

**TESTIMONY OF CHAIRMAN CARLITO P. CALIBOSO
AND COMMISSIONER JOHN E. COLE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
OCTOBER 29, 2007**

**MEASURE: Governor's Message Nos. 14 and 15
TITLE: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Public Utilities
Commission Gubernatorial Nominee, Leslie Haruo Kondo, for Terms
to Expire 6-30-2008 and 6-30-2014**

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

We strongly support the nomination of Mr. Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"). Based on his sound character and distinguished background, Mr. Kondo is well-qualified to join the Commission. We will be honored to serve alongside him as fellow commissioners.

As you are aware, Mr. Kondo has been serving as interim commissioner since July 2007. During this period, he has worked tirelessly to gain an understanding of the regulatory issues that currently face the Commission, closely reviewing docket records, clarifying issues with staff and parties, and attending training programs, meetings and briefings. In these few months, Mr. Kondo has already made an appreciable difference at the Commission, through active participation in our deliberations, offering advice and assistance to staff on various matters, and overall professionalism in his approach to his work. He has proven that he possesses qualities that will serve him well as commissioner. In addition, Mr. Kondo's ability to draw from his past experience as director of the Office of Information Practices and as an attorney, and from his educational background in industrial engineering, is an asset to the Commission and to the public that we serve.

As the Commission stands poised to address many significant issues that will impact public utilities and their consumers today and in the future, we look forward to working with Mr. Kondo to establish sound, well-reasoned policies and rulings. We are confident that Mr. Kondo will dedicate himself to this effort with the highest degree of integrity and fairness. Therefore, we respectfully request the Committee to act favorably upon his nomination to the Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

October 25, 2007

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

HELD ON OCTOBER 29, 2007 AT 9:30 AM IN CONFERENCE ROOM 016

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 14 & 15
LESLIE KONDO'S GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION TO THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Chair Kokubun and Vice-Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Mr. Leslie Kondo's appointment to the Public Utilities Commission. I have held the position of Chief Auditor at the PUC for more than 9 years and have been a member of the PUC's audit staff for over 17 years. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Kondo since July 2007. Based on my observations and interactions with Mr. Kondo, I believe he has the skills, insight and knowledge to contribute greatly to the productivity at the Commission.

Mr. Kondo possesses the educational background and professional qualifications necessary to serve as a member of the Commission. I am confident Mr. Kondo's experience and ability to learn the regulatory process will clearly reflect his commitment to public service and benefit the State of Hawaii.

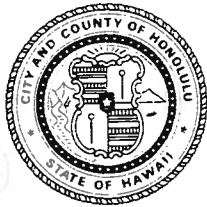
In conclusion, I urge your committee to confirm Mr. Kondo's appointment. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Steven Iha

465 South King St, Room 103
Honolulu, HI 96813



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 2
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH,
SAFETY AND WELFARE
TELEPHONE: (808) 547-7002
FAX: (808) 527-5737
EMAIL: dmdelacruz@honolulu.gov

October 23, 2007

Honorable Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
and members of the committee
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection and Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Kokubun:

RE: Nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mr. Leslie H. Kondo to Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. Kondo's professional background will greatly compliment the Public Utilities Commission's responsibilities such as regulating all franchised or certificated public service companies operating in the State, setting rates, tariffs, charges and fees and acting on requests for the acquisition, sale, and disposition of utility properties, including mergers and consolidations.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Kondo while he served as the State of Hawaii Director of the Office of Information Practices. Mr. Kondo has always maintained an honest and professional working relationship with all members of the City Council. Mr. Kondo's willingness to work with others and seek common ground on critical and sensitive issues makes him a great candidate for the Public Utilities Commission.

I thank you for your time and ask that you join me in supporting Mr. Kondo. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information you may require.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donovan M. Dela Cruz". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Councilmember
District II

Testimony of Hawaii Consumers supporting GM 14 & GM 15
"Confirmation of Leslie Haruo Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission"
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMECE, CONSUMER PROTECTION &
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Monday, October 29, 2007, 9:30 am Conference Room 016
Sen. Russell Kokubun, Chair and Sen. David Ige, Vice Chair

Hawaii Consumers supports the confirmation of Leslie Haruo Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission as nominated by Governor Lingle in GM 14 and GM 15 dated October 23, 2007.

