



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. 725

G.M. No. submits the nomination of Arsima Muller to the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC), for Senate consideration and confirmation. If confirmed, this would be Commissioner Muller’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 Arsima Muller has made as a HCRC Commissioner and her willingness to continue to serve. Arsima’s experience and her work with

nonprofits and the Micronesian community demonstrates her extraordinary commitment to civil rights for Hawai'i and its people. Her civil rights background and legal expertise adds a critical viewpoint and perspective to the work of the Commission, and we welcome the opportunity to work with Commissioner Muller 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. 725; Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ARSIMA MULLER, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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

Ms. Muller earned her Juris Doctor from George Washington University Law School and has applied her legal expertise to towards the betterment of the Marshallese people who were naturalized in the United States of America. She has a vested understanding of the Compact of Free Association which continues to underpin our special relationship that is deep and enduring, and that furthers the U.S. commitment to a Pacific that is secure, free and open, and more prosperous.

The DLIR believes Ms. Muller has demonstrated through her legal career a strong commitment to the protection of civil rights as provided in Article I, Section 5 of the Hawai'i Constitution.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 725.

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 7:05:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee,

My name is Nathaniel Higa. I am an attorney licensed to practice in Hawaii since 2008. I write in strong support of Arsima Muller's nomination for appointment to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. I have worked with Ms. Muller as a colleague, known Ms. Muller personally, and served with her on the Board of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (LASH). I know Ms. Muller to be extremely diligent, responsible, and capable in her substantive work as an attorney and her roles in service of LASH. I also know Ms. Muller to be compassionate and dedicated to service and the protection of the rights of those who are may be marginalized. I can and do wholeheartedly support Ms. Muller's nomination for appointment in GM725. Thank you.

Nathaniel Higa

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 10:10:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the renewal of Arsima Muller for another term on the Civil Rights Commission. I have known Ms. Muller for more than 15 years, of which 11 of those years we have volunteered together to advance the cause of academic excellence for some of the most promising (and underserved) keiki in Hawai'i.

She has served on the Board of the Marshallese Education Day Committee since its founding as a 501c3 organization, using her legal expertise to help the all-volunteer organization to maintain its good standing for all formal processes, such as filing annual reports with the appropriate government entities, managing the bank account, etc. We have also interacted through her roles on the Boards of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, We Are Oceania, and others.

Arsima Muller is an inspiring role model for Marshallese and Micronesian youth who see her success as a lawyer, through civic engagement, and as a strong advocate for some of Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents.

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

Sincerely,

Natalie Nimmer, EdD

Honolulu, 96814

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/18/2024 1:17:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2024 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

I submit this testimony in full support of Arsima Muller to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. Ms. Muller is very well suited for this appointment. She is of upmost character and ethics, has an incredible background professionally, and comes from a community that needs to be represented here in Hawaii and the United States.

I've known Ms. Muller for over 15 years and she is a very good friend and her character, knowledge, professionalism and expertise would be a great asset to our community in service of civil and human rights. Please approve of her apointment to the Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you,

Greg Schlais

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/19/2024 8:51:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jacob Matson and I am testifying in strong support of the confirmation of Arsima Muller to the Civil Rights Commission. Ms. Muller is an incredibly competent, thoughtful, and knowledgeable attorney with a versatile skillset and the ability to navigate through difficult issues. She also has the unique ability to distill and communicate complex ideas in an easily understandable way. As an individual, she is empathetic and engaging, and has demonstrated a dedication to service in the community. As such, she would be an exceptional addition to the Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding Ms. Muller and GM 725.

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/20/2024 4:51:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the distinguished members of the Commission,

It is my honor to express my full support for the candidacy of Arsima Muller as the nominee for the Gubernatorial Civil Rights Commission. As a co-board member of a small non-profit program aimed at promoting academic excellence for underserved children with great potential, I have had the privilege of working closely with Arsima for over a decade. Throughout this time, I have witnessed Arsima's unrelenting dedication, unwavering commitment, and unparalleled trustworthiness in fulfilling her responsibilities.

I strongly believe that her extensive experience, exceptional leadership skills, and profound work ethic make her an ideal candidate for the position.

I wholeheartedly endorse Arsima Muller for this role, and I urge you to consider my testimony as evidence of her exceptional character, integrity, and capability. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine Murphy

Operations Manager, Suka Pacific LLC, Waialua, HI.

Administrator, Tech Systems Inc., Schofield Barracks, HI.

Board Member, Marshallese Education Day Committee 501c3, Honolulu, HI.

Mark K. Murakami
3456 Maunalei Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

April 21, 2024

Senate Judiciary Committee
Legislature of the State of Hawai'i
Attention: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Re: Reappointment of Arsima Muller to Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Dear Senators Rhoads and Gabbard:

I have known Arsima Muller for many years and originally wrote in support of her original appointment to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission in 2022. Ms. Muller is a very competent and thoughtful person who has a thriving administrative and transactional legal practice. In addition, she volunteers on the Board of Directors of We are Oceania, the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, and most recently was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i State Bar Association to fill the vacancy left when Justice Vladimir Devens was appointed to the Supreme Court of the State of Hawai'i. In my discussions with Ms. Muller I know she has spent many hours fulfilling her duties with the Commission, and that she takes this responsibility very seriously. The State is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers such as Ms. Muller who, despite very busy professional and personal schedules, devote scarce time and resources to better our community.

I write to strongly recommend that you reappoint Ms. Muller as a Commissioner of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. If you have any questions or need additional information or documentation, please contact me at mkmurakami808@gmail.com or 808.721.8710. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark K. Murakami

Mark K. Murakami

