



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH**

March 4, 2020

9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message 541**

Submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission,  
Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Leodoloff (Leo) Asuncion, Jr. to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to a term expiring June 30, 2026.

Mr. Asuncion has served as a Commissioner since May 2019. Prior to his confirmation last year, Mr. Asuncion served as planning program administrator for the state's Office of Planning, overseeing the overall management, administration and operations of the Planning Division. He also served as director and interim director of the Office of Planning from 2015 – 2018.

Prior to his leadership at the Office of Planning, he worked as a senior regulatory analyst and senior integrated resource planning analyst at Hawaiian Electric Company; a project planner/manager at SSFM International, Inc.; a planner for the Planning and Program Evaluation Division at the Hawai'i State Judiciary; and a staff planner at the State Land Use Commission. Leo's wealth of knowledge and experience will be an asset to the Public Utilities Commission to ensure that the public's interest is upheld in PUC matters.

This administration is committed to transforming the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I am confident that Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr. has the expertise and commitment to continue to serve our community well. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

Mary Alice Evans  
DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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Testimony of  
**Mary Alice Evans**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**GM 541**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the  
Public Utilities Commission, Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr.,  
for a term to expire on 06-30-2026.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee.

I respectfully ask your **support** for the confirmation of Leo Asuncion to the Public Utilities Commission

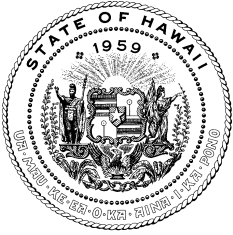
I have worked with Leo for a number of years in different roles. He is an excellent planner who has worked in the private sector on electric utility planning and in the public sector as a land use planner and a coastal zone program manager.

In addition, Leo has served as the Director of the Office of Planning and as a Commissioner for the past year.

Leo's broad background in different areas of planning provides the PUC with a diverse perspective on ensuring public benefits from regulated industries.

I urge you to recommend confirmation of Leo Asuncion to the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5<sup>TH</sup> 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 COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**  
Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In SUPPORT of  
**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 541, LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR.**  
As a Public Utilities Commissioner  
(Written Testimony Only)

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of the appointment of Mr. Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr. to serve as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. Asuncion has extensive experience with regulated industries, including his current experience as a public utilities commissioner and his past experience as an integrated resource planning analyst and regulatory analyst for an electric utility. Mr. Asuncion in his capacity as the Director of the State Office of Planning served as the Co-Chair of the State Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and the Chair of the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. He is aware of the need for action to address our climate crisis through timely climate mitigation, such as achieving our 100% renewable electricity mandate. Also, as a member of the National Board of Directors for the American Planning Association, he is able to share nationally how Hawai'i is leading on our energy transformation and bring back emerging best practices and lessons learned from around the country to better inform our energy transition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS 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 ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,  
& HEALTH**

**MARCH 4, 2020  
9:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 541  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEODOLOFF ASUNCION,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026**

Chairperson Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 541, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Leodoloff Asuncion, for a term to expire 06-30-2026. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Commissioner Asuncion has over 28 years of experience in planning, policy analysis, and management throughout Hawaii and the Pacific Region, in both the public and private sectors. He has demonstrated his leadership skills in previous positions with Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., SSFM International, Inc., the Hawaii State Judiciary, and the State Land Use Commission. He has also chaired or been a member of several governmental boards, commissions, task forces and councils during his professional career; he currently serves as a member of the American Planning Association Board of Directors, and is Immediate Past Chair of the Coastal States Organization. In addition, he has served as PUC Commissioner since his interim appointment by Governor Ige in February 2019. The Department believes Mr. Asuncion will continue to excel in this role and strongly supports his nomination.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**GM 541**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the**  
**Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,**  
**LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2026.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Committee.

I **support** the appointment of **Leodoloff Asuncion** to serve on the Public Utilities Commission.