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is an exceptional agency with important duties - to protect consumers and advocate for the public interest. In addition to energy and transportation, the PUC is responsible for regulating communications utilities – including Hawaiian Telcom, Time Warner Telecom, and other providers.

Utilities provide essential infrastructure and services for a healthy society – and communications utilities are particularly sensitive to the corrupting influences of money and power. As Thomas Jefferson noted, "information is the currency of democracy." Those who control communication networks and the flow of information have the ability to manipulate and distort the marketplace of ideas.

This fundamental concern was addressed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Today, this basic human right is threatened by private commercial exploitation of communications networks, whose corporate owners are complicit in censorship of our freedom of speech, warrantless invasions of privacy, filtering content, and egregious influence peddling. We need PUC Commissioners who are above reproach to ensure that communication utilities are accountable to the public.

Mr. Kondo has a distinguished record of public service which establishes both his integrity and his commitment to public accountability. By confirming his appointment – joining Chair Carl Caliboso and Commissioner John Cole, you will ensure that all of our PUC Commissioners are people of the highest ethics. We are fortunate indeed, to have the best and brightest who serve Hawaii well.

Hawaii Consumers c/o Sean McLaughlin
e: hawaiiconsumers@gmail.com t: 808-447-9610

TOM PETRUS & MILLER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
A Limited Liability Law Company

Lyle M. Ishida
(808) 792-5806
lishida@tpm-hawaii.com

October 18, 2007

Senator Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Comment regarding Leslie H. Kondo,
Nominee to the Public Utilities Commission.

Dear Honorable Senator Kokubun:

Please accept this as my unqualified recommendation of Leslie H. Kondo as a nominee for commissioner, Public Utilities Commission.

I first became acquainted with Les in 1989 in his professional capacity as a law clerk at the Case & Lynch law firm in Honolulu, Hawaii. After graduating from the William S. Richardson School of Law and passing the bar examination in 1990, Les chose to accept a permanent attorney position at a competing law firm, McCorriston Miho Miller & Mukai, to my disappointment. I was fortunate to reunite with Les in a working capacity at the firm of Tom & Petrus, now Tom, Petrus & Miller, when I joined the firm in 1997. During the years 1997 to 2000, I worked regularly and closely with Les before he left Tom & Petrus for another private firm, then to government practice as Director, Office of Information Practices. I have maintained a personal friendship with Les over these years, and consider him a close friend. I have followed his career change from private practice to public service, and to his present position at the Public Utilities Commission.

I highly recommend the nominee Leslie Kondo as commissioner, Public Utilities Commission. I have been a member of the Hawaii bar since 1987, the Illinois bar since 1988. I have substantial knowledge and familiarity with the nominee, and in my evaluation of Les, he possesses a high level of legal skill, knowledge of the substantive law and legal procedure, and has an understanding temperament. This evaluation is based on my personal observations as well as professional discussions working with Les in civil litigation matters. I have no doubt that his skills will serve him well as a commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

I have also had personal discussions with Les since his nomination to the P.U.C., and his acceptance of his current position. I know him to enjoy working in government service, and he feels both personal and professional satisfaction in dedicating his working career to public service.

Senator Russell S. Kokubun

October 18, 2007

Page Two

My high recommendation of Les is unqualified. I am sure he will be a welcomed appointment to the Public Utilities Commission.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyle M. Ishida", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lyle M. Ishida

October 18, 2007

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,
AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

THE HONORABLE RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, CHAIR

THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, VICE CHAIR

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE LESLIE H. KONDO
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

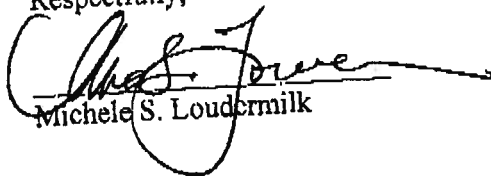
Testimony of Michele S. Loudermilk

Chairman Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing:

I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Leslie H. Kondo as a commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission. I have known Mr. Kondo for 20 years, since we both attended the William S. Richardson School of Law. He has proven to be an able attorney, working in private practice for many years, before serving as Director of the Office of Information Practices, his most recent position. I support the confirmation of Mr. Kondo, because I believe that he has the background, the experience, and the temperament to suit the position of Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. Kondo has a good reputation as a thoughtful professional who is practical and intelligent. He has a strong sense of integrity, and if confirmed, I believe that he would continue to serve the State of Hawaii well. I believe that he would make considered, reasoned decisions. I believe that Mr. Kondo would be an asset and a credit to the Public Utilities Commission, and I support his confirmation without reservation. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in this matter.

