falk](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 5:08:27 PM

Dear State of Hawaii,

I have known Rona for several years and think she is intelligent, nice and works hard for the people of Hawaii. I support the nomination.

Thanks,

Colby Falk
Honolulu Resident

From: [darren.wu](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 5:26:03 PM

To Whom It May Concern, I fully support the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki for Director of Taxation. I have been an attorney for 26 years on Oahu and I am confident that Ms. Suzuki will do a fine job as Director of Taxation. Thank you.
Darren Wu.

From: [Peter Boolukos](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:26:53 PM

Dear Sirs

I support Rona Suzuki. I have known Rona Suzuki for over 10 years and believe she is an excellent choice. She is an extremely hard & dedicated worker.

Sincerely,

Peter Boolukos, MD

(808)944-9977

Sent from my iPhone

TESTIMONY OF Gary K. Kai
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
REGULAR SESSION 2020

July 2, 2020, 9:30 a.m., Auditorium

GM 503: SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, my name is Gary Kai and I submit this letter of support of Rona Suzuki's confirmation as Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Rona for over 10 years, during we which time we worked together at several organizations. I have come to know Rona as a person of great intelligence and vision. Most important, is that she is a person of great integrity and honesty. She is forward-thinking and innovative in ways that will benefit all taxpayers in the State of Hawaii

Rona has dedicated himself to working to improve the community he lives in not only in his professional life but by supporting various community organizations by volunteering to assist them on her own time.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of Rona's confirmation as Director of the Department of Taxation..

Sincerely,

//s

Gary K. Kai
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

LATE

GM-503

Submitted on: 7/1/2020 2:18:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ford Fuchigami	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I **strongly support** the confirmation of Rona Suzuki as Director for the Department of Taxation (DoTAX). I've worked with Ms. Suzuki on several occasions and I know her to be very hard working and forthright. I know she will continue to do an excellent job at the DoTAX.

From: [Kalowena Komeiji](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT."
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 6:52:48 PM
Attachments: [Rona Suzuki Confirmation.docx](#)

Aloha,

Please see attached testimony in support of Rona Suzuki as tax director for our state.

Kalowena Komeiji
(808) 371-6679

*In the blink of an eye, everything can change.
Forgive often. Love with all your heart.
You may not have that chance again.*

From: [Elisa Yadao](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Dept.of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 5:50:45 PM

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Elisa Yadao and this letter is in strong support of Rona M. Suzuki and her confirmation as Director of the Department of Taxation.

I've known Rona as a friend and colleague for nearly two decades and she is exemplary in every regard. Rona is intelligent, insightful, strategic in her vision while simultaneously laser-like in her attention to detail. While she could and has had many lucrative positions in the private sector, Rona has committed herself to public service and successfully taken on tremendous challenges.

Now, more than ever, the people of Hawaii need people with Rona's talent, skill and grit as we make our way back to a new normal.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and many, many thanks for all that you're doing to ensure we have a safe, healthy vibrant Hawaii today and tomorrow.

Aloha,
Elisa
elisa.yadao@gmail.com
808-286-3693

From: [Blake Okimoto](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM503, Director of Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona Suzuki- SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 6:28:33 PM

Please Take this as a letter of support in favor of Rona Suzuki for director of the Department of Taxation, State of Hawaii. I have no reservations that she will succeed as an exemplary Leader of our Department of taxation. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 943-8899.
Sent from my iPad

Blake T. Okimoto, AAL, ALC
1580 Makaloa Street, Suite 1020
Honolulu, Hawaii. 96814

Tel. (808) 943-8899

From: [Rob](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz](#); [Dane Wicker](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:39:05 PM

Aloha All,

I would like to show my support for Rona Suzuki. I have known Rona for over 10 years. She is a dedicated hard worker, thinking of the people of Hawaii and it's government first. Putting in very long hours at work, always doing the right thing, she is an excellent choice. I believe you will be very pleased.

Mahalo,

Robin Boolukos
(808)294-9977

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sat Freedman](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Dept. of Taxation, Nominee Rona Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 7:52:46 PM

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the Nomination of Rona Suzuki for Director of the Department of Taxation. I am an attorney with experience at both a civil litigation firm and a government agency. I have known Ms. Suzuki for nearly 20 years and I think she is intelligent, hard-working, and ethical. I believe she has the skills and temperament to meet the unprecedented challenges our state is facing in these troubled times.

