



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

G.M. NO. 685, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE UNIFORM LEGISLATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BLAKE OSHIRO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-27.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Friday, April 12, 2024

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 016 and Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Jill T. Nagamine,  
Deputy Attorney General, at (800) 586-1276)

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Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General supports the reappointment of Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (CPUL) of the Department of the Attorney General.

The CPUL is advisory to the Attorney General and to the Legislature on matters pertaining to uniform legislation. Members of this state commission are Hawaii's representatives to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which is also referred to as the "Uniform Law Commission." The Uniform Law Commission requires that each appointed commissioner be a lawyer licensed to practice law and that members from each state attend and participate in its annual meeting.

Commissioner Oshiro is a lawyer licensed to practice law in Hawaii. He has experience with legislation from many perspectives. He served in the House of Representatives from November 2000 until November 2011, when he became Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Abercrombie. He served in that role until December 2014, when he returned to the private practice of law. He then spent two years as the Executive Vice President of a consulting firm that specializes in government relations, including political advising and lobbying. He currently serves as a senior policy advisor

to Governor Green. Based on his varied legislative experiences, he is uniquely qualified to serve as a Commissioner of the CPUL.

Since his initial appointment in 2019, Commissioner Oshiro has attended and actively participated in the meetings of the CPUL. Each year since his appointment, he has assisted the CPUL advocate for the passage of Uniform Laws with lobbying efforts at the Legislature on bills that have been identified as priorities by the CPUL.

He has also attended the annual meetings of the Uniform Law Commission held in Anchorage, Alaska, from July 12-18, 2019; held online from July 10-15, 2020, via interactive conference technology; held in Madison, Wisconsin, from July 9-15, 2021, via interactive conference technology; and held in Honolulu, Hawaii, from July 21-26, 2023. Prior to and during the annual meetings of the Uniform Law Commission, the members from each state pool their resources to carefully draft uniform acts. During the annual meeting the members consider each draft act and in a careful, bipartisan effort, produce the impressive body of Uniform State Laws.

In his role with the Uniform Law Commission, Commissioner Oshiro served on the Public Meetings During Emergencies Drafting Committee in 2019-2021. From 2021 to September 2023, Commissioner Oshiro served on the Stakeholder Outreach Committee, which tasked him to participate in several different committees to monitor the need for any outreach to additional stakeholders for input or review. During the Uniform Law Commission 2023 annual meeting, he was designated as the Chair for the floor session of the committee of the whole when the Uniform Law Commission held its first reading of the Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act.

In view of his continuing participation in the activities of the Uniform Law Commission and of the CPUL, Blake Oshiro's continued service as a member of the CPUL and of the Uniform Law Commission will be beneficial to the State of Hawaii and the Uniform Law Commission. Consequently, the Attorney General respectfully requests that this Committee recommend the confirmation of the reappointment of Blake Oshiro to the CPUL.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

April 11, 2024

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

Date: Friday, April 12, 2024

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 16 & Videoconference, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. 685; Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Perform Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAKE OSHIRO, for a term to expire 06-30-2027**

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Perform Uniform Legislation.

Mr. Oshiro was honored with the American Jurisprudence Award in Constitutional Law among other awards from the William S. Richardson School of Law and since 2011, has built a career specializing in Hawaii policy, strategic planning, legislative and legal research.

The work of the Uniform Law Commission has been a valuable addition over time to the improvement of state law in a great many subject areas. Included in that work have been acts such as the Uniform Commercial Code, the Uniform Partnership Act, the Uniform Limited Partnership Act, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, the Uniform Probate Code, and the Model State Administrative Procedure Act, acts that have been adopted uniformly by nearly all the states or that have been heavily utilized by most state legislatures. Even with acts that have not been uniformly adopted, the texts consistently contribute to the improvement of the law and have served as valuable references for the legislatures in their effort to improve the quality of state law.

