

HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

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Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, April 5, 2024
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 705

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, COLIN YOST, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee, I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Colin Yost as a Commissioner for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Mr. Yost has been an extremely effective Commissioner, providing a measured and strong voice as an experienced attorney and renewable energy industry leader.

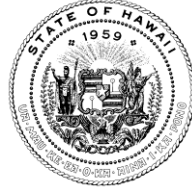
Commissioner Yost is highly qualified to continue service as a Public Utilities Commissioner, bringing a wealth of expertise and experience to the position from his highly regarded work in the legal and renewable energy industries for over two decades. Prior to his appointment to the PUC, Commissioner Yost served as Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel for RevoluSun, a leading renewable energy company in Hawaii. At RevoluSun, Commissioner Yost managed the commercial projects division, directed human resources, legal and regulatory matters, and helped lead the company through a rapidly changing policy landscape to become one of the leading residential photovoltaic installers in the nation.

Commissioner Yost's legal career has also been distinguished, with experience in energy and environmental law, civil litigation, business law, consumer law, civil rights, Native Hawaiian rights, real estate matters and administrative proceedings before the PUC and other administrative agencies. From 1998-2003, Commissioner Yost served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Financial Fraud/Consumer Protection Section of the Oregon Department of Justice, where he led the State of Oregon's investigation and prosecution of western energy companies, including Enron, Duke Energy, and the Williams Energy Companies for matters relating to the west coast electricity crisis of 2000-2001 and secured settlement agreements worth \$32 million to the State of Oregon. Commissioner Yost also led and resolved the state's investigation of telecommunications company MCI, for which he received the Oregon Department of Justice's Outstanding Service Award in 2001.

Commissioner Yost is a graduate of Lewis and Clark Northwestern School of Law, where he earned his juris doctorate, and the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in English and Environmental Studies. His legal and renewable energy experience, combined with his proven leadership and problem-solving abilities, provide essential balance and depth to the Public Utilities Commission.

In my experience in working with Commissioner Yost, I have witnessed and appreciated his good judgement, deep knowledge of energy and particularly the renewable energy industry, and his keen legal acumen, all of which make him an ideal candidate to continue service as a Public Utilities Commissioner. I urge the committee to confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA
SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 5, 2024
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
G.M. 705, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, COLIN YOST,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the appointment of Mr. Colin Yost to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

Mr. Yost has been serving as a Commissioner since November 1, 2022. Prior to this role, he held positions as Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel at RevoluSun, a renewable energy company based in Oahu. Additionally, Mr. Yost brings extensive legal experience, having founded Cruise & Yost law firm, and worked at the Honolulu firm, Paul Johnson Park & Niles. His legal expertise spans various areas including energy and environmental law, civil litigation, business law, consumer law, Native Hawaiian rights, real estate matters, and administrative proceedings.

Testimony of DCCA

G.M. 705

Page 2 of 2

Mr. Yost holds a Juris Doctorate from Lewis and Clark Northwestern School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in English and Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. He is actively engaged in professional and community groups, further demonstrating his commitment to service.

I am confident that Mr. Yost's diverse background, leadership abilities, and dedication to excellence will continue to greatly benefit the Commission. I support his confirmation and believe he will provide valuable perspectives to further the Commission's mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 5, 2024, 9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
in consideration of
GM No. 705
Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,
COLIN YOST

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Governor's Message 705 for Gubernatorial Nominee Colin Yost, as Commissioner for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

I have known Mr. Yost for the last seven years he has proven to be uniquely qualified as a PUC Commissioner. With an impressive twenty-five year career in public and private practice with a focus on energy and environmental issues and a former small business owner who understands the challenges small businesses face in Hawaii, Mr. Yost is well suited to continue to serve as PUC Commissioner.

