



# HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

March 30, 2021  
Videoconference, 9:45 a.m.

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: William D. Hoshijo, Executive Director, Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission  
Robin Wurtzel, Chief Counsel, Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

## G.M. No. 713

G.M. No. 713 submits the nomination of William Puette to the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC), for Senate consideration and confirmation. If confirmed, this would be Commissioner Puette’s second term.

The HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

The statutory qualifications for HCRC Commissioners are laid out in HRS § 368-2(a): “The members appointed to the commission shall be selected on the basis of their knowledge and experience in civil rights matters and on the basis of a demonstrated commitment to the preservation of the civil rights of all individuals.”

HCRC staff are appreciative of the contributions William Puette has made as an HCRC Commissioner for the since 2019, and his willingness to continue to serve. Mr. Puette brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Commission, and an impressive record of demonstrated commitment to civil rights for Hawai‘i’s people. His background in labor education and as a professional parliamentarian have added valuable perspective to the work of the Commission, and we welcome the opportunity to work with Mr. Puette for another term.

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 5:00:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I strongly support Dr. William Puette to be a member of the Civil Rights Commission. I have had the pleasure to work with Dr. Puette on various Committees. He is always professional and provides factual information. He will definitely be an asset to the Civil Rights Commission.

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 3/26/2021 10:02:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lorna Takehara Strand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As Chair of O`ahu County Democrats, I have worked for the past 2 years with Dr. William Puette who graciously volunteered to be the O`ahu County Council of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i's Parliamentarian, a position he has held for several administrations. His ability to methodically and efficiently analyze complex issues based on the rule of law is remarkable, as his commitment to maintaining ethical, fair practices at every turn. I strongly recommend confirmation of Dr. William Puette for an appointment to the Civil Rights Commission for a term to expire 6/30/25.

Lorna Takehara Strand



**LATE**

March 30, 2021

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

Dear Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Keohokalole,

I write to express my **strong support for GM 713**, the nomination of Dr. William Puette to the Civil Rights Commission.

The members of the Civil Rights Commission are tasked with receiving, investigating, and conciliating complaints alleging any unlawful discriminatory practices; holding hearings and inquiries into the same; and ordering appropriate legal and equitable relief when a violation is found.

Currently, Dr. Puette serves as the Parliamentarian for the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, a position he has held for many years. He is also a faculty member at UH West O'ahu's Center for Labor Education & Research. He has always been thoughtful, has always tried to seek out as much information as possible before making a decision, and has earned the respect of each of our members in their interactions with him.

I have no doubt that he would carry out his duties as a Civil Rights Commissioner with the same degree of thoughtfulness, thoroughness, care, and respect as he always shows in his professional and personal endeavors. I am proud to support his nomination.

With Aloha,

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Chair  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
tyler@hawaiidemocrats.org  
(808) 348-8885



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**LATE**

Telephone: (808) 597-1441  
Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Hawai'i State Senate  
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by  
Hawai'i State AFL-CIO  
March 30, 2021

G.M. 713 – SUBMITTING FOR  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM  
PUETTE

The Hawai'i State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 74 affiliate local unions and councils with over 68,000 members across both public and private sectors. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of the confirmation of the gubernatorial nominee, Dr. William Puette to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC).

The principles of fairness and equity permeate Dr. Puette's work at the Center for Labor Education and Research at the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu and as a Registered Parliamentarian®. These same qualities lend to his dispute resolution style, making him an outstanding candidate whose depth of knowledge and broad experience makes him uniquely and very well-suited to serving on the HCRC.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony in strong support of G.M. 713.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
President



**LATE**

**THE SENATE  
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021**

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 9:45 AM  
Via Videoconference

**Re: Testimony in Support of GM713 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM PUETTE, for a term to expire 6/30/2025.**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW **supports** GM713, the nomination of Dr. William Puette for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission. In his capacity as the Director of the Center for Labor Education and Research at the University of Hawaii – West Oahu, Mr. Puette has provided a number of classes to UPW members and staff regarding labor education, research and labor-related programs. Having served on the Civil Rights Commission since 2019, UPW believes that Dr. Puette is more than qualified to continue to serve on the commission and supports his nomination for reappointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**LATE**

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 5:37:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/30/2021 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization, fully supports GM 713.

Dr. William Puette will be a great addition to the Civil Rights Commission.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.

Chair

LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

**LATE**



March 29, 2021

Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

Re: GM 713

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM PUETTE, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Position: Support

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Judiciary for the opportunity to express my support of the nominee, William Puette, for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission.

In my work with Dr. Puette and also as a student of his, I have found him to be one of the most balanced and objective thinkers of our time. With his extensive knowledge of Hawai'i's unique historical background, Robert's Rules of Order, and his commitment to civility, equity, and progress, I believe Dr. Puette to be an outstanding candidate for this position.

Mahalo for your kind consideration,

Erynn Fernandez  
Executive Director, Democratic Party of Hawai'i

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

PO Box 2041 • Honolulu, HI 96805 • (808) 596-2980 • [www.hawaiidemocrats.org](http://www.hawaiidemocrats.org)



**LATE**

**GM 713: Testimony in Support of the Consideration and Confirmation of  
Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM PUETTE, to the Civil Rights  
Commission**

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Confirmation of nominee William Puette to the Civil Rights Commission (Governor's  
Message No. 713)

Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am pleased to express my strong support, as an individual, for the confirmation of  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Dr. William Puette, to the Civil Rights Commission. As Dr. Puette's  
direct supervisor for almost five years, I am intimately aware of the special knowledge, skills,  
and experience he possesses that would serve the Commission well in its commitment to protect  
civil rights.

Dr. Puette is a State treasure who possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of parliamentary  
procedure. As a skilled parliamentarian, he is very experienced in protecting the rights of  
individuals in organizations through Robert's Rules of Order. I have witnessed his expertise,  
firsthand, at Faculty Senate meetings at UH West O'ahu, where he served as the body's  
parliamentarian. Faculty leaders looked to him for direction on how to handle every issue that  
emerges in their proceedings. Our faculty relied on the wisdom of his experience to guide them  
in the proper protocol aimed at preserving faculty rights in the variety of matters that challenged  
them.

Dr. Puette's service at the University of Hawai'i spans over forty years. In his illustrious career,  
he has distinguished himself as an expert on organized labor, Hawai'i labor history, arbitrations,  
and, most notably, parliamentary procedure. His knowledge and experience in these areas,  
dedicated to matters of civil rights, are a testament to his commitment to protect the rights of all  
individuals.

In our day-to-day interactions, I have found Dr. Puette to be a man of good character with a  
strong sense of integrity. He is a staunch advocate for justice who I can trust to lead campus  
committees with honor and fairness.

Based on Dr. Puette's knowledge, skills, experience, and integrity, I strongly support your  
consideration and confirmation of his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my  
testimony.

Jeffrey A.S. Moniz, PhD

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UH West O‘ahu