



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

G.M. NO. 663, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE UNIFORM LEGISLATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LANI EWART, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021      **TIME:** 9:45 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Via Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):**      **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**  
(For more information, contact Jill T. Nagamine,  
Deputy Attorney General, at 586-1276)

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Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General supports the reappointment of Lani Ewart to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation ("CPUL") of the Department of the Attorney General.

The CPUL is advisory to the Attorney General and to the Legislature on matters pertaining to uniform legislation. Members of this state commission are Hawaii's representatives to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which is also referred to as the "Uniform Law Commission." Lani Ewart is an attorney at law who has steadfastly and with distinction served on the CPUL continuously since 1977. She currently serves as the Chair of the CPUL and has regularly attended and actively participated in the meetings of the CPUL.

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws requires that each appointed commissioner be a lawyer licensed to practice law and that each commissioner personally attend and participate in the annual meeting of the National Conference. Commissioner Ewart has regularly attended and participated in the annual meetings, even when the amount of appropriated moneys available was insufficient to reimburse her fully for her travel expenses. In recognition of her dedicated service to the promotion of uniform laws, Commissioner Ewart was elected in 1998 to Life

Membership in the National Conference. To become a Life Member, a commissioner must serve the National Conference in the voluntary drafting and review of uniform laws for at least twenty years, must be recommended by the National Conference's Executive Committee, and must be elected by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the commissioners present and voting at the session at which the recommendation is made. Lani Ewart was the first woman commissioner to be elected to Life Membership in the then 106-year history of the National Conference.

In 2019-2020, Commissioner Ewart did not formally serve on any ULC committees. Nonetheless, she attended meetings by means of interactive conference technology, including a Hawaii Legislative Planning Session with ULC staff and the Hawaii commissioners, an informal meeting of the Drafting Committee on Easement Relocation Act, all four sessions of the 2020 Annual ULC Meeting, an informal meeting of the Drafting Committee on Community Property Rights at Death Act, the first reading of the Community Property Rights at Death Act, and the first reading of the Common Interest Ownership Act.

Chair Ewart reviewed the testimony of commissioners submitted during the 2020 Legislative Session relating to the Uniform Employee and Student Online Privacy Protections Act and the Revised Law on Notarial Acts, and followed up with comments regarding the Acts and the questions raised during the legislative hearings and from interested persons. During the year, she also responded to questions by phone and email regarding various uniform acts and laws.

In view of her demonstrated commitment to the promotion of uniform legislation and her continuing and significant participation in the activities of the National Conference and of the CPUL, the continued service of Lani Ewart as a member of the CPUL and of the National Conference will be greatly beneficial to the State of Hawaii and the National Conference. Consequently, the Attorney General respectfully requests that this Committee recommend the confirmation of the reappointment of Lani Ewart to the CPUL.

**GM-663**

Submitted on: 3/7/2021 3:35:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/10/2021 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Lani Ewart's nomination to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation. Having served with Lani on this Commission, I know that she is intelligent, hard working, thorough, easy to work with, and provides great leadership for our Commission. Lani brings a wealth of expertise to the Commission and I urge her confirmation as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Kent

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

**Governor's Message No. 663**

March 7, 2021

Confirmation of Lani Ewart to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation

Presented to the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Thirty First State Legislature, Regular Session of 2021  
Hearing date: Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 9:45 a.m. Via Video Conference.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary. Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of G.M. No. 663 appointing Lani Ewart to a term on the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (CPUL) to expire on June 30, 2025.

My name is Ken Takayama, and I had the pleasure of serving with Ms. Ewart as a member of the CPUL for twenty-four years from 1995 to 2019.

I can say without reservation or doubt that she has been and still is a hard working , conscientious, and dedicated member of our commission. She has served as the Chair of the commission for a number of years, and within the national organization of the Uniform Law Commission, has been a respected and well regarded commissioner for many years. Her intellectual acumen and personable demeanor make her highly effective in accomplishing the goals of both the state commission as well as the national Uniform Law Commission—not the least of which is the development of well thought out, and useful. proposals for consideration and ideally, enactment by Legislatures in all states.

She is everything that this state and her fellow commissioners would want in a commissioner. and I urge your support for a highly qualified and devoted volunteer commissioner.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

Ken H. Takayama  
Former Commissioner  
Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation

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March 8, 2021

Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
The Senate  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: GM No. 663 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LANI EWART, for a term to expire 6-30-2025

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

I would like to express my strong support for the nomination of LANI EWART, GM No. 663, to continue to serve as a member of the State of Hawai'i Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation ("Commission").

I have served with Commissioner Ewart on the Commission since 2005 and had the opportunity to observe her strong commitment to representing the State of Hawai'i as the Chair of the Hawai'i Commission. Chair Ewart has been actively involved at the national level, previously serving on the Executive Committee of the Uniform Law Commission, as well as a Division Chair and as a member of numerous drafting committees. In addition, Chair Ewart has been actively engaged during consideration of uniform laws by the Hawai'i Legislature, and in providing leadership to the Hawai'i Commission.

For the foregoing reasons, I hope that you will favorably consider Chair Ewart's nomination for reappointment to the Commission.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Peter J. Hamasaki