

1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Real Estate Commission?

The Real Estate Commission has a vital role in our community in implementing the laws applicable to the real estate industry including licensing, education, discipline, duties and responsibilities in protecting the public. Serving on the commission would be a rewarding opportunity to apply my diverse knowledge and background, and to hopefully help others in this important industry, both professionally and in the community.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Real Estate Commission?

As a member of the Real Estate Commission, it would be essential to have an understanding of the laws, rules and regulations involved as they relate to real estate professionals and the industry, and to promulgate and to enforce accordingly. These includes education and licensing of agents, protecting the public, and communicating and providing awareness and information in areas of concern.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Real Estate Commission member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I have grown up in the State of Hawaii in the real estate industry, starting with our family building construction company which included property management. I've been a licensed real estate sales agent since college, working as a paralegal, and then obtaining my CPA, real estate appraiser and broker license.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I have seen a lot of accomplishments in the real estate industry over the years, whether in contracts, disclosure requirements, education, ethics etc. The industry is constantly changing and evolving. My goal is to help set the bar at the highest possible standards for the State of Hawaii in the real estate industry.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Real Estate Commission.

I'm a dedicated and focused, fair and objective individual. Research and analysis of relevant details and to communicate pertinent information in a universal and understandable format. My diversified background and experience in real estate.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Real Estate Commission member.

Through my appraisal, CPA and real estate experiences, I observed the pride of ownership and the sacrifices it takes to own a home, especially in the State of Hawaii. And stressing the importance of licensed agents to have high standards of responsibilities in how they conduct their real estate transactions.

GM761
Audrey Abe
Real Estate Commission

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Real Estate Commission? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise at this time. If there was any possibility of this, I would make the necessary disclosure if needed, and contact the proper authority(s) to advise if necessary.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9, 2021
9:20 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 761, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE REAL ESTATE COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, AUDREY ABE,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the appointment of Ms. Audrey Abe to the Real Estate Commission (Commission) as a licensee member.

Ms. Abe has been licensed as a real estate broker since November 12, 2020, and her license is current, valid, and in good standing. Since 1992, she has owned Abe Consulting Group LLC, which provides consulting services for real estate purchases. As a certified general appraiser, Ms. Abe has also performed real estate appraisals for 29 years and assisted such clients as the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the federal government, and major lending institutions.

Ms. Abe is also licensed as a certified public accountant. She currently serves as a member of the Aloha Stadium Authority Board (term ending June 30, 2021) and previously served on other state boards.

Ms. Abe's professional experience and varied expertise will offer a meaningful perspective to the Commission. In addition, her commitment to actively participate in commission meetings will greatly enhance the Commission's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Date: March 29, 2021

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

From: Donna Kwock

Re: GM761 consideration and confirmation of Audrey Abe to the Real Estate
Commission

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Members of the Committee:

I am honored to affirm my support for Audrey Abe's consideration for the State of Hawaii Real Estate Commission.

I met Audrey and her late husband in 1993 as our daughters began Kindergarten together and we have remained close personal friends ever since. As a dedicated sole proprietor of a Real Estate Appraisal company, Audrey was a very involved parent. Besides being "my daughter's friend's mother" who willingly assisted with transportation help and as a sleepover host for our daughters, to this day, Audrey has stood out among others as a true friend to me. No matter how busy she is or what other activities, boards or committees Audrey is involved with, she always makes time for me and her sincerity and genuineness is omnipresent.

In 2012, Audrey assisted my husband and me with a solar installation through her company, AA Solar. We were extremely satisfied with the work provided by Audrey and her company. Audrey proved to be a consummate professional and she made herself available to us for questions at all hours in addition to many on-site meetings to make sure the work was done to her satisfaction. As a CPA, Audrey has great financial acumen, with attention to detail and no cutting of corners. Audrey also addressed our concerns immediately and thoroughly. Our satisfaction was important to her, which really made us feel valued.

I am happy to attest that Audrey has proven to be ethically upright in all of her dealings as I have dealt with her both socially and in business. Above all, Audrey has a kind and caring heart and her intentions to help others and our community are evident and admirable. I have ultimate trust and respect for Audrey and recommend her appointment without reservation.

Donna Kwock
dkwock@yahoo.com

Date: March 26, 2021

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

From: Reid Nakamura, attorney

Re: GM761 consideration and confirmation of Audrey Abe to the Real Estate
Commission

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Members of the Committee:

I am an attorney practicing real property and trust law for the past forty years and have worked with Audrey Abe for the past ten years in the areas of real property law, appraisals and real estate consulting, among other areas. Audrey is a careful but quick study in analyzing complex real property and estate problems and framing the direction and solution to resolving difficult considerations. Audrey does her homework and is always prepared to not only ask the right questions but design a realistic approach to solving the problems in question.

I am confident of Audrey's integrity and hard work and have found her to be a reliable partner in every endeavor that we have been involved. I strongly endorse her nomination to the Real Estate Commission.

Reid Nakamura

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Date: April 7, 2021

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

From: Eleanor Kakazu

Re: GM761 consideration and confirmation of Audrey Abe to the Real Estate
Commission

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

We have known Audrey Abe for over 20 years as an appraiser, a CPA, and a real estate agent. She has done many appraisals for our family and have volunteered to give us tax advice in many instances without pay. In addition, she has done real estate sales and property management.

What we appreciate most about Audrey Abe is her honesty and willingness to help others. Since she has an excellent command of the English language, she is willing to go the extra mile by helping others write letters, analyze and problem solve situations, or just finding resources. It is with that spirit of helping others without expecting any monetary compensation is what is most impressive.

Audrey Abe has our full support and would be an excellent member of the Real Estate Commission. She, not only has many years of experience in the real estate, appraisals, and taxes, but she has the integrity, the perseverance, and the ability to analyze and solve problems. Audrey Abe will be an great asset to the Real Estate Commission!

Sincerely,

Eleanor Kakazu

Eleanor Kakazu,
A Family Supporter and Principal Broker
Harry Z. Kiyabu Realty, LLC