Please confirm her nomination.

Thank you,

Sat K. Freedman

(808) 586-2245

From: [Stirling Morita](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Governor's Message 503 regarding the nomination of Rona M. Suzuki as director of the Department of Taxation
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:13:36 PM
Attachments: [RonaSuzukiNomination.docx](#)

Hi, attached is supporting testimony for Ms. Suzuki's nomination to be heard on July 2.

I am not representing a group and will not (actually cannot) appear in person.

Thank you,
Stirling Morita

From: [Bonnie Pang](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:49:26 PM

Testimony of

Bonnie Pang

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, July 2, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Governor's Message 503.

I **strongly Support** the nomination of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity and not on behalf on any organization.

Ms. Suzuki is experienced, community focused, and highly competent to fill this role. She is forward-thinking and innovative in ways that will benefit all taxpayers in the State of Hawaii during this challenging time and going forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this nominee.

Very Truly Yours,

Bonnie Pang
(0808) 271-1580

From: [Edwin Hiraki](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Director of Taxation
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 9:14:39 PM

I fully support Rona Suzuki for this position, she is a trusted and dedicated person, mahalo.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Chun, Donna M](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503 Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:21:26 AM
Attachments: [RS.pdf](#)

From: [Ted Gonzales](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:04:39 AM

I fully SUPPORT the nomination of Rona M. Suzuki for Director of the Department of Taxation.

Mahalo,

Ted Gonzales
Pacific Diamond

From: [Tammy Freedman](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki- SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7:54:44 AM

Aloha,

I have known Rona Suzuki for over 30 years. Among her many attributes, I have always been impressed with her intelligence AND ability to connect with people. Both skills are much needed in this position. I strongly support her nomination.

Mahalo, Tammy Freedman

From: [John Hayakawa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki-SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 9:33:48 AM

I very highly recommend Rona Suzuki.
Sent from my iPad

From: [Vickie Hayakawa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki-SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:29:40 AM

Rona Suzuki is an extremely competent and dedicated Director.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kaupena Soon](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:37:04 AM

Chairman Dela Cruz,

I support Ms. SUZUKI to be appointed as Director of the Department of Taxation. I know the State will be well served by having Ms. Suzuki heading the Department of Taxation because of her tireless work ethic and dedication to the State.

Thank for your consideration.

Regards,

Kaupena Soon

From: [Andrew Park](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 9:43:42 AM

Aloha Distinguished Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of Rona M. Suzuki's confirmation for the position of Director of the Department of Taxation. You have undoubtedly received many submissions detailing the amazing work that Ms. Suzuki has done for the Office of Community Services and other of Ms. Suzuki's numerous professional accomplishments. What I would like to do is offer up comment on Ms. Suzuki as a person. I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Suzuki for about 7 years, having first met her through a good friend of mine. Since then, I've come to know Ms. Suzuki as intelligent, thoughtful, and full of both personal and professional integrity.

In today's age, it is truly refreshing that someone with the skills, talent, and drive that Ms. Suzuki has would choose to work in the public sector versus the lucrative private sector. I encourage the Committee to allow Ms. Suzuki to continue her public service and confirm her for this position--the people of Hawai'i will be well served by having her in this position.

Mahalo for your time,
Andrew Park

From: [John Connors](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - I support Rona 100%
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:49:41 AM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Eric A. Seitz, Attorney At Law
A LAW CORPORATION

Eric A. Seitz
Della A. Belatti
Gina Szeto-Wong
Jonathon M.F. Loo
Kevin A. Yolken

June 30, 2020

Via e-mail to WAMtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

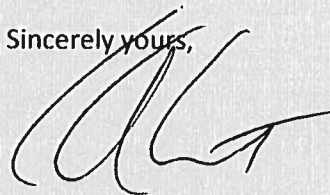
Re: Rona M. Suzuki

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Senators:

I rarely comment upon or become involved in legislative appointments, but I am strongly motivated to recommend the nomination of Rona M. Suzuki to be confirmed as the Hawaii Tax Director. I would not want this job in the current economic conditions, but I am highly impressed by Rona's qualifications, her work ethic, and her integrity, and I hope that you will agree and entrust her to perform in that position in the best interests of the State of Hawaii and all of its citizens.