An experienced and knowledgeable professional, Mr. Yost is well respected in the energy industry and the community at large. Additionally, through his volunteer work with the Hawaii Solar Energy Association, Mr. Yost has helped to advance the industry for all stakeholders.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and offer support and comments for Governor's Message 705.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
KA 'OIHANA WAI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843
Phone: (808) 748-5000 • www.boardofwatersupply.com

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA
DEPUTY MANAGER
HOPE MANAKIA



NĀ'ĀLEHU ANTHONY, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
BRYAN P. ANDAYA
JONATHAN KANESHIRO
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

April 5, 2024

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Keohokalole and Members

SUBJECT: GM No. 705: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Colin A. Yost, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports in confirming the appointment of Colin A. Yost to serve on the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

Since October 2022, Mr. Yost has been serving as a Commissioner on the PUC and has gained an understanding of the PUC's mission, goals, and a working relationship with staff, regulated entities, and stakeholders. The ongoing PUC investigation into the Maui wildfires that occurred on August 8, 2023, highlight the need to maintain a seamless transition by ensuring Commissioners continue their work without difficulty or disruption. Mr. Yost has nearly 25 years' experience as an attorney and litigator in the field of consumer protection, energy marketing, environmental protection, risk management and commercial project development.

Mr. Yost served as Assistant Attorney General in the Financial Fraud/Consumer Protection Section of the Oregon Department of Justice. As principal attorney for Oregon he helped lead the State in the multi-state prosecution of Enron and other energy companies for manipulation of western states' energy markets and co-chaired a national task force to draft enforcement guidelines relating to deceptive energy marketing.

Mr. Yost professional and community involvement is quite impressive and indicates his interest in clean energy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and paving a path for a

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
and Members
April 5, 2024
Page 2

healthier future. Mr. Yost served as the Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel to *RevoluSun LLC*, headquartered in Honolulu, HI. He managed the legal affairs, human resources and led in the development of over 25 megawatts of commercial solar projects. Mr. Yost filed an unprecedented document in PUC Docket No. 2018-0088, disclosing relationships to parties or participants on his participation in various PUC dockets relating to distributed energy resources as pro bono counsel for certain renewable energy stakeholders, including the Hawai'i Solar Energy Association and the Hawai'i PV Coalition.¹ He understands permitting and policy matters that serves him well as a Commissioner for the PUC.

I respectfully request members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection to vote favorably on his nomination and advancing GM 705 for full Senate confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 705, Colin A. Yost to continue to serve as a Commissioner on the PUC.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

¹ Parties and Intervenors in PUC Docket No. 2018-0088; Disclosure of Relationships to Parties or Participants Pursuant to Hawai'i Administrative Rules § 16-601-28. November 14, 2022. Ililani Media - Posted by Henry Curtis on November 16, 2022.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

April 5, 2024 9:30 AM
Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 705

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Committee members:

Blue Planet Foundation is pleased to **support the reappointment of Colin Yost to the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.**

Blue Planet Foundation is a Hawai'i-based nonprofit organization. We are committed to helping Hawai'i achieve its climate goals and accelerate progress towards a more just and sustainable clean energy future. Through our advocacy for clean energy, sustainable transportation, and energy efficiency, we seek to make our communities stronger, our energy more secure, our environment healthier, and our economy more robust.

Mr. Yost's professional experience across the energy industry and private law practice, educational background in environmental studies and law, and community involvement in Hawai'i-based nonprofit organizations like Blue Planet Foundation and others all make him uniquely suited to continue serving as a Public Utilities Commissioner for the next four years. Over the course of his career, Mr. Yost has had direct knowledge and experience working in Public Utilities Commission dockets, in particular those relating to solar, battery storage, and other renewable energy projects at both the commercial and utility-scale levels. Since his confirmation in 2023, we believe Commissioner Yost has shown an eagerness to serve the public interest, as well as the ability to thoughtfully and thoroughly consider the complex energy issues facing our state.

The Public Utilities Commission plays a key role in ensuring public interests are protected as Hawai'i advances towards 100% renewable energy by 2045. We believe that Commissioner Yost has the expertise and commitment to contribute to moving Hawai'i closer to this shared vision of a sustainable and resilient energy future. He is a leader who values collaboration and inclusivity, which will be critical to meeting our ambitious clean energy goals.

We hope the CPN Committee and Senate will support this confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of GM 705.**



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION
Friday, April 5, 2024 — 9:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports GM 705, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Colin Yost, for a Term to Expire 06-30-2028.

Dear Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports GM 705, which submits for consideration and confirmation Colin Yost to the Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. Yost has been serving as one of the Commissioners on the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) since October 2022. Prior to joining the PUC, Mr. Yost's experience included a leadership role at RevoluSun, where he served as Chief Operating Officer steering the business operations of one of the largest solar and energy storage contractors in Hawai'i.