Respectfully,


Michele S. Loudermilk

ELIJAH YIP, Attorney-at-Law, Cades Schutte LLP • (808) 521-9326 • eyip@cades.com

Testimony Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing
October 18, 2007

by
Elijah Yip

Re: Nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC")

Chair Kokubun and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to express support for the nomination of Leslie H. Kondo as a Commissioner of the PUC.

I am an attorney in private practice with the law firm of Cades Schutte LLP. As counsel for parties in various civil lawsuits involving the Hawai'i Sunshine Law and the Uniform Information Practices Act, I have had many opportunities to interact with Mr. Kondo in his former position of director of the Office of Information Practices ("OIP").

Mr. Kondo is not only intelligent and capable, but committed to ensuring that the law is implemented according to its intended design. He has demonstrated resolve to uphold the integrity of the law. I believe his legal training and experience in public service as past director of OIP make him well-qualified to serve as a Commissioner of the PUC. For these reasons, I support Mr. Kondo's nomination.

The views presented in this testimony are my own, and do not necessarily reflect those of Cades Schutte.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony.

OCT 22 2007

LAW OFFICES OF ERIC S. T. YOUNG
A LAW CORPORATION

PACIFIC GUARDIAN CENTER, MAUKA TOWER
737 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 3000
HONOLULU, HI 96813
PH: (808) 536-0600
FAX: (808) 536-0024
eric@ericyounglaw.com

October 21, 2007

Via facsimile

The Honorable Sen. Russell Kokubun
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chairman Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Leslie H. Kondo as a commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Les well since the time that we both practiced law together at Chun Chipchase Takayama Nagatani beginning in the year 2000. At that time, he was practicing civil litigation. Through my daily interaction with him in the office and frequent consultation on legal issues, I grew to respect his intelligence, judgment, and character. Even under the most stressful situations, Les proved an able problem solver and team player. He was equally respectful of both attorneys and staff, and was well-liked by both. He is a hard worker, a quick study, and a person of integrity. If a document was submitted to court with his name on it, you could count on cogent reasoning and thorough analysis.

Since that time, I have watched with admiration as Les grew into the role of Director of the Office of Information Practices. My first legal clerkship was for the Office of Information Practices many years prior. Les quickly became an expert on information practices and records and open meeting laws. Under his leadership, the Office issued decisions and opinions, that while not always politically popular, were well-reasoned and grounded in the law.

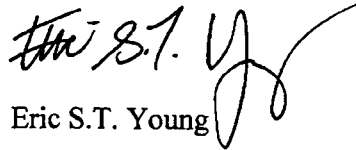
I firmly believe that if confirmed, Leslie H. Kondo will similarly become a valuable asset to the Public Utilities Commission.

October 21, 2007

Page 2

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric S.T. Young", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Eric S.T. Young

OCT 24 2007

Edmond K. Ikuma
2056 Mohala Way
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96822

The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun
Chairperson
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Affordable Housing
State Capitol, Rm. 407
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Re: Testimony in support of Mr. Leslie Kondo's confirmation to the Public Utilities
Commission

Chairman Kokubun and Members of the Committee:

October 23, 2007

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Leslie Kondo's confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Les for the past twenty years since we were classmates at the William S. Richardson School of Law and have followed his legal career from an attorney in private practice, to the Director of the Office of Information Practices (OIP) and finally as an interim Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). In all those years, the one thing that was very apparent about Les and has consistently distinguished him from his peers -- was, and is his work ethic. Whether it was preparation for a law school class, an OIP presentation, or a hearing before the PUC, Les has always prepared himself well. It is that preparation and a healthy respect for the rule of law that have earned him deference from his colleagues and success in his legal and professional endeavors.

On a personal level, Les is a dedicated husband and father, he is loyal to his friends, and he also finds time to contribute to the community by serving on the Board of Directors of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Public Utilities Commission and the State would benefit from Les' continued service and I have no reservations and categorically support, and respectfully urge the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Housing to confirm Les Kondo's appointment to the Public Utilities Commission. If the Committee has any questions with respect to this testimony, please call me at 587-0682. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Edmond K. Ikuma

Steven L. Rinesmith
Cathy Len Sekiguchi
Frank T. Kanemitsu

RINESMITH & SEKIGUCHI
LLLC

EMAIL: steve@rinesmith.us
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737 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 2775
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October 24, 2007

The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Affordable
Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission

Honorable Senator Kokubun and members of the committee:

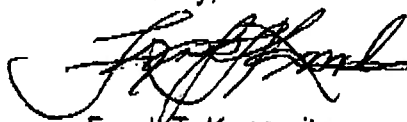
Please accept this letter as written testimony in support of the nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission.