As the current commissioner of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for the past nine months, Leo has overseen the regulation, rates and fees of public utility companies operating in the State. He is an experienced and skilled leader that has held the position of Planning Program Administrator and Director in the Office of Planning. In those roles he has been responsible for the oversight of the Office of Planning from administration to operations, program management and the budget. At Hawaiian Electric Company he managed the regulatory affairs from implementation of policies to strategic direction. His urban and community planning background and his understanding of regulatory requirements, in-depth knowledge of planning, proven leadership skills and commitment to public service are noteworthy qualifications for the continued success of the Public Utilities Commission.

For these reasons, I urge his confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission.

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

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March 2, 2020

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair,  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,  
and Health

Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. No. 541 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott T. Murakami, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in strong support of Governor's Message 541, Gubernatorial Nominee, Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr., to serve as a Commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Mr. Asuncion has demonstrated that he has the leadership and experience to serve on the PUC. As a PUC Commissioner, Mr. Asuncion regulates public utility companies operating in the State by determining the allowable rate of earnings, issuing guidelines, and acting on requests for the acquisition, sale, disposition, or exchange of utility properties. Mr. Asuncion's prior work as the Director of the Office of Planning and as a Senior Regulatory Analyst at the Hawaiian Electric Company show his extensive experience and ability to address regulatory issues and develop strong management plans for organizations.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Asuncion to serve as a Commissioner on the PUC so that he may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Asuncion.



**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 2, 2020

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker  
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
*Submitted Via Capitol Website*

FROM: Rick Tsujimura

RE: **GM 541 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR., for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

**Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room: 229**

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Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

I am Rick Tsujimura and submit this testimony in favor of Leo Asuncion's nomination to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Leo for many years and have found him to be thoughtful, dedicated and objective in all that he does. In this time when the cost of living is crucial to each family, a person like Leo is essential as we brace ourselves for the future. His prior experience will stand him in good stead as major issues about renewable energy and our goal of weaning ourselves from imported fuels becomes more critical. The ability to balance these goals with affordability is crucial for Hawaii families. I know that Leo can bring that tempered and objective outlook to those discussions.

I strongly urge you and your Committee's favorable action upon his nomination.





**Testimony to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

**9:30 AM**

**Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol**

**GM 541**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee,

Hawaii Gas **supports** the confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr. for the Public Utilities Commission.

Over his distinguished career, Mr. Asuncion has demonstrated time and again his capacity to bring balance and integrity to his work. During his time at the Office of Planning, his attention to detail and his compass for balance with numerous and sometimes competing interests allowed him to shepherd through to completion multiple projects of significant importance to Hawaii's future and its residents.

While only at the PUC for a short time, his experience in energy and planning provided him the practical background to make a significant difference.

Hawaii is fortunate to have a public servant like Mr. Asuncion and we support his confirmation for his continued service as a commissioner on the state's Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



**Testimony to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
9:30 AM  
Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol**

**GM 541**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee,

HCPA **supports** the confirmation of Leo Asuncion, Jr. for the Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. Asuncion brings balance and integrity to his work. His capacity to carefully listen to and balance many perspectives makes him a fair and thoughtful public servant. He clearly cares about the issues that come before him, and he works diligently to find solutions and get things done.

His background and experience make him someone who can have a real and meaningful impact on regulatory policy in Hawaii.

We support his confirmation for his continued service as a commissioner on the state's Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



**GM-541**

Submitted on: 3/2/2020 12:29:30 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Potter	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I, Jennifer Potter, is in support of this measure to confirm Commissioner of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, for a term to expire at noon on 06-30-2026.

