



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

KOMIKINA PONO KĪWILA O HAWAI‘I

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Thursday, April 20, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Liann Ebesugawa, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: G.M. No. 562

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (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.

G.M. No. 559 submits the nomination of Arsima Muller to the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission, for Senate consideration and confirmation.

The statutory qualifications for HCRC Commissioners are set forth 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 willingness of Arsima Muller to serve as an HCRC Commissioner. Ms. Muller 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 and the people of Micronesia. She will contribute a valuable perspective on civil rights as they impact members of our community who are from Micronesia and Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations. Her knowledge of the legal system is also helpful.

She has an impressive history of work in law and advocacy. Since her appointment, she has been conscientious and engaged while serving pending confirmation.

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/14/2023 11:11:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/20/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO !!

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/16/2023 9:52:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/20/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Nimmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Karl Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of Arsima Muller for a seat on the Civil Rights Commission. I have known Arsima Muller for more than 15 years, including 10 years as a fellow volunteer on the Marshallese Education Day Committee. This all-volunteer organization recognizes the achievements of middle and high school students of Marshallese descent and provides support for families so they can better meet the needs of their children in Hawai'i's schools. Ms. Muller is a conscientious board member, ethical treasurer, and dedicated volunteer, who strives to create conditions and acquire the necessary resources for this often-marginalized group to thrive in Hawai'i.

In addition, Ms. Muller has a deep respect for the late Dr. Joakim "Jojo" Peter, who previously served in this seat prior to his untimely death. Not only will Ms. Muller continue Jojo's efforts, but she adds her own unique perspective as a Marshallese daughter, auntie, role model, and lawyer. She is smart, dedicated, and compassionate.

Mahalo for considering this testimony in strong support of Arsima Muller's nomination to the Civil Rights Commission.

With respect,

Natalie Nimmer, EdD

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/19/2023 7:31:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/20/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julianne Walsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of Arsime Muller as a member of the State of Hawaii`i Civil Rights Commission. I have known Ms Muller from her childhood in the Marshall Islands and have worked with her as an adult for the annual Marshallese Education Day, founded by a committee of Marshall Islander migrants in Hawaii to support Marshallese children and their families in Hawaii`i schools.

Arsima has been dedicated, organized, thoughtful and generous with her time and experience. She led the Marshallese Education Day committee to form a 501(c)3 organization and has been an active participant in the planning and activities of the annual event. SHE en an excellent role model who enjoys celebrating Marshallese honor students, like herself. She is hard-working, witty, and a pleasure to work with. Arsima Muller will contribute much expertise and experience in the protections of civil rights in our state.

Thank you for considering my support of Ms. Muller.

Sincerely,

Julianne M Walsh

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/19/2023 2:47:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/20/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Schlais	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Judiciary Committee,

I'm submitting testimony in strong support of the appointment of Arsima Muller to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. I've known Ms. Muller for the greater part of 15 years both personally and professionally, and I can attest to her great character, work ethic, good judgment, and leadership qualities, all of which are great attributes that she will bring to the Civil Rights Commission. Ms. Muller is a worthwhile addition to the Civil Rights Commission, which has already been proven out as she has been serving on the Commission in an interim basis for several years now. Ms. Muller also comes from a background and with lived experience that will benefit the Commission. She and her family are well respected in the Marshallese community which brings a level of credence and authority to the Commission that will be helpful as it protects and supports civil and human rights in Hawaii.

I humbly ask that the Judiciary Committee and the full Senate approve Ms. Muller's appointment to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you,

Greg Schlais