Please contact me if I may provide additional information to assist you in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Eric A. Seitz

From: [Sheila Gonzales](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 1:23:47 PM

I am in support of Rona M. Suzuki for Director of the Department of Taxation.

Sheila Shigemoto-Gonzales

From: russell.elwell@yahoo.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:34:03 PM

To the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Having known Rona Suzuki for a number of years now, I cannot think of anyone more qualified for the Hawaii State Director of the Department of Taxation. She has shown a tireless dedication in her work on behalf of the State in the positions that she has held. This has been especially so during the current COVID-19 Pandemic where she has been involved in many of the key decisions affecting our State's Health and Economic welfare.

It is important to have someone who will bring the dedication, work ethic and necessary skills to the key positions in our State government. I strongly believe that Rona Suzuki is the person who will continue to bring that as the Hawaii State Director of the Department of Taxation position.

Aloha,
Russell Elwell

From: [John Hayakawa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:33:46 PM

Mr. Donovan Dela Cruz and Hawaii State Senate Ways and Means Committee Members,

I support the confirmation of Rona Suzuki to be the Hawaii Director of Taxation.

Since being appointed, Rona has actively managed or provided input for technology issues and the Federal stimulus money provided to the State. In addition, she has taken on additional responsibilities related to the State's management of the COVID pandemic.

These actions show that she is well qualified to be the permanent Director.

Sincerely,

John H

John M. Hayakawa
p) 816-213-3892
e) johnmhayakawa@gmail.com

From: motsuji@da-planet.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:23:26 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I have worked with, and for, Ms. Suzuki in my five years with the State of Hawaii. Ms. Suzuki was instrumental in the success of the implementation of the GenTax Tax Modernization Project, which I regard as the most successful of the State of Hawaii's IT projects.

Ms. Suzuki is very knowledgeable, and is also a dedicated and driven leader of the Department of Taxation.

I stand in strong support of Ms. Suzuki's nomination.

Sincerely,

Michael Otsuji
808-497-5001

From: [Philana Bouvier](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 3:10:57 PM

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Rona Suzuki's nomination as Director of Taxation.

I have known Rona personally for many years and I am extremely proud of the work Rona has been doing for our State both before and after the start of the COVID crisis. I admire her selfless service, the long days, and countless hours she dedicates not only to running the tax department, but also many other state projects involving Federal stimulus money or technology issues.

Mahalo for your consideration of my support for Rona.

Best regards,

Philana Bouvier

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robert Trauger](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 2:51:41 PM

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Rona Suzuki's nomination as Director of Taxation.

I have known Rona personally for many years and I am extremely proud of the work Rona has been doing for our State both before and after the start of the COVID crisis. I admire her selfless service, the long days, and countless hours she dedicates not only to running the tax department, but also many other state projects involving Federal stimulus money or technology issues.

Mahalo for your consideration of my support for Rona.

Best regards,
Robert Trauger

rhtrauger@me.com
808.780.9067

From: [Lynne Toyofuku](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:01:02 PM

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and members on the Committee on Ways and Means,

I write in support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

Rona is a proven leader as the Department's executive managing the State's Tax System Modernization program; and over the past several months, she has shown her talent leading the Department through unprecedented times where the State has seen a double-digit unemployment and a significant drop in tax revenue due to COVID-19. Our State needs her commitment to the job, knowledge of the department as the revenue engine, and her sheer grit and ability not to shy away from hard work, to rebuild our tax base so state government can properly serve its people.

I strongly urge you to confirm the nomination of Rona as Director of the Department of Taxation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very best regards,

Lynne

Lynne T. T. Toyofuku, Esq.

Marr Jones & Wang

A Limited Liability Partnership

Pauahi Tower

1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1500

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: [\(808\) 536-4900](tel:(808)536-4900)

Facsimile: [\(808\) 536-6700](tel:(808)536-6700)

Email: LToyofuku@marrjones.com

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From: [Sei La](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:01:41 PM

i support the Nomination of Rona M. Suzuki for the position of Director of Dept of Taxation.