Leodoloff Asuncion is a strong leader that has a proven track record of continued improvement with the Department of Planning and the Public Utilities Commission. He has proven to be a strong public servant, having spent much of his career with a number of state agencies working to provide guidance and leadership. He has proven to be an effective leader at the PUC and the department will be better with him serving as Commissioner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 4, 2020

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker  
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
*Submitted Via Capitol Website*

FROM: Luis P. Salaveria

RE: **GM 541 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR., for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

**Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Conference Room: 229**

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Thank you Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of the nomination of Leodoloff “Leo” Asuncion to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

My name is Luis Salaveria and I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Asuncion in both a personal and professional capacity over the last 25 years. I have always known him to be a person of high integrity, intelligence, and work ethic. Leo has served in both the private and public sectors throughout his career. He has worked as a planning professional for over 25 years, serving with much distinction and respect. He has worked in many areas during his professional career ranging from the Land Use Commission, Hawaiian Electric Company, and the Office of State Planning to name a few. Serving in these numerous capacities have bestowed on him the necessary qualities to be a great commissioner of the PUC. Leo has also held leadership positions in the professional planning community for many years and is currently the President-Elect of the American Planning Association.

As the Director of the Office of State Planning, Leo represented the interest of many constituents and points-of-view. He always presented his work in a collaborative and inclusive manner. The work Leo performed as Co-chair of the Climate Commission was balanced and thoughtful. In reviewing many of the initiatives and policy points during his tenure, Leo was steadfast in his commitment to ensuring that the commission would be mindful of the cost and benefits of any state policy or action. These traits will serve the State very well in his role as a PUC Commissioner. Mr. Asuncion is currently serving as a commissioner on the PUC and has shown the ability and desire to make sound judgements for the good of all ratepayers. It would be a great service to the State for him to continue to serve in this capacity. For these reasons I respectfully ask you confirm Leo Asuncion for a 6-year term as commissioner on the PUC.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on  
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020

Wednesday, March 4, 2019  
9:30 a.m.

Testimony on **Governor's Message No. 541**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Leodoloff (Leo) R. Asuncion, Jr.**, for a Term to Expire on June 30, 2026.

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, the Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Leo Asuncion to serve as Commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), for a term to expire on June 30, 2026.

I have worked with Leo Asuncion in different capacities since around 2005 as he and I have held different positions over the years. Throughout that period, including Mr. Asuncion's time with the PUC and as the Director of the Office of Planning, I have had the opportunity to closely observe his work and found him to be competent and interested in serving the public interest. In addition, I believe he is hard-working, detail-oriented, collaborative, and will continue to be a wonderful complement to the existing members and team at the PUC.

I firmly believe Mr. Asuncion will continue to be a valued and highly productive member of the Commission, and respectfully request that you recommend approval of his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to support G.M. No. 541. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.

TESTIMONY OF  
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

March 4, 2020  
9:30 a.m.

**MEASURE:** GM 541

**TITLE:** Governor's Message Number 541.

**DESCRIPTION:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR., for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

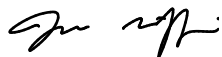
Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr. to the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC" or "Commission"). Since May 2019, Mr. Asuncion has served on the PUC and been a highly professional and productive member of our Commission. His extensive background in land use and utility planning has been an asset in many matters and he often helps our staff better understand the background and history of issues we consider. With Mr. Asuncion's prior experience and professional training, he is well qualified to serve on the PUC and has demonstrated this in his service to date.

In my personal interactions with the nominee, he is highly motivated by public service and understands the critical role of the Commission. For these reasons, I encourage your committee to consider his nomination favorably.

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

Sincerely,



James P. Griffin, Ph.D.  
Chair, Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

TESTIMONY OF SARA LIN  
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND  
HEALTH  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020, 9:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

**GM541**

**LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR., GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PUBLIC UTILITIES  
COMMISSION**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Committee:

I am testifying as an individual and in **strong support** of the nomination of Mr. Leo Asuncion to serve as a commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission. I have known Mr. Asuncion, both professionally and personally, for four years, and have had the opportunity to work with him when he was Director of the Office of Planning and most recently as a PUC Commissioner. Mr. Asuncion is a truly dedicated public servant who brings nothing but professionalism to his work. In addition to his strategic thinking and deep knowledge on a wide breadth of subjects, Mr. Asuncion brings a positive, can-do attitude that inspires his staff and others around him. He is a positive force for change in Hawaii and the government is fortunate to have him.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Mr. Asuncion as a commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM541.

