

MASTER TESTIMONY

CPN HEARING 02-09-15

GM506

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

Report Title: Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/26/2015	S	Received.
1/26/2015	S	Referred to CPN.
2/2/2015	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 02-09-15 9:30AM in conference room 229.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU, HAWAII

David Y. Ige
Governor

Testimony on GM 506
Confirmation of Catherine Awakuni Colón
Director, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Governor David Y. Ige

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 9, 2015
9:30 a.m., Room 229

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). Ms. Awakuni Colón led the Division of Consumer Advocacy back in 2006 and most recently was the Administrator for the Cable Television Division. Prior to that, she served as commission counsel for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

This administration is committed to transforming the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I'm confident that Catherine Awakuni Colón will support our DCCA employees in this effort. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Feb. 9, 2015
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

G.M. 506

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Catherine Colon as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA).

Ms. Colon has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Hawaii and a law degree from William S. Richardson School of Law. The experience she developed while working at DCCA in various positions will be an asset to her as Director. Her career trajectory at DCCA from being the Administrator for the Cable Television Division, Executive Director for the Division of Consumer Advocacy, and Counsel for the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission demonstrate her abundant knowledge and commitment to protect Hawaii's consumers and assist businesses with compliance.

Should she be confirmed we know she will acquit herself with distinction and use her many talents and inexorable persistence to advance DCCA. It's been a pleasure working with her and we look forward to continuing to work with her to ensure contractor license compliance and to better connect Hawaii with broadband.

We commend her nomination without reservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony of
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWN H. SNIFFEN

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 506, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, **CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN**, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

Dear Members of the Committee,

I write today in **strong support** of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Though I write today as a private citizen, as the Founder and Director of the University of Hawaii Academy for Creative Media I have worked closely with Catherine Awakuni Colon in her previous position as Cable Television Administrator on our 'Ulu'ulu: The Henry Ku'ualoha Giugni Moving Image Archive which the legislature has generously supported in the past.

Ms. Awakuni-Colon is a dedicated public servant. She is always diligent, quick to give responses, thoughtful and fair. The next DCCA Director faces daunting challenges, particularly with the pending acquisition of Time Warner Oceanic by NBC/Universal/Comcast. This will not be a job for beginners. As an industry professional myself, I know she understands the complexities of the continuing consolidation of the media landscape and Ms. Awakuni-Colon can be trusted to look out for the best interests of Hawaii's tax and rate payers. Her previous experience at the PUC as Chief Legal Counsel and as Manager of the Corporate Planning Department at HECO will only strengthen her in this new post if she is approved. She is very qualified to become the next Director and I enthusiastically encourage your support of her.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Ms. Awakuni-Colon.

Sincerely,

Chris Lee

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 506: Submitting for consideration and confirmation of
the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs,
Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÒN, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.**

Testimony in Strong Support

By

P. Roy Catalani

Vice President, Young Brothers, Limited

February 09, 2015, Conference Room 229

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 506 submitting Governor Ige's nomination of **Catherine Awakuni Colòn** for the **Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs of the State of Hawai'i** (the DCCA or the *Department*). On behalf of Young Brothers, Limited, **I submit this testimony in strong support of Ms. Colòn's nomination.**

Ms. Colòn's professional history clearly demonstrates a commitment to the interest of the public and to public service, which includes tenure with two DCCA agencies. From 2006 to 2009, she served as the Executive Director of the Department's Division of Consumer Advocacy (or the Consumer Advocate, as more commonly known). More recently, she was the administrator of the DCCA's Cable Television Division. In addition, Ms. Colòn's public service covers, as chief counsel, heading the legal staff of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission after a period as commission counsel. Her academic credentials include a bachelor's degree in business and a juris doctorate from the University of Hawai'i.

Young Brothers is a water carrier regulated by the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission. Under this regulatory regime, we have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Colòn in her position with the Public Utilities Commission and as Consumer Advocate. Based on this experience, we believe that Ms. Colòn is particularly well qualified and suited to lead the DCCA in fulfilling the Department's responsibility for protecting the interests of consumers, depositors, and investors throughout the State and for setting standards and enforcing all laws and rules governing the licensing and operation of trades, businesses, and professions.

We believe Ms. Colòn will be a valued and highly productive member of Governor Ige's cabinet and respectfully request that you recommend approval of her nomination as Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on and strongly support Governor's Message 506.

February 5, 2015

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 506, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Hawaiian Telcom in strong support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

I have known Ms. Awakuni Colon for approximately ten years. During that time, I have worked within a variety of capacities including her roles as Executive Director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy, Chief Legal Counsel of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission and most recently as Cable Television Administrator.

Ms. Awakuni Colon is a quick learner, who sees the big picture, and considers all alternatives while effectively ensuring that the details are properly managed. She is transparent, open to input and effective in developing creative solutions to complex issues. While we have not always agreed on the details of each situation, she has always conducted herself in a professional manner by being respectful and collaborative.

I am confident that Ms. Awakuni Colon has the commitment, disposition and experience to effectively lead and manage the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and I believe she will prove to be an outstanding Director of the department.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter and for your serious consideration of our strong support of the appointment of Ms. Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Sincerely,



John T. Komeiji
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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MAILING

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Monday, February 9, 2015

9:30 a.m.

State Capitol - Conference Room 229

RE: Governor's Message 506, Consideration and Confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON

Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Committee,

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-Hawaii **supports** GM 506, for the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Awakuni Colon, as Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCCA).

Ms. Colon has an extensive and successful career serving the residents of the State of Hawaii. Most recently, Ms. Colon served as Cable Television Administrator of the DCCA, from 2013 to 2014. Prior to that, she served as Chief Legal Counsel to the Public Utilities Commission from 2011 to 2013. She garnered non-government experience as Manager, Corporate Planning Department at the Hawaiian Electric Company from 2010 to 2011. And Ms. Colon served as Executive Director for the Division of Consumer Advocacy for the DCCA from 2006 to 2009.