Seila Kim

From: [Brooke Nakamura](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki -SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:01:37 PM

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz and the Senate Ways and Means Committee Members,

I have great confidence, Rona is the best candidate for the Director of the Department of Taxation. I have known her for over 20 years and throughout this time she strives to excel in all she sets out to accomplish. In my opinion she is a person of integrity, dedicated, and assiduous in both work and her personal life. She would be a great asset as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Sincerely,

Brooke A. Nakamura, OTD, OTR/L
Doctorate of Occupational Therapy, Registered Occupational Therapist
968 Spencer Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96823
Brookeakie@gmail.com

From: [Bobbi Sakamoto](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503--Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki--SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 6:11:30 PM

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

I have had the pleasure of knowing Rona Suzuki for more than 10 years. We developed a strong friendship and working relationship as volunteers organizing various public and private events. In every instance, her work exceeded all expectations. Rona is competent, driven and task-oriented. She also thinks outside the box and is adept at crisis management—ideal qualities for the Tax Director’s position. Without question, she is the right person to lead the Department of Taxation as it navigates through these uncertain times of COVID-19.

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

Aloha,
Barbara Sakamoto
Retired Legislative Assistant to
the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Vikram Garg](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: "GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT."
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:50:04 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Aloha Senate Committee,

I have known Ms. Rona M. Suzuki for last 5 years and learnt a lot about Rona's passion and dedication for her profession. I am very glad to hear that she is willing to take bid responsibility of applying for the position for Director of Taxation .

I support Ms. Suzuki 100% and am very confident that she will make us all proud of her work in capacity of Director of taxation

Regards

--

MACNAUGHTON

Vikram Garg
Partner, Hospitality Division
1288 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 208, Honolulu, HI 96814
Cell: 808-265-8357
Email: vgarg@macnaughton / Website: www.macnaughton.com

From: [jessica domingo](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki-SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 9:37:49 PM

Dear Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Keith-Agaran, and the members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. Rona's work ethic, leadership, and intelligence make her the ideal director for the Department of Taxation. Since being appointed as the interim director she has proven that she is capable of the many responsibilities that come with this position. Rona has worked tirelessly to make sure the people of Hawai'i are being properly served, especially during this extremely difficult time as we face the numerous struggles surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic .

Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong support of Rona M. Suzuki.

Jessica Domingo



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Testimony of
Garett Kamemoto

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, July 2, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Governor's Message 503.

I **strongly support** the nomination of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity and not on behalf of any organization.

She is hard-working, is detail oriented, and acts with integrity in everything she does. She is forward-thinking and innovative in ways that will benefit all taxpayers in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this nominee.

From: [Choi, Mark](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, gubernatorial nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:22:19 PM

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

I respectfully write in strong support for the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation (DOTAX).

I have worked closely with Rona for several years and have been impressed by her obsessive dedication, knowledge, character and integrity. She brings strong leadership, sharp business acumen, and a wealth of knowledge from 30+ years of government and private sector experience. Rona has demonstrated technical, management and executive leadership ability wherever she has served the State, whether as an Executive Director in the Department of Labor Office of Community Services, as an executive program manager in the Department of Taxation, or currently as the acting Director of Taxation. Those who know or have worked with her understand that she leads swiftly, fairly, with savvy, and cuts through bullshit and lame excuses like a Ginsu knife. If confirmed, I am certain that Rona will continue to transform and streamline the way DOTAX delivers its services to the public.

I respectfully ask you to confirm the nomination of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thanks, Mark

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can." —Arthur Ashe

Enterprise Technology Officer	Department of Human Services	
1390 Miller Street, Room 104	Honolulu, HI 96813	
Office: 808-586-5138	Mobile: 808-778-5587	Fax: 808-586-5147

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From: [Karen Takemoto](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:15:27 PM

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair Ways and Means
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair Ways and Means
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Strong support for GM 503 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

July 2, 2020, 9:30AM

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I strongly support GM 503 and the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation (DOTAX).

I have worked for Rona the past five years at the Department of Labor, Office of Community Services, and the Department of Taxation. She is a leader who inspires and creates a positive team environment. Her strong work ethics, integrity and intelligence will help to lead us through the current financial challenges we are facing. Rona has the leadership qualities and the commitment to serve the community as Director of Taxation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 503 and the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation. I humbly ask for your vote in support of GM 503.