We have had a good deal of experience working with Mr. Oshiro, and am always impressed with his intelligence, decency, uprightness, work ethic, and extensive knowledge of Hawaii and all things related to government. He is truly a great public servant and like others, we have the utmost respect for him and hope that you do too.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message  
685

**DATE:** April 10, 2024

**TO:** Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
And Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary

**RE:** Testimony in support of **GM 685**, amended by GM 690, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAKE OSHIRO, for a term to expire 06-30-2027

**FROM:** Lani Ewart  
(808) 547-5702; [lewart@goodsill.com](mailto:lewart@goodsill.com)

**HEARING:** Tuesday, April 12, 2024, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lani Ewart, and I am a member and the current chair of the Hawaii Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (“CPUL”). I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of the nomination of BLAKE OSHIRO to serve another term on the CPUL.

All of the commissioners on the CPUL serve as commissioners to the national Uniform Law Commission (“ULC”). The goal of the ULC is to develop and propose laws that will be uniform in all States to benefit the people in all States. Each commissioner must therefore participate in the drafting of uniform laws with the ULC and then work with the legislature of the commissioner’s State to get uniform laws enacted.

As a fellow commissioner on the CPUL and the ULC, I know that Blake well fulfills the duties of a commissioner. He has served on a drafting committee to work on a new act during the year for the consideration of commissioners from all States at the annual summer meeting of ULC, and at the last annual meeting, Blake was selected to chair a Committee of the Whole for one of the sessions. He has testified in support of uniform acts at the Hawaii Legislature and is always available to provide background information to any party interested in a uniform act during the legislative session.

I have no reservation in supporting the nomination of Blake Oshiro for an additional term on the CPUL. Blake is an excellent commissioner on the CPUL and an outstanding representative of Hawaii to the ULC. I urge you to recommend that the Senate confirm his nomination.

**GM-685**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 4:23:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in enthusiastic support of Blake Oshiro's nomination to another term on the Commission to Promote Uniform Laws (CPUL). I have had the privilege of working with Blake as a fellow Commissioner and can speak to his excellent work ethic and work product. He is a credit to our CPUL and I sincerely request that you vote to confirm his appointment to another term.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Kent

PETER HAMASAKI  
5333 Malu Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
phamasaki@gmail.com

April 10, 2024

Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
The Senate  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **GM 685** – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, **BLAKE OSHIRO**, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

I would like to express my **STRONG SUPPORT** for the nomination of **BLAKE OSHIRO** to continue to serve as a member of the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Oshiro on the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation since his appointment in 2019, and can attest to the valuable and dedicated service he has provided both to the Hawaii commission and to the Uniform Law Commission. His knowledge, experience and insights into the legislative process have been uniquely helpful to the commission in its work, and I hope that the commission will continue to have the benefit of his service.

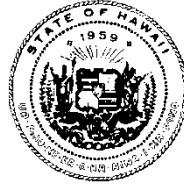
Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Mr. Oshiro's nomination to continue to serve as a member of the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation and to respectfully request your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hamasaki', with a small flourish at the end.

Peter Hamasaki

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director**  
**Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Friday, April 12, 2024**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**GM 685**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION TO PERFORM**  
**UNIFORM LEGISLATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BLAKE OSHIRO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE**  
**6-30-2027**

Honorable Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 685, to consider and confirm Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Perform Uniform Legislation.

I have known Blake for many years, and I am honored to be working alongside with him in Governor Green's Administration. He is an integral part of a team that is committed to addressing the many issues facing our State and I believe that he will be able to effectively fulfill his role on the Commission to Perform Uniform Legislation through his life experiences and professional expertise.

The HPHA urges the Committee to pass GM 685 and confirm Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Perform Uniform Legislation.



**GM-685**

Submitted on: 4/11/2024 12:12:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/12/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kate Stanley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Seante Committee on Judiciary

Please reccomend to the full Senate the confirmation of Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation.

Blake brings many years of experienc with writing laws as a Legislator, years of experience in the Office of the Governor for Governor Abercrombie and Governor Green, and years of experience as a well respected lobbyist.