Based on dealings with Ms. Colon, BIA-Hawaii finds this nominee to be intelligent, thoughtful, collaborative, and transparent.

We appreciate this opportunity to express our **support** for Catherine Awakuni Colon as Director of the DCCA.



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Century Square – 1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003*Honolulu, HI 96813-3304

Telephone (808) 533-6404 • Fax (808) 533-2739

February 9, 2015

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: GM 506 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association and we submit this testimony in support of Catherine Awakuni Colon as the Director of DCCA.

A few years ago the Hawaii Pest Control Association had some matters before the Public Utilities Commission forcing me to make several filings with PUC. With no prior experience of the PUC process I consulted with Ms. Awakuni Colon and found her to be extremely helpful in the preparation of our documents. The information she gave me was balanced and she offered advice as to matters of PUC practices without giving me an edge on the argument.

Locations LLC

February 6, 2015

Locations LLC
Diamond Head Office
614 Kapahulu Avenue, Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96815
Tel 808.735.4200 | Fax 808.732.5096
www.LocationsLLC.com

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 506, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. My name is Scott Higashi writing on behalf of Locations LLC, Hawaii's largest residential real estate firm.

The responsibilities of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs are important to our business. We believe that consumers of real estate transactions both deserve and require the oversight of the State, and that the actions of real estate professionals must continuously meet the highest ethical standards. Concurrently, we believe that the role of the Department is to also understand that successful businesses are critical to maintaining jobs and contributing to the economic well-being of the State.

We support the Governor's nomination of Ms. Colón to serve as Director of the Department. Her past experience with the DCCA as Executive Director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy from September 2006 to December 2009, and as Cable Television Administrator from September 2013 to December 2014 indicates that she has an understanding of diverse areas within the Department. Her past role as the Chief Legal Counsel to the Public Utilities Commission from April 2011 to September 2013 reaffirms that she has knowledge of the operations of other aspects of the State government. Finally, her experience as a Manager in the Corporate Planning Department of Hawaiian Electric from November 2010 to April 2011 gives us confidence that she has an understanding of the needs of business in Hawaii.

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 6, 2015
Page 2

For the foregoing reasons, we write in support of her nomination and we ask that the Committee favorably consider her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Higashi
Executive Vice President
Locations LLC



Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Affairs

By David J. Bissell
Chief Executive Officer
Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Pahee Street, Suite 1, Lihue, Hawaii, 96766-2000

Monday, February 9, 2015, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room #229

GM 506 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (“KIUC”), I am pleased to submit testimony supporting the confirmation of Catherine Awakuni Colon as Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

My staff and I have worked with Ms. Colon for nearly a decade in her roles as Consumer Advocate and Senior Counsel to the Public Utilities Commission. We believe her experience and thorough understanding of the issues facing Hawaii utilities make her an outstanding choice for this position.

In all of my dealings with Ms. Colon I have been impressed by her intelligence and her candor. She is a forthright advocate for the public interest and she follows through on her commitments.

Ms. Colon has taken the time to understand the unique nature of KIUC as the only member-owned electric cooperative in Hawaii. She made the effort to visit Kauai for briefings on several of our projects so she could see for herself how our work could benefit our members.

Ms. Colon’s accessibility, open-mindedness and accomplishments on behalf of the consumer speak to her capability as an administrator. We look forward to working with Ms. Colon and the department on projects that can benefit the people of Kauai.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.



Board of Directors

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Chair

Allan Akamine
Jill Takasaki Canfield
Lester Chu
Ormond Hammond
Kalei Kailihiwa
Shelee Kimura
Jon E. Murakami
Mario R. Ramil
Michael Schmicker
Tyler Tokioka
Dawn Morais Webster
John Williamson
Derek Wong
Scotty Wong

Angela Q. Angel
Interim President/CEO

February 6, 2015

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 230
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: G.M. 506, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

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

My name is Angela Angel, Interim President and CEO for 'Ōlelo Community Media. I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 506, regarding the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón as Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. 'Ōlelo supports her appointment and respectfully requests that the committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to her appointment to the Department.

As the Cable TV Administrator, Ms. Awakuni Colón has provided 'Ōlelo and other Hawai'i Community Access centers on-going support in navigating us through an arduous PEG designation contract process. Her ability to intently listen with genuine care and concern has created trusting relationships between PEG providers and the DCCA. It is her show of integrity that inspire us to continue to work together to seek the best outcomes.

Ms. Awakuni Colón has diligently sought closure to uncompleted terms contained in the franchise agreement as documented in the DCCA's Cable Television Division's D&O 346. She was instrumental in facilitating the completion of the Deputy Director's Final Order Regarding Arbitrator's Decision in the settlement of the capital arbitration and in Stipulation to Settle all Claims of the Parties, CTV-2013-1.

Ms. Awakuni Colón has listened to our concerns regarding the need for universal migration towards HD to include the PEGs, appropriate channel placements and improvement of the iNet service between the State Capitol and PEG centers for more LIVE government programming, and has moved forward the process of receiving new statewide digital

Testimony on GM 506
Senate SPN
February 6, 2015
Page 2

PEG channels for use by state government and the public; as well as the creation of video-on-demand or VOD channels for state government, county governments, and public access.

In working with Ms. Awakuni Colón, I have found her questions and responses to show veracity and diplomacy. We appreciate her experience with and understanding of law, government, and community access mission. Her ability to communicate openly and honestly has prompted dialogue between the DCCA and PEG providers to improve services and rethink outcomes together. We are hopeful in working through any PEG designation contract hurdles for a quick resolve.

In summary, we support Ms. Awakuni Colón's appointment as Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Angel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angela Angel
Interim President and CEO



Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice-Chair

GM 506 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

February 09, 2015

Dear Senator Baker,

I am J Robertson, Managing Director of Ho'ike Kauai Community Television. On behalf of my Board of Directors and the hundreds of clients we serve I am here today to provide support for the nomination of Catherine Awakuni as Director of Hawaii's Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

My experience with the DCCA and in particular the Cable Division extends over the past 14 years. I have seen many strengths and experienced quite a few disappointments in that span of time. Most recently the DCCA was empowered to provide Designation for management of the PEG operations on each island. We twisted in the wind for three years but once Ms. Awakuni became the Cable Administrator we realized real and meaningful progress. The situation she inherited was complete with many issues and challenges. Her diligence and dedication has been a tremendous asset in our designation development. It is important to note that while she honors our community service she has always protected the interests of the State in our negotiations. This is a vital aspect of her approach to the position.