Mr. Yost brings with him a wealth of knowledge and expertise that continues to be invaluable in shaping our state's energy future. His understanding of renewable energy in Hawai'i, coupled with his proven track record of effective leadership, positions him as instrumental to achieving the state's ambitious goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding GM705, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, COLIN YOST, for a Term to Expire 6-30-2028, before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Friday, April 5, 2024

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and committee members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports** the nomination of Colin Yost to the Public Utilities Commission and urges he be confirmed.

HSEA members include the majority of locally owned and operated renewable energy companies doing business in the state of Hawaii along with leading global cleantech manufacturers and service providers that invest and sell in our market. We employ thousands of residents in diverse green economy jobs that are innovating, designing, and building Hawaii's pathway to a renewable energy future. We advocate for policies that help Hawaii achieve critical climate and resilience goals by enabling residents and businesses to invest in and benefit from the transition to clean energy.

Colin Yost has played an integral and critical leadership role in Hawaii's transition to clean energy, and as a commissioner on the PUC for the last year, he has continued in this role. His expertise, experience, and judgement will serve the people of Hawaii well as we pursue our goal of building a resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy system for the benefit of all residents, businesses, and ratepayers. In addition to his legal *bona fides*, Colin brings unique perspective to the regulatory arena. He helped build a thriving local solar business through various business-cycles that has been at the vanguard of clean energy innovation and expanded its unique model beyond our shores. He has also been deeply involved in environmental justice and climate advocacy efforts. As a member of HSEA who took on various leadership roles throughout the last decade, including serving on our Board of Directors, Colin brought his valued insights and well-developed opinions to our policy discussions, and he always sought consensus and was guided by his duty to represent broad collective interests.

Thank you for allowing HSEA to testify in **strong support** of his confirmation.

Respectfully,

/s/ Rocky Mould, Executive Director

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:09:16 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Aki	Testifying for Sol-Ark	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and committee members:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Colin Yost's confirmation to the PUC. Colin Yost has played an integral and critical leadership role in Hawaii's transition to clean energy, and as a commissioner on the PUC for the last year, he has continued in this role. His expertise, experience, and judgement will serve the people of Hawaii well as we pursue our goal of building a resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy system for the benefit of all residents, businesses, and ratepayers.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT**.

Mahalo piha,

Ella Henanipuakea Aki

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:18:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAUL OREM	Testifying for Photonworks Engineering	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and committee members:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Colin Yost's confirmation to the PUC.

Colin Yost has played an integral and critical leadership role in Hawaii's transition to clean energy, and as a commissioner on the PUC for the last year, he has continued in this role. His expertise, experience, and judgement will serve the people of Hawaii well as we pursue our goal of building a resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy system for the benefit of all residents, businesses, and ratepayers.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT**.

Respectfully,

Paul Orem

CEO Photonworks Engineering

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:41:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Kuromoto	Testifying for Solar Help Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and committee members:

We are in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Colin Yost's confirmation to the PUC.

Colin Yost has played an integral and critical leadership role in Hawaii's transition to clean energy, and as a commissioner on the PUC for the last year, he has continued in this role. His expertise, experience, and judgement will serve the people of Hawaii well as we pursue our goal of building a resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy system for the benefit of all residents, businesses, and ratepayers.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT**.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:44:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Ah Sue	Testifying for Malama Solar	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and esteemed committee members:

I am writing to express my unequivocal endorsement for the confirmation of Colin Yost to the PUC.

Colin Yost has been instrumental in guiding Hawaii's transition towards clean energy, assuming a pivotal leadership position. Throughout his tenure as a PUC commissioner, spanning a year, he has consistently demonstrated his commitment to this cause. His wealth of expertise, extensive experience, and sound judgment make him an ideal candidate to further our collective pursuit of establishing a resilient, cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable energy infrastructure for the benefit of all stakeholders in Hawaii.

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide this testimony in resolute support of Colin Yost's confirmation.

Respectfully,

Rachel Ah Sue



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1260 EMPOWERING THE PACIFIC

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

HEARING DATE: Friday, April 5, 2024
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: State Capitol
Conference Room 229

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 705

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee;

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 (IBEW 1260) would like to offer the following testimony in support of Governor's Message 705 ("GM 705").