I am both a personal friend and professional colleague of Les and have known him for over 12 years. Based upon my personal knowledge of Les' character and abilities, I believe that Les will be a great asset to the Commission. I have found that Les brings a passionate and focused dedication to everything he undertakes. It is for those very reasons that I asked Les to serve as my replacement as a director on the board of Make A Wish of Hawaii.

Further, I believe his skills honed as a litigator and as Director of the Office of Information Practices will be of considerable assistance to the Commission in the performance of its adjudicatory functions. Specifically, Les brings an ability to quickly and thoroughly analyze complex and layered issues, as well as balance competing interests in line with overlying policies, and I believe this experience will allow him to make sound, thoughtful, and forward-looking decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.

Sincerely,



Frank T. Kanemitsu

OCT 26 2007

Brian T. Moto
71 Makawao Avenue, No. 17
Makawao, Hawaii 96768

October 24, 2007

Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of **Leslie H. Kondo** to the Public Utilities Commission
Date of Hearing: Monday, October 29, 2007
Time of Hearing: 9:30 a.m.
Place of Hearing: Conference Room 016

Dear Senator Kokubun:

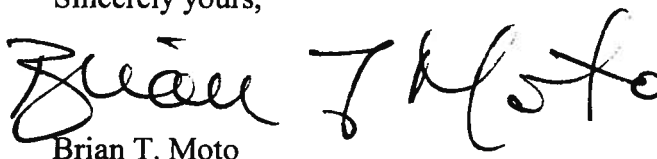
I write to express my support of the nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Mr. Kondo for a number of years. In my capacity as Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui, I had the opportunity and pleasure of working with Mr. Kondo and staff members in his former position as Director of the Office of Information Practices.

Mr. Kondo performed his duties with intelligence, integrity, and foresight. As Director, he responded to our requests for assistance in a timely and professional manner. When confronted by difficult and sometimes controversial issues, Mr. Kondo was stalwart in his efforts to advance the public interest and uphold the laws of the State of Hawaii.

I am confident that Mr. Kondo would serve the people of Hawaii well as a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Sincerely yours,


Brian T. Moto

OCT 25 2007

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
99-178 Kealakaha Drive
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
ON GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE LESLIE H. KONDO
FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

October 29, 2007

I would like to express my personal support for the consideration and confirmation of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission. In addition to being a personal friend, I have worked with Les in the privates sector, as well as when he directed the Office of Information Practices. I believe Leslie H. Kondo would be an excellent Public Utilities Commissioner, and an asset to the State. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

OCT 26 2007

Written Testimony on the Nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission

To: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing

From: Cathy L. Takase *ctakase*

Date: Monday, October 29, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Honorable Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Ige and committee members:

I would like to express my ardent support for Leslie Kondo's nomination to the Public Utilities Commission.

I first met Les while we were attending the William S. Richardson School of Law almost twenty years ago. In the ensuing years, I have come to know Les well both personally and professionally. Most recently, I worked with Les as a member of his staff at the Office of Information Practices ("OIP"), for which I am presently serving as Acting Director.

During his administration of Hawaii's open government laws, Les enthusiastically embraced his various roles of educator, arbiter, and counselor for the public as well as all government boards and agencies. He continually worked to reduce the backlog of outstanding cases and his efforts were successful in significantly reducing that number. He provided guidance and training to hundreds of members of the public, members of public boards, and government employees and officers. He testified before the Legislature to recommend changes to the statutes under OIP's purview where he believed amendment would foster better government or clearer application of the statutes without infringing upon the public's right and ability to participate in their government. He also testified to provide legal guidance concerning other proposed laws that could affect government information and open meeting practices. And, he issued legal opinions and adjudicated appeals regarding access, always providing what he believed to be the correct interpretations based upon the language of the statutes and applicable law, without injecting his personal views or dictating policy. Without a doubt, Les took seriously his duty to interpret the open government laws and to arbitrate disputes as a judicial body would do, in accordance with the statutes as written and consistent with the policies declared by the Legislature.