Our organization appreciates her extensive background in the workings of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This has been more than obvious in her term as Cable Administrator and how she handles the routine business of the office. We find her to be responsive, understanding, and someone who takes the extra effort to understand each side of a situation or issue.

We cannot be more pleased than to see her name in nomination to head this critical department in the State of Hawaii. Because of her experience, our personal business relationship, absolute fairness, and the remarkable ability to move projects toward a conclusion are the basis of our support.

We humbly request this Confirmation hearing to support and approve the nomination of Catherine Awakuni to Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Sincerely,

J S Robertson

J S Robertson
Managing Director

OFFICERS

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Rod Green
Vice-President

Michelle Rundbaken
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Jett Jasper

Jill Faye Papworth

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J Robertson
Managing Director

JulBia Astatkie

William "bc" Charles

Leiko Sameda

Roger Olsen

Kainoa Palama



COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Monday, February 9, 2015, 9:30am Room 229

Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of GM 506 – Confirmation of DCCA Director

My name is Jay April and I am President and CEO of Akaku Maui Community Media aka Maui County Community Television. I would like to submit my written testimony strongly in favor of the confirmation of Gubernatorial nominee, Catherine Awakuni Colon as Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Over the last several years I have had many occasions to work with Ms. Awakuni Colon in her role as Cable Television Administrator and have been impressed with her formidable repertoire of legal and regulatory knowledge. I have seen her in action at community meetings, public hearings, in testimony before the legislature and have benefited greatly from her always thoughtful, insightful and professional contributions.

Over many years of working with local, state and federal government officials, I have found Ms. Awakuni Colon to be one of the finest public servants I have ever seen. Her extraordinary calm and positive demeanor is engaging but it also inclusive and contagious. It belies a quiet strength backed by competence, experience, fair mindedness and tact. In her role as cable administrator she brought needed stability and leadership to an area that was badly in need of both. She was also able to bring people together with positive outcomes. I am confident that with her expanded responsibilities she will be a great asset to the DCCA and to our state as a whole. I enthusiastically endorse her confirmation for your committee's consideration.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

Monday, February 9, 2015
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 506, NOMINATING CATHERINE
AWAKUNI COLÓN AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”), testifying in my personal capacity. I strongly support Catherine Awakuni Colón’s nomination for Department Director.

I have known Ms. Colón since she first came to work for the Department in 2006 as the Executive Director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy. As a fellow division chief in the Department, I saw how well Ms. Colón inspired her team with her enthusiasm, intelligence, compassion, and strong work ethic. Through her leadership, the Division of Consumer Advocacy took on tough issues and successfully advocated in the public’s interest. As such, I was very pleased when Ms. Colón returned to the Department in 2013 to become the state’s Cable Administrator. Ms. Colón embraced the myriad work of the division and again showed her commitment to advocating for the people’s interests in a manner that was collaborative, respectful and fair.

On a more personal note, Cat is a real pleasure to work with. She has a leadership style that engenders respect and loyalty from those who work for her, and she inspires excellence through her own example. As the Department’s director, she has quickly familiarized herself with the work of the department and with the staff who make DCCA such a special place. Although Cat is always friendly and courteous, she is by no means a “go along to get along” type of leader and has already tackled tough issues and put her own stamp on her administration.

The Department has always done important work, and has been blessed with great leaders who continue to serve our state in a variety of roles. I am so lucky to bear witness to the “passing of the torch” to Ms. Colón as the DCCA’s next Director. I know that under her leadership, DCCA is destined to do great things.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

TESTIMONY FOR GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 506
Confirmation Hearing for Catherine Awakuni Colón
Nominee – Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair,
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

My name is Celia Suzuki and this testimony is submitted in strong support of Catherine Awakuni Colón's nomination as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department).

I had the privilege of first meeting Ms. Awakuni Colón when she was the Consumer Advocate of the Department and I was a Program Specialist in the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division. She was always very gracious, approachable and resilient.

Although she left the Department for a number of years, upon her return to the Cable Television Division in 2013, Ms. Awakuni Colón was still cordial, welcoming and strong in character - she continues to be that way today. Accordingly, I look forward to working with Ms. Awakuni Colón in her new capacity as Director. As a Division Chief, I have every confidence that she will be sensitive and thoughtful in her decision making, treat everyone fairly, and will perform her job with diligence and impartiality.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Ms. Awakuni Colón.

Celia Suzuki
775 Kinalau Place
Honolulu, HI 96813

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GM 506

My name is Jeff Ono. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Hawaii since 1980. I am currently the executive director for the Division of Consumer Advocacy, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“DCCA”), State of Hawaii. I am offering my testimony as an individual, not in my capacity as the Consumer Advocate, in support of Catherine Awakuni’s nomination as the director of DCCA.

I have known Ms. Awakuni since 2011. At that time, Ms. Awakuni was chief counsel at the Public Utilities Commission, and I was the newly appointed Consumer Advocate. I had the opportunity to interact with Ms. Awakuni in our respective roles at the two state agencies responsible for utility regulation. Ms. Awakuni is a brilliant, no-nonsense lawyer who has a thorough understanding of the regulatory process, complex energy issues, and most importantly for her nomination as director, the effect regulation and competition have on businesses and consumers.

More recently, Ms. Awakuni served as the administrator for the Cable Division, DCCA, state of Hawaii. As a fellow division chief at DCCA, I had the opportunity to work with her as our respective divisions separately analyzed the Comcast/Oceanic Cable merger. Ms. Awakuni is a dedicated public servant who understands the need to protect consumers interests while at the same time fostering business development. Most importantly, Ms. Awakuni is a leader who has the respect of her staff, peers, and the business community. I am proud to be one of her division chiefs and will do my best to support her in her new role as director of DCCA.