IBEW 1260, is comprised of approximately 3,000 hardworking union members made up of a diverse workforce that consists of highly skilled and trained individuals working in electrical utility generation, transmission, distribution, and outside construction, as well as government, professional, and broadcast service contracts throughout the State of Hawai'i, in Guam and Wake Island.

IBEW 1260 supports GM 705 which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, COLIN YOST, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

IBEW 1260 has had the opportunity to work with Mr. Yost over the last year that he's served on the Commission. Mr. Yost has shown a genuine concern for and understanding of Hawai'i's energy future, and the delicate balance between transitioning towards clean renewable energy while maintaining a reliable and resilient electrical infrastructure and viable local workforce.

We believe that Mr. Yost's diverse experience and background makes him uniquely qualified to consider and decide on the many complex and often controversial issues that come before the commission. We look forward to continuing to work with Mr. Yost and the commission on issues important to IBEW 1260.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY REGARDING GM705**April 5, 2024, at 9:30 AM**

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Tesla provides its **support** for the reappointment of Public Utilities Commissioner Colin Yost.

Commissioner Yost has a demonstrated record of advancing Hawaii's climate goals. His interdisciplinary expertise across law, public policy, and energy is a great asset to the Public Utilities Commission and residents of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Noelani Derrickson |

Noelani Derrickson

Public Policy & Business Development

TESTIMONY OF
AES HAWAI'I

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION
APRIL 5, 2024
9:30 A.M.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 705

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, COLIN YOST, for a term to expire on 06-30-2028.

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection:

On behalf of AES Hawai'i, I would like to testify in support of the confirmation of Colin
Yost as a Public Utilities Commissioner.

AES Hawai'i shares our state's vision for a 100% clean energy future, and is committed
to helping the state responsibly transition to a carbon-free energy future with over
350 megawatts of renewable energy projects across the Hawaiian Islands.

Commissioner Yost has extensive experience in the renewable energy industry, having
previously been employed by RevoluSun since 2010, and serving as their Chief
Operating Officer for eight years. His knowledge in solar and energy storage, as well as
professional background in Hawai'i's energy industry will bring depth and invaluable
expertise to the Public Utilities Commission.

Commissioner Yost's legal career has also been distinguished, with experience in
energy and environmental law, civil litigation, business law, consumer law, civil rights,
Native Hawaiian rights, real estate matters and administrative proceedings before the
PUC and other administrative agencies.

His specialized experience and background will make him an asset to the Public Utilities
Commission, and we respectfully request that you support GM 705 and confirm his
nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sandra Larsen
President
AES Hawai'i



Before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 5, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Testimony in Support of GM705: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Colin Yost, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support and provide comments on Governor's Message No. 705, which proposes to confirm to the Public Utilities Commission, Colin Yost, for a term to expire on June 30, 2028.

Hawai'i Energy works to empower island families and businesses on behalf of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission to make smart energy choices to reduce energy consumption, save money, and pursue a 100% clean energy future. Energy efficiency – the energy we do not use – is the cheapest option to help us achieve our 100% clean energy goal by eliminating waste and being more efficient.

As the energy efficiency program administrator for the Commission, we are confident that the dynamic between the Commission and Hawai'i Energy will continue to thrive with Mr. Yost's confirmation. Mr. Yost's commitment to Hawai'i's clean energy future is evidenced by his experience to date. This expertise has already proven invaluable to Hawai'i Energy since Mr. Yost's time at the Commission began in 2022, and we know it will continue to be mutually beneficial as we design and implement energy efficiency programs to support the pursuit of our state's energy goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and offer support for Mr. Yost's nomination to serve on the Public Utilities Commission. We look forward to continuing to work with him and the rest of the Commission to make utility services more affordable, resilient, and environmentally beneficial.

Sincerely,
Caroline Carl
Executive Director
Hawai'i Energy

LATE

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:46:13 AM
Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neal Martin	Testifying for ELCCO Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and committee members:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Colin Yost's confirmation to the PUC.

Colin Yost has played an integral and critical leadership role in Hawaii’s transition to clean energy, and as a commissioner on the PUC for the last year, he has continued in this role. His expertise, experience, and judgement will serve the people of Hawaii well as we pursue our goal of building a resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy system for the benefit of all residents, businesses, and ratepayers.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT**.