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**  
**Wednesday, March 4, 2020**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:**  
**GM 541, RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF LEODOLOFF ASUNCION**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Nishina and I support the nomination of Leodoloff Asuncion to serve as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), for the term to expire June 30, 2026.

During my tenure with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy, I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Asuncion in different capacities, both before his current appointment to serve as a Public Utilities Commissioner and after, and I believe that Mr. Asuncion has demonstrated how his work experience and ethics have brought value that serves the Commission and the State of Hawaii well.

My first experience with Mr. Asuncion was when he was a Hawaiian Electric analyst and during Docket No. 2009-0108, which was the Commission's investigation seeking to update the Integrated Resources Planning framework, Mr. Asuncion provided valuable support to the process, where he put in significant work to help the various parties to that proceeding understand the differences in their respective positions on the framework.

I was also able to observe Mr. Asuncion's valuable contribution while he was with the Office of Planning, where he demonstrated a balanced demeanor in terms of approaching issues; Mr. Asuncion sought to understand the issues well so that he could more effectively consider alternatives to possible solutions.

Most recently, as a Public Utilities Commissioner, I have been able to observe and interact with him during various proceedings and he has demonstrated the above observed characteristics and more that clearly support a finding that he is well placed to continue serving as a Commissioner. Mr. Asuncion engages with different parties with an intent to understand their respective positions and, with his balanced approach, even disposition, and calm demeanor, Mr. Asuncion has been serving Hawaii well as the third



Public Utilities Commissioner. I continue to believe that Mr. Asuncion's personality, experience, and knowledge of the subject matter are key attributes that have allowed him to work with the other Commissioners and the parties appearing before the Commission in seeking solutions to many of the contentious issues that are before the Commission. I believe that allowing Mr. Asuncion to continue to serve as a Commissioner would not only be an affirmation of the earlier decision to confirm him as a commissioner but would allow him to continue to provide valuable contributions that are needed at Hawaii Public Utilities Commission to allow them to address the many important issues that are before the Commission.

I, in my individual capacity, respectfully offer my support for the confirmation of Leodoloff Asuncion as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**GM-541**

Submitted on: 3/2/2020 7:45:13 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Kaneko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

My name is William M. Kaneko, and I am a licensed attorney in Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of Leo Asuncion's nomination to the Public Utilities Commission. I have known Leo for about twenty years, and have dealt with Leo in both community and professional capacities. Leo's extensive background in both State government and with Hawaiian Electric Company will enable him to serve well on the PUC. His knowledge of Hawaii's energy, transportation and planning needs, challenges and opportunities will provide keen insight and understanding to address various dockets before the Commission.

In particular, as Director of the Office of Planning, Leo is keenly aware of the long-term vision and plans for Hawaii. Energy, telecommunications and marine transportation play an essential part in the State's future, and Leo's perspectives and understanding of the overall State plan will be important for the PUC to consider.

Also, Leo is thoughtful, intelligent and collaborative. His approach to public policy and his perspectives on the role that government plays in society will benefit the Commission. I urge the Committee to support Leo's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. KANEKO

## **Testimony Re: GM 541**

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
From: Randy Iwase, Former Chair, Public Utilities Commission  
Re: Testimony in Support of GM 541

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Please permit me to take this means to submit testimony in **STRONG** support of the nomination of Leodoloff Asuncion as commissioner to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Mr. Asunción's experience in both the private and public sectors, and his present role as a PUC commissioner makes him uniquely qualified to continue his role as commissioner.

The PUC is facing difficult but exciting challenges ahead. In addition to its regulatory oversight of a variety of utilities (e.g. motor carriers/water carriers, telecommunications and enforcement activities), the PUC is also tasked with helping to shape our energy policies and to meet the statutory mandate of 100% renewable energy by the year 2045. With his past experience in the utility industry, as Director of the Office of State Planning, and as a current PUC commissioner, Mr. Asuncion has been and will continue to be a valuable member of the PUC in its drive to meet that important goal.