It is without hesitation that I support Ms. Awakuni’s nomination as the director of DCCA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF KEALI'Í LÓPEZ
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

Monday, February 9, 2015
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 506,
NOMINATING CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA"). My name is Keali'i López, and my support for Ms. Awakuni Colón is based on my experience as her supervisor when Catherine recently served as the Cable Television ("CATV") Administrator at DCCA.

I take great pride in the fact that I was able to have Ms. Awakuni Colón join DCCA in September of 2013. I had the pleasure of working with Catherine briefly while she served with Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") Chair, Hermina Morita. Catherine was helpful in ensuring the DCCA was fully aware of the implications of proposed legislation to move Telecomm regulation from the PUC to DCCA. I found Catherine to be very knowledgeable and an effective collaborator. Although my work with Catherine was very brief at the time, I was able to readily ascertain her strong commitment to public service.

Catherine joined the DCCA as the CATV Administrator, and was able to quickly and effectively get up to speed. Catherine was instrumental in the State's review of the Comcast/Time Warner ("Applicants") merger application. Throughout the review process, Catherine demonstrated her ability to be a strong advocate for consumers while balancing the Applicants' need for regulatory certainty and fairness. Catherine's command of telecomm as

well as cable regulation at both the State and Federal levels were critical to this review process and the timely issuance of the final decision and order.

While working with Catherine, I quickly became aware of her intellect, and heavily relied upon her ability to grasp complex issues and explain these complex concepts in a tangible manner. This ability, along with her talented CATV/Broadband staff, enabled DCCA to further its broadband and INET efforts with key stakeholders (University of Hawaii, Department of Education, Office of Information Management and Technology, Hawaii State Public Library System, Oceanic Time Warner Cable and others) in a very meaningful and productive manner.

In addition to Catherine's success during her tenure as CATV Administrator, her familiarity with the Department, its diverse jurisdictional purview, administrative requirements, funding mechanisms and the legislative processes makes Catherine exceptionally prepared to serve as Director of DCCA. Her knowledge, experience and unique skills will allow Catherine to hit the ground running, which in turn will significantly benefit DCCA licensees, its regulated industries, Hawaii consumers and the Department. This, and her fluency with the PUC, will be essential to the smooth transition as the PUC is transferred from Budget and Finance to DCCA. The legislature's foresight to attach the PUC to the DCCA will significantly enable the Department provide critical support to the PUC. DCCA's administrative expertise will allow the PUC to concentrate extensively on the complex NextEra Energy/HEI merger. There isn't a more capable or better positioned champion for this process than Catherine.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 506 in support of Ms. Catherine Awakuni Colón's nomination to serve as Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

Monday, February 9, 2015
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 506,
NOMINATING CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. My name is Sean Mikell, Legislative Coordinator for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA"), offering testimony in **strong support** of G.M. No. 506 in my personal capacity.

I have had the privilege to know Ms. Awakuni Colón since 2011 when we were both working at the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC"), she as the PUC's Chief Counsel and I as part of the PUC's Research and Policy Section. Although she was not my direct supervisor, I immediately came to appreciate Ms. Awakuni Colón's strong leadership of the PUC's Legal Section and the substantial wealth of knowledge of local and national regulatory issues she brought to the PUC in general. I observed that in all matters, including management of the Legal Section and in addressing the often highly-sensitive regulatory issues the PUC faced, that Ms. Awakuni Colón always approached challenges with the same undeniably high level of sophisticated consideration, reasonableness, professionalism, and dedication to do the right thing the right way. I believe that this approach to her work – and her commitment to work with and support her colleagues – encourages and inspires others to put forth their own best efforts.

Leadership invariably sets the standard of quality for an entire organization, so with Director Awakuni Colón, Deputy Director Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi, and the other DCCA division and office heads working together to tackle consumer issues, I firmly believe DCCA and the State will greatly benefit for years to come from this Committee's recommendation to confirm Ms. Awakuni Colón as DCCA Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Awakuni Colón's nomination.

TESTIMONY OF BLAKE K. OSHIRO
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

Monday, February 9, 2015
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 506,
NOMINATING CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN AS THE
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

TO: THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). My name is Blake K. Oshiro, and I am submitting testimony of support on my own behalf.

I have known Ms. Awakuni for nearly two decades from our time in law school together, and ever since that time, I have always known her to be intelligent, conscientious, and diligent. More recently during our professional lives, I worked with her in several different capacities as she served with the Consumer Advocate office, the Public Utilities Commission and most recently as the Cable Administrator. I have consistently found her to be highly qualified in each of those positions, and so it is for that reason I am highly confident that she will be able to fulfill the important duties of the next Director of the DCCA. I have always found her to be of high moral standards, integrity, strong legal ability and a true advocate for the people.

Ms. Awakuni Colón has an in-depth knowledge of the Department, holds a high the level of respect, has great leadership skills, and she will bring all of those invaluable assets to DCCA that will serve the people of Hawaii well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 506, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, **CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN**, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

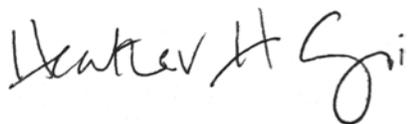
Aloha!

My name is Heather Giugni and I am writing in support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

I met Catherine Awakuni Colon while she worked for the previous Director of the DCCA. She was the Cable Television Administrator and I found her to be a dedicated, hard working, no nonsense individual who understood the complexities of the DCCA and managed seamlessly. Her previous experience at the PUC as Chief Legal Counsel and as Manager of the Corporate Planning Department at HECO will only strengthen her new post. She is very qualified to become the next Director and I enthusiastically encourage your support of her.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather H. Giugni". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Giugni
P.O. Box 37969
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96837

TESTIMONY OF COLTON CHING
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Monday, February 9, 2015
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 506,
NOMINATING CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. My name is Colton Ching and am submitting this testimony as a private citizen.

