



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION KOMIKINA PONO KIWILA O HAWAI‘I

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411, HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: (808) 586-8636 · FAX: (808) 586-8655 · TDD: (808) 586-8692

Monday, April 22, 2024

10:00 am

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

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

From: Marcus L. Kawatachi, Executive Director, Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission
Constance Yonashiro, Chief Counsel, Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: G.M. No. 724

G.M. No. submits the nomination of Jon Matsuoka to the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC), for Senate consideration and confirmation. If confirmed, this would be Commissioner Matsuoka’s second term.

The HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction of 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.

The statutory qualifications for HCRC Commissioners are laid out 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 greatly appreciative of the contributions that Jon Matsuoka has made as a HCRC Commissioner and his willingness to continue to serve. Jon brings a wealth of experience and expertise

to the Commission, and has an impressive record of demonstrated commitment to supporting civil rights for Hawai'i and its people through his many years in the field of academic social work. As an educator, and as an advisor, Jon's areas of interest and expertise include Indigenous, Asian, and Pacific Islander well-being and communities and he has published voluminous articles in many peer-reviewed journals on these topics. His background adds valuable perspective to the work of the Commission, and we welcome the opportunity to work with Commissioner Matsuoka for another term.

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 22, 2024

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

Date: Monday, April 22, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 16 & Videoconference, State Capitol

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

Re: G.M. 724; Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JON MATSUOKA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **supports** the confirmation of Jon Matsuoka to the Civil Rights Commission.

Mr. Matsuoka earned his Ph.D. in Social Work and Psychology from the University of Michigan and has published and contributed to several journals and editorials related to his field of expertise. He is also an active member to various groups and associations related to social work.

The DLIR believes Mr. Matsuoka has demonstrated through his work a strong commitment to protect our civil rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 724.