Respectfully,

Neal Martin

Project Developer (Elcco Inc.)

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 10:59:32 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Mr. Yost for over 14 years and can attest to the fact that I have always found him to be honest, forthright and fair whether in business or with friends. I think he brings a wealth of knowledge to the PUC and has the best interest of the public and businesses at heart. He will provide a balanced approach to the Utilities Commission duties and decisions. Please approve Mr. Yost to the PUC for a 6 year term.

KRISTIN E. IZUMI-NITAO
235 S. Beretania Street, Ste. 300
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 1, 2024

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 705 – Consideration and Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Colin Yost,
Public Utilities Commission, State of Hawaii

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am respectfully writing in strong support of gubernatorial nominee Colin Yost as a
Commissioner for the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”), State of Hawaii.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Colin and his family for many years. I have
found him to be extremely intelligent, civic-oriented, community based, personable, dedicated, and
dependable. Prior to his PUC appointment, Colin was the Chief Operating Officer and General
Counsel for RevoluSun LLC for over 12 years. In this capacity, he has directed and managed
operations of the largest solar and energy storage contractor in Hawaii and is well versed in PUC
operations and procedures. As such, he has the expertise and experience to serve in this position
well.

Beyond renewable energy, he has a diverse legal background in consumer law advocacy,
Native Hawaiian rights, environmental protection, and financial fraud. Further, he has a
demonstrated a strong commitment to our community based on his professional and community
involvement with Blue Planet Foundation, Hawaii Solar Energy Association, Hawaii Sierra Club,
and Partnership for Pacific Resilience (to name just a few).

Based on his varied background, experiences, and interests, I strongly believe that Colin has
the knowledge, the strength of character, the legal and moral fortitude, and the ethical integrity to
excel in this role, and therefore, appreciate the opportunity to write in support of his nomination.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Kristin E. Izumi-Nitao

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 1:18:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha -

Colin Yost has the character and necessary skills to be successful as a Commissioner for the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. I support his nomination and urge the Committee to confirm his nomination. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Anderson

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:22:49 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dolan Eversole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Colin Yost's confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission. With a robust and exemplary background in the energy sector, Colin possesses outstanding character, intelligence, and the requisite skills and personality essential for effective decision-making. Over the past two decades since I have known him, I have witnessed firsthand Colin's unwavering commitment to excellence. His appointment to this pivotal role would undoubtedly be a significant asset to the Public Utilities Commission, and I offer my strongest endorsement for his confirmation.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 8:31:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Eversole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Colin Yost for the PUC. He has served honorably over the last four years and is dedicated to the Commission's mission and work. He truly cares about the Hawaii community and is an effective leader.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 6:14:15 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Van Kuran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Colin Yost for 10+ years. His expertise, intelligence and character are exactly what we need on our PUC. He cares passionately about our community, takes time to understand all sides and makes careful and thoughtful decisions. As a private citizen who has called Hawaii my home for the last 20 years I strongly support having him on the PUC for another 6 years.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 6:28:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Suapaia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson and Esteemed Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

I am submitting testimony to fully support Colin Yost's confirmation to the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Having known Colin for over a decade, both personally and professionally, my conviction in his suitability for this role has only strengthened over time.

Our initial meeting occurred during our participation in the Pacific Century Fellows program, an experience that offered us profound insights into our state's unique challenges and prospects. In this setting, Colin's dedication to fostering clean and sustainable energy solutions became evident to me, alongside his exceptional capability to effectively engage with a wide range of stakeholders. His profound energy and environmental policy expertise perfectly align with the PUC's mission, and his unwavering commitment to consumer welfare is laudable.

My collaboration with Colin extended through my role as a marketing and branding consultant for RevoluSun, his company, where I was involved in several initiatives to advocate for sustainable energy. This partnership gave me a closer look at Colin's leadership qualities, strategic business sense, and enthusiasm for renewable energy innovations.

Beyond our professional interactions, participating in a local Father-Daughter Club with Colin has offered me a unique lens through which to view Colin's exemplary character and dedication. Witnessing his interaction within this group has underscored his commitment to his family and community, enhancing my belief in his aptitude for the PUC role.