I have had the privilege of working with Cat throughout her time at the Consumer Advocate's office in 2006 through 2009. As an employee of Hawaiian Electric, my work with her often found us on opposite sides of many important energy issues. However, without exception, Cat always conducted herself and led her team in a constructive, solutions-oriented manner, always keeping consumer's interests at the forefront. In addition, I had the opportunity to work directly with Cat when Consumer Advocate's office and Hawaiian Electric worked together on what became known as the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative Energy Agreement in 2008. This agreement is a good example of Cat's leadership capability and her innate sense of doing what is right for Hawaii.

I also had the honor of being Cat's supervisor for a five month period in 2010-2011 when Cat worked as the Manager of Hawaiian Electric's Corporate Planning Department. During that period, Cat demonstrated an ability to build teams and ably lead and manage an organization around common goals.

And lastly, I continued to work with Cat in her role as Chief Legal Counsel for the Public Utilities Commission in 2011 through 2013. During that period I saw how Cat was able to build the capacity of the Public Utilities Commission to process important dockets and issue timely decisions and orders that fairly considered all aspects of the docket.

I have absolute confidence that if appointed, Cat will excel in the role as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Dean Nishina

TO: the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, Regular Session of 2015
February 9, 2015
9:30 Hearing Agenda

Testimony of Dean Nishina to the Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair, and members of the Committee re: GM 506 – Nomination of Catherine Awakuni Colón to be appointed as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

I strongly support the confirmation of Catherine Awakuni Colón (or Cat, as many people know her) as the new director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“DCCA”).

I am currently serving DCCA as the Public Utilities / Transportation Officer of the Division of Consumer Advocacy (“Division”). In that capacity, I have had the opportunity to interact with Cat in a number of different capacities. In all instances, I have always been impressed by her skills and attributes, such as her professionalism, leadership skills, work ethic, enthusiasm, knowledge, empathy, and communication skills. The list of her impressive skills and attributes could go on for much longer, but, suffice to say, the state of Hawaii and its people would be well served to have Cat as the director of DCCA.

She has a solid foundation upon which to serve as the director of DCCA. She was born and raised in Hawaii, and has business/accounting degree as well as a law degree. She has excellent work experience, such as working for an independent accounting firm, staff and chief counsel of the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”), Executive Director of the Division and, most currently, the Executive Director of the Cable Television Division.

My first interaction with her was when she was a staff attorney at the PUC. It was very clear from the beginning that Cat was a dedicated professional seeking to ensure that her work product reflected her best efforts. She has always been personable and approachable and even in a professional capacity, it was enjoyable to have her as the attorney on any proceeding.

Since that time, my admiration and respect for Cat as a professional has only grown and, during the time as Executive Director of the Division, I had the distinct privilege and honor to work with her on a number of key initiatives that continue to affect Hawaii and the regulated

industries. During that time, my appreciation for Cat as an individual also grew as I became more familiar with Cat and her family, where besides being a consummate professional, Cat is also a dedicated mother. Cat is a wonderful person and, while she would be an excellent director for any department, there are very few people who could be a better director of DCCA. During her time as the Executive Director of the Division, I was proud to nominate her for Manager of the Year and very pleased when DCCA's Incentive and Service Awards committee recognized Cat's abilities and contributions when she was selected as the Manager of the Year. Given her experience with DCCA, her prior work experience, her education, work experience, her personality, demeanor, character traits (and so on), Cat is an excellent choice to serve the administration and the people of Hawaii.

I would be extremely pleased to have Cat as the Director of DCCA and I am sure that she will continue to help DCCA serve (and improve on its service to) the state of Hawaii. If this committee and the Senate confirm her nomination, I am sure that they will quickly find that the decision to confirm Catherine Awakuni Colón was their best decision in this legislative session.

Humbly Yours,

Dean Nishina

February 6, 2015

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 506, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker:

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA).

My name is Christine Hirasa, and I am the Communications Officer for DCCA. I am submitting this letter of support in my personal capacity.

I had the opportunity to work with Cat, for the first time, almost 10 years ago, when she was serving as the State's Consumer Advocate. I was immediately impressed with her passion for the job, and her dedication to protect and advance the interests of Hawaii's consumers in the area of regulated public utilities. As Consumer Advocate, she signed the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, which is now leading the way toward an energy independent future for the state.

Cat is one-of-a-kind and truly one of the most sincere people I have met. She is intelligent, hard-working and extremely ethical, and has the ability to inspire others to perform at the highest level. She is someone who understands the true meaning of public service, and will always strive to do what's right to benefit the people of Hawaii.

Cat's experience as chief legal counsel for the Public Utilities Commission and most recently as administrator for the Cable Television Division, give her a unique and intimate perspective of matters that involve DCCA.

I firmly believe as director, she will take DCCA to the next level of promoting a strong and healthy business environment while protecting the community from unfair and deceptive business practices.

For these reasons, I strongly urge her confirmation as DCCA Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,



Christine Hirasa
Communications Officer
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Mobile: (808) 286-9626
Email: Christine.Hirasa@dcca.hawaii.gov

February 5, 2015

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 506, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation of the
Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee,
CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. My name is Diane Yuen Praywell, writing on behalf of myself.

My support of the appointment of Ms. Colon to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is based on her integrity, intelligence, leadership skills and her experience in leading and working within various consumer agencies since 2006, which make her extremely well-suited for the position. Such experience includes the following:

1. Cable Television Administrator, DCCA, September 2013 – December 2014
2. Chief Legal Counsel, Public Utilities Commission, April 2011 – September 2013
3. Manager, Corporate Planning Department, Hawaiian Electric Company, November 2010 – April 2011
4. Executive Director, Division of Consumer Advocacy, DCCA, September 2006 – December 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,



Diane Yuen Praywell
Attorney

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

9:30 a.m.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY ON GM 506

My name is Jayson Horiuchi, and I am a Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) employee, but testifying as a private individual. I strongly support the confirmation of Catherine Awakuni Colón as director for DCCA.