I respectfully ask that this Committee approve the nomination of Mr. Asuncion.

Thank you.

**Sandra-Ann Y.H. Wong**  
*Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation*

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, Health  
Testimony in Support of GM 541: Gubernatorial Nominee, Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr.  
to the Public Utilities Commission  
being heard on March 4, 2020 at 9:30a.m. in Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

I am an attorney that has practiced before the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) for the last 28 years. I support the confirmation of Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr. as a Commissioner to the PUC.

Prior to his serving on the PUC this past year, I had the honor and pleasure to work with Mr. Asuncion during his tenure at the Hawaiian Electric Company and at the State Office of Planning. During this experience I found Mr. Asuncion to be fair, a hard worker, and person who did his homework on the issues before him. Moreover, and most importantly, Mr. Asuncion has integrity and the courage to make the right decisions, even when those decisions may not be popular.

Many of us may not realize this, but the PUC plays a major role in the lives of everyone in Hawaii. They regulate our public water and wastewater systems, motor carriers, telecommunications and electrical utilities. Their role is even more important today as the State of Hawaii is thriving to meet its goal of a 100% renewable energy future and at the same time ensuring that the reliability of our electrical systems are not put at risk and that ratepayers are charged a just and reasonable rate. In my humble opinion, Mr. Asuncion, as a member of the PUC, can greatly assist our community in accomplishing these important goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Asuncion’s nomination.

March 4, 2020

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

**GOV. MSG. NO. 541**

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR.  
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

TESTIMONY  
OF  
CARLITO P. CALIBOSO

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, in **support** of the confirmation of LEODOLOFF (“LEO”) ASUNCION, JR., to the Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”).

Mr. Asuncion’s expertise and experience in working with electric public utilities in Hawaii in integrated resource planning and other matters, along with his experience with the Office of State Planning, will make him a valuable resource and asset to the Commission.

Since Mr. Asuncion joined the Commission in May of 2019, I have found Mr. Asuncion to be very diligent, conscientious, energetic, hardworking and of high integrity.

Accordingly, I urge your favorable consideration of Mr. Asuncion’s appointment to the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlito P. Caliboso', written in a cursive style.

Carlito P. Caliboso

## **Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health**

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair      Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Wednesday, March 4, 2020    9:30am    Conference Room 229

### **GM 541**

Testimony in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Leodoloff Asuncion Jr., for confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health. My name is Charles Toguchi and I am providing written testimony in strong support of Leo Asuncion's nomination to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Leo Asuncion for many years. With his present role as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission and his former roles as Director of the Office of Planning and Senior Regulatory Analyst at HECO, Leo Asuncion is uniquely qualified to be a commissioner of the PUC. He has a wealth of work experience...knowledge...and an extensive planning background that will provide the necessary skills and foundation to guide and support the Public Utilities Commission.

In my interaction with Leo Asuncion, he has always impressed me as a person of high integrity and dedication to his profession. He is skilled at identifying and solving problems, is results driven, and has excellent organizational, time management and team building skills. Leadership is action...and Leo Asuncion has proven with his tireless energy...forward thinking vision...that he can get the job done ....and done well.

Without any reservations, I strongly urge your favorable consideration and confirmation of Leodoloff Asuncion Jr. to the Public Utilities Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this written testimony.

Aloha,  
Charles T. Toguchi

TESTIMONY OF CYD MIYASHIRO  
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020, 9:30 A.M  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

GOV. MSG NO. 541

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR., FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Committee. I am testifying as an individual and in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Mr. Leo Asuncion's confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Mr. Asuncion, both professionally and personally for almost 10 years, and have had the opportunity to work with him during my tenure with the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority and Hawaii Broadband Initiative, and serving on the Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development. His ability to grasp complex issues, consider multiple stakeholder perspectives and think strategically about long term objectives have always been his strengths, and he consistently demonstrates the highest level of integrity and professionalism. Mr. Asuncion has gained my trust as someone that will always uphold the highest levels of leadership, and there is no question that he will greatly contribute to the Public Utilities Commission.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to support the nomination of Mr. Leo Asuncion, and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 541.