Sincerely,
Karen Takemoto

From: [David Hayakawa](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:09:48 PM

DAVID M. HAYAKAWA, ESQ.
June 30, 2020

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz,
Chairperson
Ways and Means Committee
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM-503 - Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki

Dear Chair Dela Cruz,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of the appointment of Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the State Department of Taxation.

When Rona decided to return to government service, I was surprised and supportive. She had challenging positions in the private sector that were financially better. Her decision was grounded in her commitment to serving the people of our state, more than our personal financial interests. I'm very proud of the work she has been doing both before and after the start of the COVID crisis.

As her life partner, I have witnessed firsthand her personal devotion and sacrifices since returning to State service. She has taken on every challenge presented to her with minimal complaints. She has created a dependable, professional team to work with her at the Department of Taxation.

I used to complain to her about the Tax Department not cashing my payments for months. That has been fixed. Friends complained about their phone calls and inquiries not being answered. That has been fixed. Whenever she finds a problem, she finds a solution.

As testament to her amazing dedication, capacity and skills, her responsibilities have increased during this COVID crisis. In addition to running the Department of Taxation, she has been actively dedicated hours to supporting Unemployment Insurance, SafeTravels, and federal funds. Since the crisis began, Rona has been working non-stop, leaving home before 7am and returning around 9pm, at which time she answers emails until bedtime. Saturdays are full work days as well, and oftentimes Sunday. I can honestly say that Rona is the only person I know who has the energy, passion and bandwidth to handle all of this. Humbly speaking, the State is lucky to have her.

Thank you for your favorable consideration. If you have any questions regarding the

above, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

David M. Hayakawa

Law Office of David Hayakawa

Davies Pacific Center | 841 Bishop St., Suite 410 | Honolulu, HI 96813

Tel: 808-537-1529 | Fax: 808-523-9137

From: [Bill Plum](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:08:48 PM

**RE: GM 503, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA M. SUZUKI - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

HEARING: JULY 2, 2020 AT 9:30 A.M.

Dear Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Keith-Agaran
and Committee Members:

I support the confirmation of Rona M. Suzuki for the position of the Director of the Department of Taxation for the State of Hawaii. I have known Ms. Suzuki for many years and I have had the opportunity to observe the quality of her work first hand. She is a dedicated individual who *truly cares* about the work she does and the State of Hawaii. Ms. Suzuki is an excellent choice for the position, especially in these troubling times.

Bill Plum
The Plum Law Office, a Law Corporation
700 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813
(808) 528-0050
(808) 524-3355 (fax)
wplum@plumlaw.com

From: [Takehara, Randy T](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 12:15:37 AM

Hello,

I am writing in support of Rona Suzuki for Director of the Department of Taxation.

It's been a pleasure working for Ms. Suzuki since she came to the Department of Taxation. Shortly after coming to Tax, Ms. Suzuki was introduced to the IRS 1075. The IRS 1075 is a set of standards and guidelines that the Department of Taxation must comply with, or else lose access to Federal Taxpayer Information. Every 3 years, the IRS will come onsite to perform an audit to see how well the department complies with the 1075. Unfortunately, Ms. Suzuki arrived at Tax during the IRS's onsite audit and was presented with a P7 letter. This P7 letter was a result of the Department of Taxation neglecting the IRS 1075 and not complying with the standards and guidelines for years. If the department did not fix these critical findings, the IRS would remove their Federal Taxpayer Information from the Department of Taxation. Ms. Suzuki worked closely with the Department of Taxation's IT department, and the IRS, and mitigated these critical findings. Since then, Ms. Suzuki has helped close many findings, and helped the Department of Taxation be in good standings with the IRS. She has also applied these standards and guidelines to help protect the State of Hawaii Taxpayer's information.

What is really impressive was Ms. Suzuki took the initiative to read the IRS 1075, learn it, and understand it. She didn't want to do the bare minimum, she wanted to understand the 1075 and do our best to satisfy the requirements. Aside from the 1075, Ms. Suzuki did the same for learning Taxes. She took the initiative to learn it, and understand it. If she doesn't understand it, she will keep searching for answers until she does.

Along with Ms. Suzuki's desire to understand things, she believes in finding the root cause of problems. She doesn't want to cover up a problem, she wants to fix the root of problem so that it doesn't happen again.