I first met Mrs. Awakuni Colón in 2007. Serving as executive director for the Division of Consumer Advocacy at the time, she interviewed me for a job opening within the division. While I entered the interview not intending to leave my current employer, her passion to build a strong team to better serve the people of Hawaii convinced me to join the staff. Her management style always kept employee morale upbeat. Colleagues nominated her as "Manager of the Year" for DCCA in 2008 and 2009. She won the award in 2009 and went on to represent DCCA against other departments at the state ceremony. While executive director, she always treated the "opposing" parties in dockets with respect, professionalism, and fairness, but did not relent in ensuring nothing but the best interests of consumers. Her resignation left the staff disappointed, but we understood her reason to relocate.

Upon her return to Hawaii we observed her serve a short stint at Hawaiian Electric, and then display her devotion to public service by returning to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission and back again to DCCA within the Cable Division. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience related to matters within the department, and needless to say, news of her appointment by Governor Ige as director of the department brought excitement to many of us that know her. I have no doubt that she will always have the consumers best interests first. Many legislators are likely familiar with Mrs. Awakuni Colón, as she has testified as the Consumer Advocate before the House and Senate on countless occasions during her tenure. I hope you find that Mrs. Awakuni Colón is qualified and the right person for the position. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of Governor's Message No. 506, Nominating for
Consideration and Confirmation of **Catherine Awakuni Colón** as the Director of
the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2015

Written Comments Only

Dear Chair Baker:

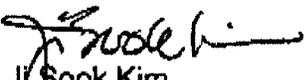
My name is Ji Sook Kim. I am currently the Acting Cable Television Administrator for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA"); however, I am providing testimony on this nomination in my personal capacity.

I have known Ms. Awakuni Colón for almost 14 years. Throughout those years, many of which she was employed in public service, I have found her to be dedicated to her work and always mindful that as a government employee she serves and is responsible to the public. I first met Ms. Awakuni Colón while working at the Public Utilities Commission. During her tenure there, first as Commission Counsel and then later as Chief Counsel, she tackled complex regulatory issues with skill and demonstrated a keen ability to assist in deciding matters in a well-reasoned and fair manner. In addition, as a colleague and then later as my supervisor at the Public Utilities Commission, she was always supportive, encouraging, and fair. Moreover, she has the unique ability to make others around her strive to achieve their best and always lead by example.

I have the upmost respect for Ms. Awakuni Colón and believe that she has the knowledge, disposition, and commitment needed to lead the DCCA. Thus, I strongly urge that the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection recommend that the full Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Ms. Awakuni Colón to head the DCCA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nomination.

Sincerely,


Ji Sook Kim
lisajskim@yahoo.com



IMANAKA ASATO

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

February 5, 2015

Topa Financial Center
Fort Street Tower
745 Fort Street Mall
17th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

T: 808.521.9500
F: 808.541.9050

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Testimony in Support of Governor's Message 506**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, **CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN**, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

Hearing: **Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**
Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

Dear Chair Baker:

My name is Kim Yoshimoto and I am an attorney at the law firm of Imanaka Asato LLLC. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of **Catherine Awakuni Colón** to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (the "Department").

I have known Cat on a personal level for nearly 20 years. In that time, I have come to appreciate her honesty, integrity, keen intelligence and staunch work ethic. She always carries a positive attitude and has the willingness to lend her experience and knowledge to help others. On a professional level, I have known Cat to be honest and straightforward, and very able to consider other people's opinions and feedback before making a decision. Each of these characteristics is crucial for the top position at the Department.

Cat was raised in Hawaii, having graduating from the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law, where she excelled. Following graduation, she has held several important and challenging positions, many of them in the public sector, including leadership posts within the Department in the Division of Consumer Advocacy and Cable Television Division. Cat also served as the General Counsel for the Public Utilities Commission. Clearly, her experience and familiarity with relevant issues, together with her commitment to public service, more than qualifies her for this appointed position.

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 5, 2015
Page Two

I know that Catherine Awakuni Colón is the right person to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of her appointment.

Sincerely,

IMANAKA ASATO LLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Yoshimoto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "Y".

Kim Yoshimoto

KY:sk

Kris N. Nakagawa
1604 Ruth Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

February 5, 2015

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 506, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colón to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

My name is Kris Nakagawa, and I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1992 and presently employed at the law firm of Morihara Lau & Fong LLP. I first met Ms. Awakuni Colón when I was employed at the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") in the early 2000s. At that time, I was the Commission's Chief Legal Counsel, and Ms. Awakuni Colón was Commission Counsel.

In sum, I believe Ms. Awakuni Colón has the requisite character, knowledge, leadership skills and experience, particularly in the area in regulatory/administrative law, to sufficiently perform the necessary duties as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. As a colleague, I found her to be honest, fair, ethical and impartial in her decisions and practice of law, and she always strived to educate and encourage others around her to do the same. From my perspective, Ms. Awakuni Colón also always (1) looks out for others and works together collaboratively as one team toward common goals; and (2) strives to provide the best public service to the people of Hawaii. Accordingly, I believe Ms. Awakuni Colón will be a great asset to the State of Hawaii.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration in the appointment of Ms. Awakuni Colón as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Sincerely,



Kris N. Nakagawa

February 6, 2015

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Luis P. Salaveria and I am the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. I am writing to express my strong support of GM #506 for Catherine P. Awakuni Colón's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA).

I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Awakuni Colon for the past four years. First, when she served as the Chief Counsel for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and, secondly, as the head of the Cable Television Division within DCCA. In all my interactions with Ms. Awakuni Colón, I have found her to be a person of high integrity, strong work ethic, and deep intelligence. As Chief Counsel for the PUC, she worked closely with the Commissioners on very important issues regarding the utility industry and helped guide and plan the Commission's restructuring efforts along with the Department of Budget and Finance, to provide the necessary resources and skillsets to address the gravity of the Commission's scope of responsibilities. While at the PUC, she devoted her energy to the task at hand and her attention to detail was extraordinary.

