



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Higher Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 6, 2021

G.M. 717 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE HAWAII COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ELWYN WATKINS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Elwyn Watkins to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

Ms. Watkins earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and currently serves as the Building and Security Systems Engineer at the John A. Burns School of Medicine where he ensures the security services of the campus facilities. He has diligently represented our Unit 08 members since 2006 in a variety of leadership roles including as a Director on our Executive Board, Chairperson of the Committees on Recreation and Community Action, and as Chair of the Manoa Agency Council. Mr. Watkins' work experience in government service along with his deep-rooted involvement in various leadership positions make him an ideal candidate to serve on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service whose goal is to foster volunteerism and community service throughout our state.

We firmly believe that Mr. Watkins will live up to the AmeriCorps Hawa'i motto to "serve Hawai'i with Aloha." It is for these reasons that we offer our unequivocal support for the appointment of Mr. Elwyn Watkins to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. Your favorable consideration of his nomination is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

GM-717

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 6:10:16 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/6/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Mayekawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of Elwyn Watkins to serve on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. He is a conscientious and fair individual who would be an asset as a commissioner. I have been a steward with Mr. Watkins for eight years, where he provided his experience and knowledge openly and willingly as I learned about being a steward. We have served on the Board of Directors for Unit 08 together and I have witnessed him in several different leadership positions within the union. He is generous and thoughtful but rigorous, paying attention to detail and recognizing the importance of institutional knowledge. At the same time, he is forward-thinking and envisions pathways to improve access and service. He exemplifies volunteer service and I have no doubt he will continue to do so in this capacity.

GM-717

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 7:55:06 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/6/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlton Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! I humbly offer my support for the nomination of Elwyn Watkins for to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I have known and worked with Elwyn since the mid 1990's and can say that he will be a valuable asset to this committee. He is active with HGEA and is avoice my support for Elwyn's nomination.

GM-717

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 9:19:58 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/6/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristi Miyamae	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee;

I am writing in support for consideration of Elwyn Watkins to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I have known Elywn for over 10 years and have had the pleasure of working along side him on similar union functions. He has the passion and ability to collaborate with others and be a forward thinker and problem solver. He is organized and promotes community involvement from others. He has the skill set needed to increase community awareness while working together with other agencies.

Please favorably consider Elwyn Watkins to this commission.

Thank you,

Kristi Miyamae

GM-717

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 11:12:51 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/6/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pomai Uchibori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the nomination of Elwyn Watkins for the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I have known Elwyn for at least 10 years. I have worked with him at the University of Hawaii at Manoa - John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and served on the Hawaii Governmental Employees Association (HGEA) Unit 8 as a representative. Elwyn has been a mentor to me as a fellow HGEA unit board member. It is his volunteerism, conscientiousness of educating others and the belief in doing the right thing for everyone that I believe he will bring to this commission.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Conference Room 229
Thursday, April 6, 2021
by Brandon Marc Higa

**Testimony in Support
Confirmation of Mr. Elwyn Watkins to the Hawai‘i Commission for National and
Community Service (GM717) for a term ending June 30, 2021
and (GM718) subsequent term ending June 30, 2025**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Esteemed Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of GM717 regarding Mr. Elwyn Watkins’ appointment to serve on the Hawai‘i Commission for National and Community Service**. Elwyn embodies a commitment to community service and volunteerism through his work at the University of Hawai‘i and is a stellar candidate given his background in public safety services at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. During my prior service on the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents, I was impressed by Elwyn’s commitment to his volunteer endeavors as he faithfully attended Board meetings, even those taking place on neighbor islands and outside of Honolulu. Elwyn’s prior volunteer work has provided him the opportunity to work with colleagues and constituents throughout the State of Hawai‘i. I wholeheartedly support his nomination and urge you to vote “yes” at his confirmation hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Marc Higa