In the three years that we worked together at OIP, I personally witnessed Les' strong commitment to his duties and his service to the public, his openness to other points of view, his decisiveness, his integrity, and the high standards he sets for himself and those around him. Based upon my knowledge of Les both personally and professionally, I know that he will apply the same level of commitment to the work of the Commission and will provide the same thoughtful and thorough decision-making that he did as director of OIP. In addition, his broad legal experience in the private and government sectors and his exceptional analytical skills will surely continue to be an asset to the Commission in its adjudication of the important and far reaching issues that come before it. Les' ability to quickly comprehend and analyze issues on multiple levels in light of public policy concerns, as well as his inherent fairness, will make him an exceptional commissioner.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my wholehearted support for Les' appointment to the Commission.

RICHARD NAIWIEHA WURDEMAN
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation

Post Office Box 1800, Honolulu, Hawaii 96806-1800
Telephone: (808) 536-0633 * Facsimile: (808) 536-0634
e-mail: rnwurdeman@rnwlaw.com

October 25, 2007

Senator Russell S. Kokubun
Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of Leslie H. Kondo
Nominee to the Public Utilities Commission, GM 14, GM 15
Hearing: Monday, October 29, 2007 @ 9:30 a.m.

Dear Chair Kokubun and Members of the State Senate Committee on
Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing:

I am writing to you in **strong support** of Leslie H. Kondo's confirmation to
the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Les for the past several years on both a professional and
personal level. Les is extremely intelligent, highly ethical, and very sincere and
he is well respected by my colleagues in the legal profession, by those who work
and who are involved in government service, and by those in the general
community.

As the former Director of the Office of Information Practices, Les was
faced on a number of occasions with having to render opinions on very high
profile issues. Les always approached his duties with a highly ethical and moral
standard and he was never persuaded by political pressure in interpreting the law
and in rendering his opinions. Because of these character traits, Les was
actually the perfect person to serve as the OIP Director. He has always believed
in doing the right thing and he will maintain this same level of integrity and ethics
as a commissioner with the State Public Utilities Commission.

Les will also be able to provide the PUC with important insight on
commission issues and I know that he will work very hard at properly researching
and studying each and every issue that comes before him as a commissioner.

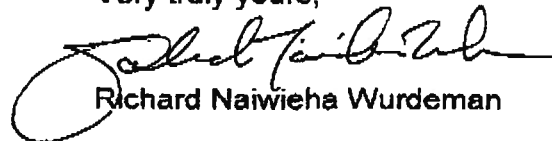
Chairman Russell S. Kokubun
October 25, 2007
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Furthermore, Les has always been a quick study of the law. He was an outstanding law student at the William S. Richardson Law School and he later became a very effective litigator at the McCorriston, Miho, Miller and Mukai law firm. Les is also very knowledgeable on important issues that face our community and he will be able to provide an important perspective as a commissioner on how each and every decision of the PUC will impact the community as a whole.

I firmly believe that Les will make a fine PUC Commissioner and I respectfully request that you will give him your favorable consideration and support his confirmation as a commissioner with the State Public Utilities Commission.

Respectfully submitted.

Very truly yours,



Richard Naiwieha Wurdeman

OCT 26 2007

Russell A. Suzuki
94-1190 Noheaiki Street
Waipahu, Hawai'i 96797

October 26, 2007

The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Affordable Housing
The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Kokubun and members of the Committee:

Re: Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Leslie Haruo Kondo
Hearing: Monday, October 29, 2007
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

I support the nomination of Les Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission and urge your confirmation of him. There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Kondo is qualified to serve on the PUC. His integrity and credibility is beyond reproach. Mr. Kondo enjoys the respect of all who have worked with him throughout the years. He is intelligent, hard working, pleasant to deal with, and confident but not arrogant. I believe that he has the proper self-discipline and temperament to serve the people of Hawai'i well on the PUC. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**Carrie K. S. Okinaga
4752 Analii Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821**

October 26, 2007

The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission

Dear Senator Kokubun:

This letter is written in full support of confirmation of Leslie Kondo's appointment to the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC"). I have known Mr. Kondo for almost 15 years, both professionally as a co-worker and personally as a friend. He possesses the characteristics and skills needed to be an effective PUC Commissioner.