Ms. Awakuni Colón carries herself with such grace and poise, and I know she would be a great leader for DCCA. For these and other reasons, I strongly urge her confirmation as DCCA Director.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Luis P. Salaveria

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: mmm@hawaiilawyer.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM506 on Feb 9, 2015 09:30AM
Date: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 1:37:11 PM

GM506

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for CPN on Feb 9, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Murakami	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I write today in full support of the confirmation of Ms. Colon's confirmation as Director, DCCA. I went to law school with Catherine and think she is a bright, talented, conscientious and very civic minded attorney. She is intimately familiar with PUC issues which will be an asset for the State over the next several years. The State will be well served by confirmation and I urge you to quickly do so. Thank you, Mark M. Murakami

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

**Melissa Pavlicek
841 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Date: Monday, February 9, 2015

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 229, 415 S. Beretania Street

RE: GM 506 CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON

My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am writing in **support** of Catherine Awakuni Colon's appointment to serve as the director of the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs.

I am a small business owner and an attorney licensed to practice in Hawaii. Ms. Colon and I are contemporaries at the University of Hawaii, Wm. S. Richardson School of Law, where she graduated in the class of 1997 and I graduated in the class of 1996. We have known each other more than 20 years.

Our professional paths have continued to cross in her role as the state Consumer Advocate and, to a much lesser degree, at the Public Utilities Commission. I have had the opportunity to personally observe her diligence, integrity and commitment to public service over many years and firmly believe that she will be an outstanding DCCA director for the people of Hawaii.

Please favorably consider her appointment.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Cc: sawonglaw@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM506 on Feb 9, 2015 09:30AM
Date: Saturday, February 07, 2015 7:48:19 PM

GM506

Submitted on: 2/7/2015

Testimony for CPN on Feb 9, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandie Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known and worked with Catherine Awakuni Colon for many years and have found her to be intelligent, responsive, and a woman of integrity. I support her nomination.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



IMANAKA ASATO

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

Topa Financial Center
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February 5, 2015

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The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Testimony in Support of Governor's Message 506**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, **CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN**, for a term to expire December 3, 2018.

Hearing: **Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**
Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

Dear Chair Baker:

My name is Michael Iosua and I am an attorney at the law firm of Imanaka Asato, LLLC. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of **CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON** to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Although I have, only known Catherine on a personal level for a short time, I have come to appreciate her positive attitude and willingness to lend her experience and knowledge to help others. On a professional level, I have known Catherine to always be honest and straightforward, yet not afraid to consider other people's opinions before making a decision. Each of these characteristics is crucial for the top position over consumer affairs.

In addition, having been raised in Hawaii, graduating from the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law, and serving in various positions with the DCCA and PUC, she has the experience and familiarity with relevant issues that more than qualifies her for this appointed position.

I know that **CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON** is the right person to serve as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of her appointment.

Sincerely,

IMANAKA ASATO LLLC

Michael Iosua

MI:sk

*Robert & Sandra Miyasato
1432 Kalaepohaku Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816*

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, and Members
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker and Members:

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Catherine Awakuni Colon
Director of the, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of Catherine Awakuni Colon as the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. I have known Cathy since she was a toddler and have watched her grow and mature into an intelligent and insightful young woman deeply rooted in family values, a strong work ethic, a deep sense of fairness and a concern for the welfare of those less fortunate. The foregoing is coupled with a special love for this unique place we call home.

As others may point out, Cathy received a BBA in Accounting from the University of Hawaii and a JD from the UH School of Law. As Cathy entered the business world, one of the traits that blossomed was her ability to be frank and candid, yet remain open to other points of view. In her role as the Consumer Advocate, Cathy strived to strike an equitable balance, but remained diligent in upholding her mandate to uphold the larger public good.

Cathy's background with the Division of Consumer Advocacy, Chief Counsel for the Public Utilities Commission and Administrator of the fledgling body overseeing the cable television and broadband communications industry has groomed her well for the position of Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. With your concurrence, Cathy will be an extremely valuable member of the State Administration. I urge your affirmative vote on her confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in favor of her confirmation.

Very truly yours,


Robert Miyasato

February 3, 2015

WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 506, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLON, for a term to expire December 3, 2018

Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Catherine Awakuni Colon to serve as the Director of Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). My name is Roy Awakuni and I am writing as a character witness on behalf of Catherine, who is my niece.

As Catherine's uncle, I have had the opportunity to watch the growth of someone whose "moral compass" has always remained constant --- do what is *pono* (right or correct). As the Director of the department responsible for the protection of consumer rights, I believe that Catherine will do what is *pono* for all of us.

I believe that Catherine's core values also include a strong sense of reliability and integrity. In all our family gatherings over the years, Catherine could always be counted upon to do what she had said she would do. It is my opinion that as the DCCA Director, Catherine can be counted upon to do what needs to be done by the department and that there will never be a question about her integrity --- her "word" will be "good as gold."

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

Roy H. Awakuni

RUSS S. AWAKUNI



44-098 Ikeanani Dr. Apt. 723
Kaneohe, HI 96744

TELEPHONE: 808.371.1544

E-MAIL: RussAwakuni@hawaii.rr.com

February 3, 2015

Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker
Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi
Senate Comm. on
Commerce and Consumer Protection
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Via Electronic Submission Only
(<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>)

Re: GM 506: Support for Gubernatorial Nominee Catherine Awakuni Colon for
Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Dear Sen. Baker, Sen. Taniguchi, and committee members:

In response to the Governor's Message 506, it is my privilege to write this letter in strong support of Catherine Awakuni Colon's nomination as Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA"). I write this testimony in my individual capacity.

Author Isadora James once wrote that "A sister is a gift to the heart, a friend to the spirit, a golden thread to the meaning of life." I believe this is true. My sister Catherine Awakuni Colon, or "Cat" as she is called in our family, is a loving wife, a devoted mother of two beautiful boys, a caring sister, aunt, and daughter to my wife, my son, and my family, and a great friend to me. Our parents raised Cat, our brother Steven, and me to love one another and to work hard to improve ourselves.

