

April 13, 2015

Testimony of Arnold Wong

Re: Governor's Message No. 813, Arnold Wong Governor's Nominee for Land Use Commission Expiration Date: June 30, 2018

Dear Chairperson Thielen and members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering me to serve on the Land Use Commission. Below are my answers to your questions.

- 1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Land Use Commission:

I want to ensure my child and all the children and grandchildren of Hawaii have an opportunity to enjoy our land. I want them to be able to live and respect our environment. Also, I would like to make sure that there is a balance between our needs as human beings and those of the environment. The Land Use Commission is ensuring that the Public Trust Doctrine is met and followed, including all of our water, land and history.

- 2) What do you think is the role of a member of the Land Use Commission:

I believe the main role is to follow and uphold the public's trust doctrine and protect our natural resources. This will include protect and preserve what little of our conservation lands we have and our watershed. Also, to ensure that all sides are given a fair opportunity to present their opinions, case, and information to the Commission and as such, review and take in all positions fairly and with equal respect before making a decision.

- 3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Land Use Commission, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Land Use Commission.

I feel that I will come in with a position of balance and knowledge of both sides of the issue. In my previous job at the Nature Conservancy and now with the Ironworkers Stabilization Fund, I have an understanding of the

needs of development and conservation. I also know that as a father and a coach, I know the importance of teaching our youth the value to conserve and develop properly so that there is a balance in all aspects of life.

Additionally, I was born from this land and I have deep ties to ensure it is not harmed needlessly. I feel that we need to ensure that our future generations have the same if not more resources that I have as a youngster.

- 4) Four years from today - if you are confirmed and looking back on your term as a Board member – is there anything in particular you'd like to see done or accomplished during your time?

To ensure that resources and all the public trust issues that was placed in the Commission's hand is not harmed and will be there for future generations. That the balance of needs and future needs are taken into account and that we look into the future before any decisions are made.

- 5) Are there any situations where you can foresee recusing yourself from a decision by the Land Use Commission on the grounds that you have, or there is an appearance of, bias or favoritism?

I do not believe I foresee any situations that I would recuse myself from a decision. However, if one should arise I will request legal counsels opinion and if advised recuse myself.

- 6) Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered by the committee?

I desire for the committee to understand that there needs to be a balance like anything else. I will look for balance and ensure our resources are not abused nor wasted.

Sincerely,

Arnold Wong

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Ironworkers Union Stabilization Fund, Local 625 (2005 – present)

- Lobby Federal, State and County Executive and Legislative branches of government to ensure the organization's goals and missions are met including drafting new laws, statutes and ordinances
- Work with developers, government and unions to foster construction projects
- Trustee of Health and Welfare pension funds
- Foster a win-win position for all parties that allow projects to proceed that are culturally and environmentally sensitive
- Manage operations and administrative functions to meet Federal and State requirements

The Nature Conservancy (2002 – 2005)

- Prepared and reviewed all budgets and projects to ensure they met the goals and missions of the organization
- Developed relationships with the Federal, State and County Executive and Legislative branches of government to ensure the organization's goals and missions were met
- Ensured the compliance of all internal policies, and external statutes and laws
- Achieved a management style that assured an appropriate balance between major elements of management...i.e., marketing, production, finance, employee motivation and public and environmental concerns, all directed toward the goals of the organization
- Negotiated and executed contracts with the government and community
- Directed the successful start-up of new projects that exceeded yearly goals and objectives
- Obtained an additional 25% increase in government revenue within the first year of work
- Informed Federal and State Legislators and Council members of the need to enact legislation or rules to assist the mission of the organization

City and County of Honolulu, Juvenile Justice Center (2000-2002)

- Was fully responsible for the budget, strategic planning, development and management of the entire juvenile justice center finance and administrative function
- Launched a complete Juvenile Justice Center meeting mandatory federal and state laws. Was given the full autonomy to establish policies and procedures, defined staffing and management requirements, developed a comprehensive program, and built the entire center infrastructure
- Created an advisory board that met the goals of the federal and state mandates while ensuring the mission of the agency was achieved
- Provided vision and direction to incorporate Government, Private Organizations and Non-Profit agencies to work as a cohesive one-stop center for juveniles

- Advocated and lobbied for laws, statutes and regulations that assisted in the organization's mission

City and County of Honolulu, Homeless Coordinator (1998-2000)

- Was fully responsible for the budget, strategic planning, development and management of the homeless issues within the City and County of Honolulu
- Oversaw, coordinated and manage SHP, Shelter Plus Care, ESG, CDBG, HOME and other federal and state grants
- Created an advisory board that met the goals of the federal and state mandates while ensuring the mission of the agency was achieved
- Provided vision and direction to incorporate Government, Private Organizations and Non-Profit agencies
- Drafted and initiated legislation to assist in the goals of the organization
- Drafted and represented City and County of Honolulu on the Executive Committee for the US Department of Justice Weed and Seed Grant

EDUCATION

Masters Degree in Human Resource Management from Hawaii Pacific University

Management Certificate from Wharton School of Business

Bachelors Degree from the University of Hawaii, at Manoa

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Ironworkers Union Trust Fund - Trustee

Honolulu Fire Commission – Commissioner

Poi Dog and Popoki – Board Member

Hawaii Baptist Academy Alumni Association – Board Member

St. Francis Foundation – Board Member

Pac-5 Judo Coach

OTHER

Eagle Scout – Boys Scouts of America