Since being appointed Commissioner on November 1, 2022, Colin has exemplified a high ethical conduct and transparency standard. His decision to voluntarily step back from certain decisions at the PUC to avoid any conflict of interest showcases his integrity and fairness, qualities that are crucial for this position.

Colin's vision for an energy-resilient Hawai'i, his adeptness at navigating complex regulatory landscapes, and his exceptional interpersonal skills make him an indispensable member of the PUC. His contribution to the Commission is critical for making informed, balanced decisions that serve the best interest of Hawai'i and its residents.

I strongly support Colin Yost for his continued role at the Public Utilities Commission. His deep-seated expertise, dedication, and ethical standards will significantly benefit the Commission and the broader state community. I urge the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee to consider Colin Yost's reappointment to the PUC favorably.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Jason Suapaia
2152 Mason Place
Honolulu, HI 96817

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 11:20:29 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Colin as a personal acquaintance and as a citizen interested in the important work of the Public Utilities Commission. The PUC has a important role in Hawaii's transition to clean and local energy and I appreciate the hard and complicated decisions the commissioners make.

Colin has served Hawaii well during his current appointment and deserves a full term to continue this important work. I like the fact that Colin understands the solar industry and can provide input to the commissioners and that he has a strong background of fair and impartial decision making.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Virginia Tincher

Oahu

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 12:27:15 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaco Van Delden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident and consumer in Hawaii, I wholeheartedly support Colin Yost's as a commissioner on the PUC. Since he was appointed to the commission he has, I believe, unequivocally shown that he brings a wealth of applicable experience to the PUC from his tenure as a practising attorney and his time as a local business leader. Since I have known Colin I have experienced that he will always carefully weigh the arguments, often striving for a mutually beneficial outcome. I believe that he will continue to be guided the principles of fairness and accountability in managing our public utilities.

With Aloha, Jaco Van Delden

Statement of
NAOMI U. KUWAYE
Before
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Friday, April 5, 2024
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Room 229
In Consideration of
Governor's Message (GM) 705

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

I strongly support the nomination of Colin Yost to continue to serve as a Commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission.

Since November 2022, I have served with Mr. Yost on the Commission, and he has been an invaluable asset to the agency. His legal and business background makes him well-suited for this position. He provides invaluable insights to our deliberations. He is well prepared, thoughtful, and professional in his approach to work.

Based on the foregoing, Mr. Yost is well qualified to fulfill this responsibility given his professional experience, his temperament, and his desire to serve. I respectfully request the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Cost Yost as a Commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 3:35:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Peters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of GM 705, a measure to confirm to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, COLIN YOST, for a term to expire 06-30-2030. I have known Colin both personally and professionally for 10 years. His private and public sector experience, his desire to serve his community, and his stewardship of our aina as evidenced by his community service, all make him an exemplary candidate for the PUC.

I encourage the committee to confirm Colin's appointment for this next 6-year term and wish to say mahalo for the opportunity to provide my written testimony in support of his nomination.

With aloha,
Keala Peters

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:30:35 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandie Wong	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am an attorney who has practiced before the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission for the last 30 years and I am in strong support of the confirmation of Colin Yost to be a PUC Commissioner. Mr. Yost is fair, has the temperament to be a Commissioner, and is knowledgeable of the unique issues that are brought to the Commission. Thank you.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 4:31:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee Members,

I would like to offer my support for Colin Yost, being considered for reappointment to the Public Utilities Commission. Colin is a calm, thoughtful, and knowledgeable individual who I have had the privilege of working with in various capacities for over a decade. Colin possesses a unique background in both law and renewable energy and is well suited to the issues under consideration by the PUC. I have always known Colin to have the highest of moral character and know that he will continue to serve the citizens of Hawaii well if reappointed.

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION, JR., AICP
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Friday April 5, 2024
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
in consideration of
Governor's Message (GM) 705

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

I support the nomination of Colin Yost to serve as a Commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2030.

I have worked with Mr. Yost for the last 17 months, and he has demonstrated competency in the topics facing the Public Utilities Commission in the coming years as the State moves forward on achieving its energy goals. His recent experience as COO of a local renewable energy company provides the Commission with the insight of how PUC actions and decisions will impact businesses, and this insight is complimentary to the experiences and knowledge of his fellow commissioners.