First, Mr. Kondo maintains the highest ethical standards and zealously guards his integrity. As Director of the Office of Information Practices ("OIP"), Mr. Kondo took a very principled approach to interpretation of public access laws, which required that he take unpopular positions in furtherance of OIP's mission. This point was made clear to me as I sat in disbelief, listening to a newspaper editorial board, speaking of their frustration with OIP in terms of insufficient access to government records. My disbelief stemmed from the fact that in my present job as Corporation Counsel, I have experienced and witnessed much frustration over OIP's perceived bias in favor of the media. As Director of OIP, Mr. Kondo balanced many competing interests, and much to his credit, he never pleased (or displeased) everyone all of the time.

Second, Mr. Kondo is highly inquisitive, and knows how to ask very tough, pointed and intelligent questions in a very respectful, easygoing manner; this is both an art and a gift. Equally as important is his willingness to listen to the answers, and to engage in lively discussions regarding opposing viewpoints and competing interests; I know this from (many) firsthand experience(s). In summary, because he is sufficiently confident in his own abilities, he is able to articulate positions, defend those positions,

The Honorable Russell L. Kokubun
October 26, 2007
Page 2

and when changing those positions, shake your hand and move forward without hard feelings.

Third, the breadth of Mr. Kondo's personal and professional experiences will help him to be a wise and compassionate commissioner. As the child of a United Nations official, Mr. Kondo traveled to foreign countries, and was exposed from a very early age to people of different cultures and backgrounds, and this "education" continued at Hawaii Preparatory Academy. His passion for all aspects of the law has taken him through diverse professional activities, including private practice and his role as the guardian and interpreter of the public information laws. Mr. Kondo is sensitive to and accepting of different cultures and backgrounds, and this will serve him well on the Commission.

Finally, as he has demonstrated over the past few years as OIP Director, Mr. Kondo is motivated by a keen desire to serve and improve our community. As Corporation Counsel, I fully understand that a true public servant is an invaluable asset. Mr. Kondo is such a man.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this letter of recommendation.

Very truly yours,


Carrie K. S. Okinaga

Shari Wong
924 Ocean View Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

October 26, 2007


The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Affordable Housing
The Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Kokubun and members of the Committee:

Re: Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Leslie Haruo Kondo
Hearing: Monday, October 29, 2007
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

I support the nomination of Les Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission and urge your confirmation of him. I have known Mr. Kondo since 1990 when we clerked together for Chief Justice Herman Lum of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Mr. Kondo is unquestionably qualified to serve on the PUC. Over the past seventeen years, Mr. Kondo has demonstrated his sharp intellect, strong work ethic, and dedication to public service. I believe that he has the proper self-discipline and temperament to serve the people of Hawai'i well on the PUC. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,


Shari Wong

Larry Geller
1515 Nuuanu Ave. #153
Honolulu, HI 96817

GM14
CPH
Monday, October 29, 2007
9:30 a.m. Room 016

October 26, 2007

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senator David Y. Ige, Vice Chair

GM14: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Gubernatorial Nominee, LESLIE HARUO KONDO, for a term to expire 6-30-2008

Senator Kokubun, Senator Ige and members of the Committee:

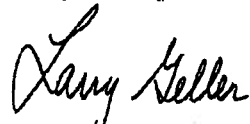
I would like to offer Les Kondo my highest recommendation for his appointment to the Public Utilities Commission.

As OIP Director he demonstrated an ability to analyze complex issues of law and interpret them clearly and succinctly so that even I, a non-attorney, could understand the reasoning behind his opinions. I was happy to see the OIP's backlog of inquiries successfully managed and its responsiveness increased while he was Director.

It seems to me that the Public Utilities Commission, which oversees an often arcane world of state utility regulations, would greatly benefit from his skills and proven abilities. Regulations and tariffs are often complex and sometimes confusing, and the legal landscape is constantly shifting and uncertain. Mr. Kondo's experience and background as an attorney has prepared him for this position.

I ask the Committee to confirm Les Kondo's appointment so that the public may have the benefit of his service at the PUC.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry Geller

October 28, 2007

The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

FAX: 586-6659

RE: Gov. Msg. Nos. 14, 15: Nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public
Utilities Commission

Dear Senator:

I am writing to support the Governor's nomination of Leslie H. Kondo, Esq., to the Public Utilities Commission.

As a professor of journalism at the collegiate level, I have been able to observe and work rather closely with Mr. Kondo when and after he was appointed as director of the Office of Information Practices. On several occasions I was able to observe him presenting his expert testimony given to the Legislature in the same hearing on open-government measures that I was also testifying on.