Another notable trait that Ms. Suzuki possesses, is that she takes responsibility for her decisions. I have seen Ms. Suzuki make mistakes and accept responsibility for them.

After working with Ms. Suzuki, I truly believe she wants to do what is in the best interest for the people of the State of Hawaii. Ms. Suzuki is not afraid to make the unpopular decision if it will benefit the people of the State of Hawaii. Not once have I ever got the impression that she is doing it for herself, or for political gain. She really wants to do what is right for the State of Hawaii.

I have worked at the State, and in the Private Sector...and I have never seen anyone with as much dedication to do a good job as Ms. Suzuki. She is always working, and yet always makes time to help others. Ms. Suzuki doesn't have that "Me" attitude, she realizes that success is a team effort.

The Department of Taxation is truly lucky to have someone like Ms. Rona Suzuki.

Thank you very much for your time!!

Have a wonderful day!!

Sincerely,
Randy Takehara

From: [Peter Boylan](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT."
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 11:09:55 PM

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means Senator

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Support for GM503 – RONA M. SUZUKI, Director Department of Taxation

Dear Chair, Dela Cruz and Vice- Chair Keith-Agaran-

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Director Rona M. Suzuki's nomination to continue her service as the Hawaii Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have had the privilege of working with Rona on a number of professional projects over the years and know her to be a smart, humble, hard-working professional with an empathetic, collaborative approach to her work on behalf of the people of Hawaii.

Director Suzuki is also managing the Tax System Modernization program while addressing the Internal Revenue Service Security Safeguards remediation activities, initiatives that were challenging prior to the pandemic and recession.

The demands placed on the Department of Taxation, to navigate collections and planning during this pandemic and recession, are some of the most difficult challenges facing the state. The adversity facing the department and our communities requires a calm, experienced, talented, leader like Director Suzuki.

As Hawaii's new economy evolves with our way of life, local leaders like Director Suzuki will help guide us into the future. She is a professional public servant, who puts the community first and leads with integrity and Aloha.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Director Suzuki.

Sincerely,
Peter Boylan
1910 Aleo Place
Honolulu, Hawaii
96822
808-561-0901

--

Aloha,

Peter Boylan
Mobile: 808-561-0901

From: dave@tonylaw.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Dept. of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA M. SUZUKI
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 8:56:17 AM

Aloha Ladies and Gentlemen,

This e-mail is being sent in support of Rona M. Suzuki's nomination to be the Director of Taxation. I've known Rona for many years and I've always been extremely impressed with her knowledge and attention to detail in everything she does. She is conscientious and hard-working and her passion for helping the people of Hawaii is inspiring.

I work with the State Tax Office here on Maui quite often and I have to say that things have been running more smoothly since Rona became Acting Director and the staff morale appears to be at an all-time high.

I strongly support the nomination of Rona M. Suzuki to the position of Director of Taxation and humbly ask that you approve her confirmation. Thank you.

Dave

David M. Jorgensen, Esq.
Takitani Agaran Jorgensen & Wildman, LLLP
24 North Church Street, Suite 409
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

(808) 242-4049, Ext. 208 (B)
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dave@tonylaw.com (e-mail)

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From: [colleen_bird](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT."
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:29:55 AM

This testimony is in support of the appointment of Rona Suzuki as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Rona personally for more than 40 years and find her to be smart, honest, hard working, and a ball of energy. I have worked well with her on countless activities related to our school alumni activities.

Rona will serve the State and its citizenry well, helping to steer our economy in a positive direction.

With Aloha,

Colleen Maeda Bird
colleenmaedabird@gmail.com

From: [Coloretti, April](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM503 SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 9:27:28 AM
Attachments: [GM503.pdf](#)

From: [Titiimaea Ta'ase](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gu
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 12:19:49 PM

LATE

I hope I am not too late. I wholeheartedly support Ms. Suzuki's nomination. She is a hard-working and noble person.



From: [Nagamine, Craig S](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT.
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:59:32 PM

I support Rona M. Suzuki's nomination. She is a fine public servant and a great person.