Cat is also a talented and educated woman. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and her Juris Doctor from the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law. Empowered with her higher education, Cat clerked for a Circuit Court Judge on Maui and practiced estate planning on that island for a number of years. She later moved home to Oahu and worked for the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission – first as commission counsel, then eventually chief legal counsel. Cat has relevant experience with the DCCA as the department's executive director for its Division of Consumer Advocacy, then most recently as the cable administrator in the DCCA's Cable Television Division. She is knowledgeable of the DCCA's processes and procedures and will apply her experience with the department to the task at hand.

Catherine Awakuni Colon possesses the legal acumen, the personal integrity, and the DCCA experience necessary to competently, compassionately, and effectively manage and direct

the DCCA. Cat will serve the department well.

I strongly urge you to confirm Catherine Awakuni Colon as Director of the DCCA.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ S. Awakuni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

RUSS S. AWAKUNI

TESTIMONY OF
CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

FEBRUARY 9, 2015
9:30 a.m.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 506, CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF
CATHERINE AWAKUNI COLÓN AS THE DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS OF
THE STATE OF HAWAII

Good morning, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you this morning. I would also like to thank Governor David Ige for his trust and confidence in my abilities to effectively lead a critical area of state government – the protection of consumers of the State – as a member of his Cabinet. I am truly humbled for the opportunity to serve as Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, fully recognizing the important responsibility before me in heading the agency responsible for protecting Hawaii consumers. If confirmed by this body, I would use the lessons I have learned from my years of public service to focus the Department on successfully addressing the key issues faced by both consumers and businesses engaged in commerce in the State.

For the last 13 years, it has been my privilege to serve the people of the State of Hawaii in various government roles affecting the area of commerce and consumer affairs. I feel fortunate that I was able to serve in various positions, which have influenced the outcomes of some of the most significant consumer-related issues impacting Hawaii. These issues have included efforts to improve communications capability in order to better bridge the physical and technical gaps that have traditionally existed in our islands, as well as efforts to establish long-term clean energy goals that serve as the foundation of the State's initiative to break its dependence on imported resources. Having served as the State's Consumer Advocate, and most recently as the Administrator of the Cable Television Division, I have gained an

intimate understanding of the operations of the Department, the mission it serves, and the hard working staff of the many offices and divisions that carry out the Department's functions.

Born and raised in Honolulu, I am a proud graduate of our public schools and of the University of Hawaii, where I received my Bachelors in Business Administration in accounting and my Juris Doctorate. I've lived and worked on Maui and have also briefly lived out of the country. My collective experiences have made me aware of the additional challenges that exist for neighbor island consumers, galvanized my appreciation of my rights as an American citizen, and enhanced my love for my home in Hawaii.

I understand the importance and value in serving our community, as it is a goal cultivated by my family from a very young age. I credit my father with inspiring me to strive to serve others with integrity and compassion; he served our community as a police officer for approximately 30 years. I seek to honor his service through my own efforts as a public servant, because I understand the impact we have as employees of the State.

With more than four years as a staff attorney and more than two years as Chief Counsel at the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, I saw firsthand the direct and significant effect that agency has on the everyday lives of ratepayers and customers in the State. I heard daily from public utility customers of their challenges and concerns. My intimate familiarity with the Commission gives me insight into the unique needs of that entity, which will allow me to better support the Commission in achieving its important mission, once the transition to the Department is completed this summer.

As the Consumer Advocate from 2006 to 2009, I represented Hawaii consumers on a number of rapidly evolving regulatory issues in matters before the Public Utilities Commission and other agencies. One of the achievements that I am most proud during my time as Consumer Advocate is the negotiation and execution of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, which has served as the foundation for Hawaii's long-term efforts to reach energy independence.

Most recently, I spent just more than a year serving as the Administrator of the Cable Television Division within DCCA. During that time, we partnered with public and private agencies to expedite broadband deployment and adoption; began work with our State partners to develop a master plan for

statewide Institutional Network development; and conducted a proceeding to review the application for transfer of cable franchises statewide, among other things.

The speed at which the world continues to change keeps increasing as advances in thinking and technology evolve at what often feels like light speed. Many of the tools and methods people use to carry out their business today will likely be outdated in just a few years' time. The Department's ability to stay ahead of real and potential threats to consumers must keep pace with the changing world, and, at the same time, regulation must allow businesses the ability to fairly realize the benefits of these advances. It would be my aim to ensure the Department operates in a way that strikes the appropriate balance needed to both effectively protect consumers and support the flow of commerce in the State.

With these coming changes in mind, my first priority for the Department will be to modernize our operations to provide our customers and licensees with a better customer experience, while increasing efficiency in workflow. Uniform systems that share information across the Department and with our sister agencies, where permitted by law, should be created to allow for more efficient and expedited processing of applications, renewals, complaints, and other filings with the Department. Increasing the productiveness and customer-friendliness of our systems can decrease expenses and waste, lead to increases in community confidence in our Department, and provide greater transparency for the public and Legislature. I will also strive to provide greater consumer education opportunities to ensure that the Department proactively provides our communities with information to allow them to make better consumer choices and to successfully conduct their business. Finally, I want to focus greater attention on providing consumer protection to aid those who are harmed in our community. Having worked over the years with many of the different divisions and staff that make up DCCA, I know the Department to be collectively one of the most dedicated and capable groups of individuals in the State. Together, we have worked toward the common purpose of protecting the people of Hawaii in the various transactions they encounter each and every day. I look forward to working side by side with my fellow public servants at the Department and throughout the State.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank my family for their support. I could not have had the opportunities I have enjoyed without the encouragement, love, and assistance of my husband, Michael, our sons, my parents and mother-in-law, my brothers and sisters-in-law, and my uncles and

aunts. I also want to thank all of my friends and colleagues who took the time to submit testimony or who came here to support my nomination.

The opportunity to continue to serve the people of Hawaii as the head of DCCA is truly a humbling one, and I am excited for the chance to advance the good work already underway by the Department's staff. I ask for your favorable consideration of my appointment, and I am here to answer any questions you have. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.