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
Conference Room 229; 9:30 a.m.

RE: GM 541 – Testimony in support of the nomination of Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr.

My name is Jeffrey T. Ono. Currently, I am a partner in the law firm Watanabe Ing LLP. From January 2011 to August 2016, I served as the Consumer Advocate, Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs, State of Hawaii.

I am submitting this testimony in support of the nomination of Mr. Leo Asuncion to a full term as a commissioner to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I first met Mr. Asuncion when I was the Consumer Advocate and he was the administrator at the Office of Planning, Department of Business Economics Development & Tourism (DBEDT), State of Hawaii. We first worked on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement that was undertaken by the United States Department of Energy. It was during this process that it became clear that Mr. Asuncion had specialized knowledge of Hawaii's electrical system, because of his former employment at Hawaiian Electric, and in particular, his work on HECO's Integrated Resource Planning docket.

The next opportunity that I had to work with Mr. Asuncion came during the NextEra/HECO change of control proceeding before the PUC, in which the Office of Planning was allowed to participate as an intervening party. Mr. Asuncion effectively led the Office of Planning's aggressive opposition to the proposed merger by submitting strong and persuasive testimony as OP's policy witness and retaining a nationally renowned expert in utility regulation and mergers, Scott Hempling.

In the past year since Mr. Asuncion was appointed to fill the remaining term of retiring PUC chair Randy Iwase, I appeared before the Commission and Mr. Asuncion on a number of occasions. At each of these occasions, Mr. Asuncion was well-prepared, asked good insightful questions, and at all times exhibited an appropriately judicial temperament.

In summary, Mr. Asuncion is well-qualified to continue on in his service to the state of Hawaii as a PUC commissioner. His background in electricity, work ethic, intelligence, leadership ability, and judicial temperament make him uniquely qualified to be a commissioner. It is without hesitation that I strongly support Mr. Leo Asuncion's nomination to continue his service as a commissioner on the PUC.

The following is my contact information:

Phone number: (808)554-9903

E-mail address: jeffreyono@gmail.com



March 3, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Writer's Direct Dial: (808) 540-4501  
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Re: **GM 541 – Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr., Gubernatorial Nominee as  
Commissioner for the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission**

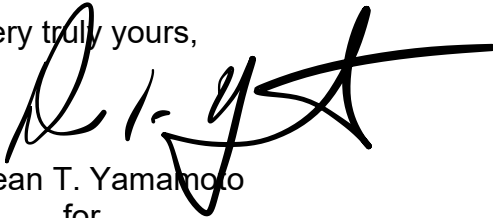
Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health in support of GM 541, the confirmation of the nomination of Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr. as Commissioner of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"). I am an attorney in private practice and my practice includes the representation of various energy, telecommunications, water, sewer and transportation companies in regulatory, finance and commercial matters.

I have known Mr. Asuncion for several years, first meeting him when he was with the Office of Planning. While he was with the Office of Planning and since he joined the Commission in May, 2019, I have found Mr. Asuncion to be diligent, hardworking, and conscientious in his efforts. I have observed and experienced that he conducts himself with the highest degree of honor and integrity. Mr. Asuncion's background as a planner provides him with the appropriate skill set to tackle the very complex issues that confront the Commission.

For the foregoing reasons and more, I urge this Committee to confirm Mr. Asuncion's appointment to the Commission.

Very truly yours,



Dean T. Yamamoto  
for

**YAMAMOTO CALIBOSO**  
A Limited Liability Law Company

Senator Roslyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Testimony of Robbie Alm  
165 Waokanaka Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Re: Governor's Message 541  
Nomination of Leodoloff Asuncion, Jr.  
Public Utilities Commission

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the confirmation of Leo Asuncion to continue as a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Leo brings a strong record of experience to this position. He has a strong academic background, he has significant planning experience, and he very specifically has strong regulatory experience that he can bring to this work.