Mr. Yost has and continues to demonstrate a high level of knowledge of the Commission's regulatory mission, and I have the utmost confidence that he will continue to serve our State well as a PUC Commissioner.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Colin Yost as a Commissioner on the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 705.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:11:06 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Colin Yost as a Commissioner for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I have known Colin for over 10 years and can personally attest to his strong work ethic, character and intellect. Colin always has the best interest of the public at heart in all of his endeavors and will continue to serve the PUC well.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Roberts

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 1:28:17 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Skaggs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and committee members,

I am writing in SUPPORT of Colin Yost's confirmation to the PUC.

Colin Yost has played an integral and critical leadership role in Hawaii's transition to clean energy, and as a commissioner on the PUC for the last year, he has continued in this role. His expertise, experience, and judgement will serve the people of Hawaii well as we pursue our goal of building a resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy system for the benefit of all residents, businesses, and ratepayers.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT.

Mahalo!

Roy

Testimony of Carl Freedman, Haiku Design and Analysis

4234 Hana Hwy., Haiku, HI 96708

To the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Friday, April 5, 2024 9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Regarding: GM 705

Consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,
for a term to expire 06-30-2030:

COLIN YOST,

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CONFIRMATION

My name is Carl Freedman. I live on Maui and currently work actively as a consultant to the Public Utilities Commission. For over 30 years, I have worked on matters before the Hawaii PUC in various capacities: as a public interest stakeholder and as a consultant, at various times representing a spectrum of clients, including the Division of Consumer Advocacy, several large utility customers, Hawaii regulated utilities, the Rocky Mountain Institute, and most recently, directly advising the Commission. I have presented expert testimony, participated in evidentiary hearings or worked directly for the PUC under the tenure of eight of the ten Hawaii PUC chairs: Chairs Naito, Yamada, Kimura, Caliboso, Morita, Iwase, Griffin and currently Chair Asuncion. I currently directly advise the PUC Commissioners and staff on a range of subjects, including resource planning and procurement, ratemaking mechanisms, and policy matters generally.

I am testifying today in support of Colin Yost's confirmation.

I am unable to testify in person or by teleconference today due to commitments in other matters.

My experience with Commissioner Yost as a Commissioner has been very positive. He is bright, knowledgeable, and most importantly, keeps the public interest and the welfare of State of Hawaii as the focus of his own interest, inquiries and contributions. His experience and background in Oregon and as a member of the Hawaii energy business community, as well as his tenure as a Commissioner thus far are valuable assets for continued service as a Hawaii PUC Commissioner.

I believe Commissioner Yost is and will continue to be fair-minded in matters that come before him. His knowledge, experience and public-minded attitude are all valuable assets to the Commission. In the best interests of the Commission and our State, I hope he can continue as a Commissioner.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Freedman, Haiku Design & Analysis

LATE

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:29:57 AM
Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hale I Takazawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

03 April 2024

I'd like to submit support for Colin Yost to continue his work as a PUC Commissioner. As an architect, researcher and founder of the AIA Honolulu's thinktank, the Design for Risk & Resiliency committee my background, training and thinking are looking at Hawaii's regenerative future. Given the climate change challenges that we are facing, and the future projections of where we as a state are headed in order to recover from these risks, it is my contention that Colin Yost will be an excellent leader and mind in pushing our state forward to mitigate these extraordinary challenges. His thoughts and ideas are supportive of making the creative and adaptive changes necessary for our survival economically, and also socially and ecologically. He will help to serve our state create solutions that are socially just, culturally rich, and ecologically restorative.

Thank you for the consideration of this testimony!

best regards,

Hale Takazawa, Architect

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 6:19:59 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/5/2024 9:30:00 AM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Rymsha	Testifying for Sunrun	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and committee members:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Colin Yost's confirmation to the PUC.

Colin Yost has played an integral and critical leadership role in Hawaii's transition to clean energy, and as a commissioner on the PUC for the last year, he has continued in this role. His expertise, experience, and judgement will serve the people of Hawaii well as we pursue our goal of building a resilient, affordable, and sustainable energy system for the benefit of all residents, businesses, and ratepayers.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT**.

Respectfully,

Steven Rymsha