CN

LATE

From: [Rufino Magliba](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503, Director of the Department of Taxation, gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 2:46:50 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Support for GM503 – RONA M. SUZUKI, Director Department of Taxation

Dear Chair, Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran,

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Director Rona M. Suzuki's nomination to continue serving as Hawaii's Director to the States Department of Taxation.

I have had the privilege of working with Rona on a number of professional projects over the years and know her to be a humble, hard-working professional.

Her collaborative approach coordinating efforts between public and private entities has shown to be an invaluable method to her work on behalf of the people of Hawai'i.

Director Suzuki continues to manage the Tax System Modernization program while addressing the Internal Revenue Service Security Safeguards remediation activities, initiatives that were challenging prior to the pandemic and recession.

During this global pandemic, we have seen the demands placed on the Department of Taxation increase. The adversity facing the department and our communities requires a calm, experienced, talented, leader like Director Suzuki.

Rona leads with Aloha and integrity, always putting Hawaii first. As Hawaii's new economy changes, local leaders like Director Suzuki will continue moving forward, guiding us securely into the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Director Suzuki.

Aloha,

Rufino Dan Magliba
Area Manager

1600 Kapiolani Blvd. Suite 530, Honolulu, HI 96814
O: 808.447.8929 | F: 808.447.8930



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LATE

From: yamanij001@hawaii.rr.com
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM503 Testimony
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 12:26:56 PM
Attachments: [GM503 Testimony.pdf](#)

Please accept this testimony attached for GM503.

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM503
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA. M. SUZUKI,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

SENATOR DONAVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 7/2/2020

Room Number: Auditorium

Please accept this testimony in support of the nomination of Ms. Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Rona since middle school, and she has always been the friend to organize and lead us whether it was for a social gathering or for a cause she cared deeply about. We could always count on Rona to be the mastermind and motivator.

Once Rona has put her mind on a goal, she will not stop until all is accomplished. She is conscientious and energetic. Her passion is unmatched. Her management capability and competence would be welcomed in the position and will be beneficial for all taxpayers in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the appointment of Rona M. Suzuki as Director of the Department of Taxation.

LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM503

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gil Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FR: Jill N. Tokuda

HEARING: Thursday July 2, 2020; 9:30am

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of GM503**, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee Rona Suzuki.

Even prior to her appointment as Interim Director, Ms. Suzuki established herself as the tip of the spear when it came to getting long standing projects completed with fidelity and critical issues addressed.

Most notably, she took over management and led the department's modernization efforts, and in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis has stepped up on numerous occasions to lead the Administration's response efforts and assist her fellow cabinet members. From the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program to tracking visitors under quarantine, Ms. Suzuki has been the most effective at pushing from within the Administration to get things done.

With tax revenues projected to drop significantly for FY20 & FY21, we need a strong Director like Ms. Suzuki overseeing tax collections and helping to guide the work of the upcoming Tax Review Commission. Their work and recommendations will be critical as the State works to not just overcome billions of dollars in shortfall, but focus on building a stronger, more resilient economy.

In closing, I'd just like to thank you for your tenacity and sacrifice during these unprecedented times. I know how hard you are fighting to take care of our families, communities, and businesses, and Hawaii is in a better place thanks to all of you.

Ms. Suzuki has proven herself more than able and willing to be a partner within the Administration and with the Legislature and the private sector to get things done. That's the kind of Director we need leading the Department of Taxation, and I humbly ask for your positive consideration of Ms. Suzuki's nomination.

LATE

From: [David Taga](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 503 - Director of the Department of Taxation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona M. Suzuki - SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 10:39:39 PM

GM 503 - Testimony in SUPPORT of Rona M. Suzuki

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

My name is David S. Taga, and I respectfully submit this testimony in SUPPORT of RONA M. SUZUKI as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

I have known Ms. Suzuki for many years and she is a dedicated public servant. She leads by example, demonstrates the highest standards of professionalism, and offers a record of innovation and guiding the most challenging projects. I am proud to support her nomination.

I respectfully request that you favorably consider and confirm Ms. Suzuki to serve as the Director of the Department of Taxation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE

GM-503

Submitted on: 7/2/2020 8:51:29 AM
Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

GM-503

Submitted on: 7/2/2020 12:33:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/2/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theodore Allen Peck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Rona for 20 years. She is an excellent administrator and will continue to serve the state well in the role of Tax Director.