Blake knows the importance of looking at the parctical effects of any piece of legislation especially uniform laws. This is an outstanding nomination.

Kate Stanley

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE  
CONFIRMATION OF BLAKE OSHIRO TO THE COMMISSION TO  
PROMOTE UNIFORM LEGISLATION**

April 12, 2024

To: Chairman Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I have been a member of the Uniform Laws Commission since 1978 and currently serve as a Life Member on the Commission. I am testifying in strong support of the confirmation of Blake Oshiro for a term to expire on June 30, 2027.

I have known Blake Oshiro for over 30 years since he was a member of the state legislature. Blake's experience as a legislator, as a key staff person for two Governors, and as an excellent government affairs consultant, makes him an invaluable person to be a Uniform Law Commissioner. He is not only grounded in policy issues but is experienced with the legislative process and therefore will be very instrumental in assisting with the passage of the many uniform acts at the state level. He has already participated in various tasks for the commission and has exhibited the ability to do them well.

In conclusion, I feel that Blake will continue to be an asset to the Uniform Law Commission and will definitely be a contributing member of the Commission.

I strongly recommend his confirmation by this committee and the full Senate.  
Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony.

**SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Friday, April 12, 2024

9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

**GM685** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Perform Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAKE OSHIRO, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and the members of this Committee.

I humbly submit my testimony in strong **support** for the appointment of Blake Oshiro to the Commission to Perform Uniform Legislation.

I have known Mr. Oshiro for almost 25 years, when he served as a Legislator in the Hawaii State House of Representatives and a part of the administration under two Governors. Mr. Oshiro has a distinguished career working with various communities and with all facets of government. He is a dedicated public servant and has the knowledge, accountability, and responsiveness to be an outstanding representative of the Governor on key issues affecting our State.

Mr. Oshiro dedication and professionalism is evident in his commitment to improve the lives of Hawaii's residents. He has a natural ability to work with a wide range of personalities while maintaining clear values to move forward to consensus. As a former House Majority Leader, he had the ability to negotiate with the Senate and the Administration, developing a successful track record built on mutual respect.

Mr. Oshiro has the knowledge and the communication skills to work with a wide range of stakeholders. His appointment to this Commission would allow him to use his abilities to support all of Hawaii.

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

**Blake K. Oshiro**  
**47-062 Okana Place**  
**Kaneohe, HI 96744**  
[Blake.Oshiro@gmail.com](mailto:Blake.Oshiro@gmail.com)

April 10, 2024

Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol Room 016  
Honolulu HI 96813

**Re: Governor Message 685**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Perform Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, **BLAKE OSHIRO**, for a term to expire 06-30-2027. (Board name amended to Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation by GM690).

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

Thank you for hearing the confirmation of my re-appointment to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (CPUL). The CPUL is housed within the Department of the Attorney General (AG) in an advisory capacity to the AG and to the Legislature to advise on uniform laws.

I was first appointed to the CPUL in 2019 and am seeking re-appointment to this position. My 5 years of service thus far have been educational, enlightening and productive. The Hawaii CPUL effectively supported and adopted or amended about a dozen acts during my time on the CPUL. As of 2023, Hawaii reported having 90 uniform laws in total.

The Uniform Law Commission was established in 1892 and provides states with non-partisan, well-conceived and well-drafted legislation that brings clarity and stability to critical areas of state statutory law. It also helps to ensure conformity and consistency for policies and laws across state lines, which can be critical for certain issues that have a higher likelihood of having parties and interests that cross multiple state jurisdictions.

It has been an honor to serve with intelligent and diligent legal professionals from various background and experiences, and it is a unique opportunity to hone legal and policy drafting and analysis through the thorough and sometimes lengthy process of the ULC.

Interestingly, the CPUL is one of the few commissions with express language that exempts appointments from the general limitation of two terms or a maximum duration of eight consecutive years. Haw. Rev. Stat. Section 26-7.

Mahalo for your time, attention and consideration of my nomination.