In addition, I found that Mr. Kondo was fair and open-minded in his interpretation of Hawaii's open-meeting and open-records statutes, which he was designated by statute to direct and oversee. As the statutes mandate, he construed these statutes as liberally as possible so as to benefit the public interest.

Moreover, Mr. Kondo was generous in going out of his way to share his expertise with students, public-interest groups and citizens interested in learning more about Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 92 and 92F so that they could utilize them for their personal, academic or professional purposes.

Given his experience in the current state administration, his even-handed and fair administration of two statutes of immense impact on the public and his generous concern for open and educative government processes and procedures, I believe that Mr. Kondo will make an outstanding contribution to the Public Utilities Commission.

Therefore, I fully support his nomination. I hope that you and your committee will give him your highest possible consideration for confirming him for both an interim term and a full term ending June 30, 2014.

Sincerely yours,


Beverly Ann Deepe Keever, Ph.D.
2176 Aha Niu Place
Honolulu, HI 96821

Via Fax 808-586-6689

Presley Pang
66 Queen Street #1905
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

October 29, 2007

Hon. Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Kokubun:

**SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Leslie Kondo as
Commissioner for the Public Utilities Commission**

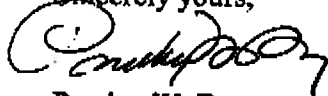
I am pleased to submit this testimony to support the confirmation of Leslie "Les" Kondo as a commissioner on the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

I have had frequent professional dealings with Mr. Kondo during his tenure as the head of the State's Office of Information Practices. Even though he and I would often approach a problem from a different initial perspective, I have always found him to be open minded and fair. In all cases, he was able to articulate the reasoning supporting his position. He often had to make unpopular decision, and I respect his integrity and his fidelity to the mission of that office.

Mr. Kondo, however, also has a keen appreciation of practical reality which he developed during his years as an attorney in the private sector. He is creative and pragmatic within the context of his agency's mission and purpose. We would often find a practical solution to the issue I brought to him.

Mr. Kondo would be a wonderful addition to the PUC—upbeat, energetic, and eager to take on the challenges. I support his confirmation as one of its commissioners without any reservation.

Sincerely yours,



Presley W. Pang

October 26, 2007

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**HEARING TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 29, 2007 AT 9:30 AM
IN CONFERENCE ROOM 016**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 14 & 15
LESLIE KONDO'S GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION TO THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Chairman Kokubun and Vice-Chairman Ige and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Mr. Leslie ("Les") Kondo's commissioner appointment to the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC"). I am a staff attorney with the PUC and have had the pleasure of working with Les during his interim commissionership. He is the kind of person who puts passion into his work. He did not hesitate to "roll up his sleeves" and jump into our complex, technical, and usually low-profile issues. Most of what the PUC does is unseen and unappreciated by the public so long as the lights go on when they flip the switch. All of what we do is highly technical and is learned "on the job." We are not taught these areas in law school. Les' engineering background is evident in his quick understanding of the issues and decisive responses.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Les' appointment. I hope that you will confirm him without any hesitation or reservation.

Sincerely,

Jodi Yi

David K. Tanoue
55 S. Kukui Street, #D-311
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 226-9094

October 27, 2007

Via Electronic Delivery (testimony@capital.hawaii.gov)

The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Leslie H. Kondo to the Public Utilities Commission

Honorable Chair Kokubun, and members of the committee:

This testimony is presented in support of Leslie H. Kondo's nomination to the Public Utilities Commission.


I first became acquainted with Les while attending the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1987. Since then, I have maintained a personal relationship with Les and consider him a close friend. As a close friend, I can personally attest to his high moral character and integrity. He is very approachable, considerate and displays compassion towards people. His unassuming demeanor and personality would be an asset to the commission.

As a professional, his many years of private practice have given him a wealth of experience. Moreover, as the former Executive Director of the Office of Information Practices, he was able to demonstrate his competence in leadership, fiscal management, and interpersonal relationships with others. Lastly, Les has common sense, which combined with his experience and professional background, develops the wisdom that each commissioner should possess.

I can highly recommend Leslie H. Kondo as commissioner to the Public Utilities Commission without reservation. And I know he will be a welcomed appointment to the commission.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer testimony in support.

Aloha,



David K. Tanoue