He worked at Hawaiian Electric in the regulatory affairs area which is not only had responsibility for the position of the electric company, but also had to translate for the company the positions of all the parties in the case including the Consumer Advocate and the Commission itself in terms of its past decisions.

He then went on to the among other positions, the Office of State Planning which has played a strong role in the position of the State on key energy and other regulatory matters.

Leo is thoughtful, intuitive and a great learner. He takes the time to fully understand what is involved in any issue or case and helps to find the best outcome for the people of Hawaii.

He is already an excellent member of the PUC and I urge you to confirm him for a full term.

**From:** [Lhakiba](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM541- Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Leo Asuncion  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 9:56:07 AM

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Dear Senator Baker and members of the Senate CPH Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Leo Asuncion for a term as commissioner on the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission commencing on July 1, 2020 and ending on 6/31/26.

As a sitting commissioner, Commissioner Asuncion's recognized skills and professional experience has provided added value to the commission. He has demonstrated his diligence and commitment to addressing many of the complex and challenging utility sector issues and challenges facing Hawaii.

I urge your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on GM541.

Very truly yours,  
Lorraine H. Akiba

Lorraine H. Akiba  
President/CEO  
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**GM-541**

Submitted on: 3/1/2020 1:30:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY OF GERALD A. SUMIDA, ESQ.  
CARLSMITH BALL LLP  
BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
THE SENATE  
ON GM 541  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
LEODOLOFF ASUNCION, JR, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am Gerald A. Sumida, a partner of the Hawai'i-based law firm of Carlsmith Ball LLP, and I am very pleased to present this testimony in very strong support of the confirmation of Leodoloff R. Asuncion, Jr. to the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Hawai'i.

I became familiar with Leo when he was the Director, Office of Planning, State of Hawai'i, and interacted with him on various statewide planning and energy planning and development matters. His career spans over 28 years of extensive experience in planning, policy analysis and management in the State of Hawai'i as part of the State government. He also has an extensive private sector experience in planning and development with SSFM International, Inc. as well as planning within the energy sector through his work with Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., including work on its integrated resource planning efforts aimed at focusing the strategic outlook of the Hawaiian Electric Companies.

As such, he brings not only a broad and deep background in public policy and strategic planning skills and perspectives, but also an appreciation of what is required to transform the planning process into the development of strategic programs and their implementation. This is especially critical in the extensive work that the Public Utilities Commission is currently engaged in overseeing the continuing evolution of Hawai'i's regulated industries and their integral roles in Hawai'i's economy. These regulated industries include, among others, ground and water transportation, including passengers and goods; telecommunications; energy and power; and irrigation and wastewater facilities.

Of special interest where Leo's past experience and expertise are especially relevant are the Public Utilities Commission's innovative and extensive initiatives in the energy areas, not only in the regulation of electric utilities, but also in the attainment of Hawai'i's Clean Energy Goals, the development of distributed energy resources, the expanding development and integration of renewable energy resources into the electric utilities' grid systems on all of the Hawaiian Islands, the transformation of the electric utilities' business model into a model based on the "utility of the future", the extension of competition and competitive procurement in the generation and supply of energy resources and services, and the overall efforts to reduce energy costs and to enhance the resiliency of Hawai'i's energy infrastructure in the face of projected future extreme weather conditions.

The Public Utilities Commission has been identifying and pursuing these initiatives under its present leadership, of which Leo has been a part since February 2019. His experience, background and capabilities complement and enhance the collective capabilities of the Commission's members, and is allowing the Commission to pursue initiatives that not only strengthen Hawai'i but have also brought national and international recognition of Hawai'i's efforts in transforming its energy ecosystem.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge that Leo Asuncion, Jr. be confirmed for a term on the Public Utilities Commission to expire on June 30, 2026.

Thanks you for your favorable consideration in this matter.

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