

# HAWAII CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

August 29, 2017  
Rm. 016, 10:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: William Hoshijo, Executive Director  
Hawaii Civil Rights Commission

Re: G.M. No. 33

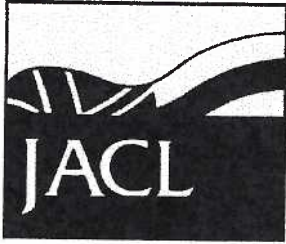
The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawaii's laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawaii constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

G.M. No. 33 submits the nomination of Joakim Peter to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, for Senate consideration and confirmation.

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 appreciative of the willingness of Joakim Peter to serve as an HCRC Commissioner. Mr. Peter brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the Commission, and an impressive record of leadership and demonstrated commitment to civil rights for Hawaii's people. He will contribute a valuable perspective on civil rights as they impact members of our community who are from Micronesia and Compact of Free Association (COFA) nations.

The nomination and confirmation of Mr. Peter is possible after the enactment of Act 36 on June 6, 2017, definitively addressing the eligibility of citizens of COFA nations who are Hawaii residents to serve on a board or commission, allowing them the opportunity to participate and serve.



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

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EMAIL: [jaclhon@gmail.com](mailto:jaclhon@gmail.com) WEBSITE: [www.jaclhonolulu.org](http://www.jaclhonolulu.org)

*Working For A Greater America*

August 28, 2017

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To: Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Honorable Karl Rhodes, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Alison Kunishige  
President, Japanese American Citizens League – Honolulu Chapter

Re: SUPPORT OF GM33  
Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOAKIM PETER  
Tuesday, August 29, 2017  
10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 016

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhodes and Members of the Committee:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Honolulu Chapter is in strong support of Joakim Peter's nomination to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization. Locally our organization works to protect the civil and human rights of all. This work includes Native Hawaiian self-determination, protection of immigrant rights and protection of COFA migrant healthcare.

In 2012, the JACL Honolulu Chapter began working with the Micronesian community to support COFA healthcare. It was at that time that we worked closely with Mr. Peter. Through this work then and the years that followed, we have found Mr. Peter to be a dedicated, effective advocate for all those disenfranchised in Hawai'i and across the United States. He is a tireless community leader and has committed his life to civil rights and equality for all. He is thoughtful, collaborative and effective. Mr. Peter is an ideal choice to carry out the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission's work to uphold our anti-discrimination and equal protection laws.

## Legal Counsel

Benjamin Kudo

## Advisory Council

Allicyn Hikida-Tasaka

Clayton Ikei

William Kaneko

Colbert Matsumoto

Alan Murakami

Dina Shek  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2017

**RE: Support for Nomination of Joakim Peter  
to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (GM 33 – Special Session)**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to support the nomination of Joakim "Jojo" Peter to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. As an attorney and community lawyer, I have had the great privilege of working with Mr. Peter over the last seven years to address matters of discrimination and civil rights in the contexts of healthcare, education, housing, and public accommodations. He has especially focused on the enforcement and education about civil rights for Micronesian and other immigrant communities, students with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations.

Mr. Peter's decades of professional, scholarly, and community achievements reveal his commitment to equal rights and dignity for all. Mr. Peter always demonstrates a depth of knowledge, critical analysis, and compassion, making him an ideal candidate to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for his nomination to this important Commission.

Please vote to CONFIRM Mr. Joakim Peter's nomination to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

Thank you for your consideration,



Dina Shek



**HEALTHYPACIFIC.COM**  
restoringjusticehi@gmail.com

**LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY**

**GM33**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOAKIM PETER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2019.

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

August 29, 2017

10:30 A.M.

Capitol Room 016

Aloha Mai Kākou e Committee Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

HealthyPacific.Com **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** GM33, which seeks confirmation of the nomination of Mr. Joakim "Jojo" Peter to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

Mr. Peter is known far and wide for his decades of work advocating for the civil and human rights of those who must often face systemic and sometimes blatant discrimination in our society. He has written abundantly on a range of issues relating to civil rights and the human and social impacts of discrimination, including in Hawai'i, and has a long history of community work that greatly informs his insight into the difficulties of meaningfully ensuring equal protection and fair treatment for all. Mr. Peter has also worked specifically on a range of federal and state administrative law issues, including most recently on the facilitation of state programs intended to implement the requirements of the Affordable Care Act, and has demonstrated great acumen in understanding and helping our linguistically and culturally diverse community members navigate complex regulatory requirements under state law.

Mr. Peter's lifetime of experiences, education, and extensive community involvement, as well as his thoughtfulness and demonstrated commitment to meaningful equality for all, makes him an ideal choice to carry out the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission's important kuleana to uphold our anti-discrimination and equal protection laws.

Accordingly, HealthyPacific.Com urges your Committee to vote to **CONFIRM** Mr. Peter's nomination to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

## Tom Heinrich

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**From:** Wayne Tanaka <wctanaka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2017 5:21 PM  
**To:** JDCTestimony  
**Subject:** GM33, Joakim Peter Nomination Hearing for August 29, 2017 10:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

I have known Mr. Peter for many years now and I can state with full confidence that his thoughtfulness, intelligence, and commitment to upholding the ideals of equality and fairness will make him an invaluable addition to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. I therefore urge you to **SUPPORT** Mr. Peter's nomination to the Commission.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Wayne Tanaka  
[wctanaka@gmail.com](mailto:wctanaka@gmail.com)