



LATE

Testimony on behalf of the
Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women
Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director

Prepared for the Senate Committee on Judiciary

In Support of GM611
Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 016

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women writes in **support** of GM611, which would confirm the Gubernatorial Nominee, EDITH IGNACIO NEUMILLER, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Ms. Neumiller is a role model women's advocate on Kauai. She has served in leadership roles at the Zonta Club of Kauai and Kauai County Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Neumiller would be a valuable representative for Kauai on the Commission. Accordingly, the Commission respectfully submits its strong support.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



OFFICE OF BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
THE COUNTY OF KAUAI


DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

ELLEN CHING
ADMINISTRATOR

March 11, 2020

To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair,
And Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary



From: Ellen Ching, Administrator 
County of Kauai, Office of Boards and Commissions

Re: GM 611 - Nomination of Edith Ignacio Neumiller to the Commission on the Status of Women

This testimony is in **strong support** of the nomination of Edith Ignacio Neumiller to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Ignacio Neumiller is currently a member and serves as Secretary of Kauai County's Committee on the Status of Women. She is an active member and is readily acknowledged as a leader. In recognition of her contributions, she was selected by the members to attend the National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW) conference on four (4) separate occasions, in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

One of the things I admire about Edith or "Edie" as we like to call her, is her focus and determination. Many individuals go to conferences and there is little in the way of initiatives or improvements to show for the investment. Edie went to the NACW conference and listened to a presentation on Human Trafficking of girls and women.

In 2019, due to her efforts, Kauai's Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) conducted a public forum on Human Trafficking on Kauai. At the forum, Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D., from Arizona State University presented her groundbreaking research and data on Human Trafficking with Hawaii specific metrics.

In January 2020, as a direct result of the 2019 forum, Dominique Roe-Sepowitz returned to do another presentation with Kauai specific research and data in addition to a panel discussion with Chief Todd Raybuck (Kauai Police Department), Justin Kollar (Prosecuting Attorney), Stefani Iwami (Clinical Director of Sexual Assault Services, YWCA of Kauai) and Jessica Munoz (founder and President of Ho'ōla Nā Pua). The Human Trafficking Forum Part II, was standing room only and generated the momentum to move toward next steps which was planned to be rolled out this summer.

While the current pandemic has certainly curtailed activities, I have no doubt that the initial plans to post information on getting help in schools, bars and airports will move forward as soon as possible.

Ms. Ignacio Neumiller is also active in the community with many events and organizations like the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce and she has been member of Zonta for the past 16 years. Particularly with the Zonta Club, Edie has championed many women's issues.

Kauai needs a representative on the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and Ms. Ignacio Neumiller is an outstanding choice. Thank you for your consideration.



GM-611

Submitted on: 3/18/2020 5:30:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/20/2020 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marynel Valenzuela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony for Edie Ignacio-Neumiller

I am sending my nomination testimony for Edie Ignacio-Neumiller to be considered to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women 2020 - 2023.

For all the years that I've known and worked with Edie, there's never a dull moment. I can justify her professionalism and dedication in everything that she does.

Edie is consistently involved as an energetic community leader and a team player, organizing events to fundraise and support activities on Kauai's for both business and non-profit sectors.

She has been involved with the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce, as a Director from 2000 – 2015, served as Secretary, Scholarship Committee and Membership Committee for Business on the Weekend and remains to be a volunteer and committee member for the organization. She was Past President, Zonta Club of Kauai 2011-2013. Currently, she serves as the Area 1 Director for Zonta Club from 2018-2020, Kauai Committee on the Status of Women and the Marketing & Social Media Chairperson for Kauai Fashion Weekend.

She is a fully committed volunteer and can't ask for anything more. Experienced in many aspects of sharing her talents, she has been appointed under five (5) County of Kauai Mayors: JoAnn Yukimura, MaryAnn Kusaka, Bryan Baptiste, Bernard Carvalho and Derek Kawakami. She served in various capacities as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Public Relations, and Historian during her Kauai Committee on the Status of Women appointments

Some of the successful programs she continues to promote and advocate are: Women's History Month, Human Trafficking Forum, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Career Day for high school girls, Proclamation for Equal Pay, & Denim Day.

Edie remains to demonstrated the true meaning of volunteerism and Aloha by her tireless involvements, contributions of time, money and talents to our island community. Whether in person or live on social media, posting latest updates, sharing photos, inviting friends to attend an event, soliciting potential members to join an organization,

encouraging and thanking volunteers, scouting for models and participants for the next red carpet event, she continues to serve as a positive influence in inspiring women.

She would make a great addition without hesitation to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

Sincerely,

Marynel Valenzuela

President
INKSPOT QUALITY PRINTING CORP

GM-611

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 9:07:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/20/2020 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony of
Mary-jane Akuna
Before the Committee on Judiciary
Friday, March 20, 2020
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference
Room 016

March 18, 2020

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
And Members of the
Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 611 Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee

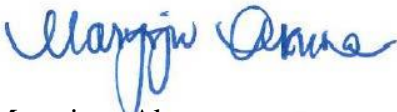
It is my pleasure to provide a recommendation for Edith Ignacio-Neumiller for the Status of Women Commission appointment consideration.

I have had the pleasure of working with Edith as part of our team for over ten (10) years in the Public Sector specifically with the Board of Water Supply, County of Kaua'i. Edith demonstrates professionalism not only within her capacity as Commission Support Clerk, but also with her various community service commitments such as the Director for Zonta Hawai'i including being the past President, a member of the Kaua'i Committee Status of Women, a member of the Kaua'i Filipino Chamber of Commerce as well as the Marketing and Social Media for the Kaua'i Fashion Weekend Team. Her position in all capacities requires her loyalty, commitment, passion, as well as her advocacy to network and bring together the women community and pave a path for future leadership.

I highly recommend Edith's appointment to serve as the gubernatorial nominee for the Commission on the Status of Women. You have my full support in Edith's appointment.

Thanks for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mary-jane Akuna
Government Notary
Private Secretary to Manager and Chief Engineer, Department of Water County of Kaua'i

LATE

GM-611

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 12:49:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 5/12/2020 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renaë Hamilton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

It is with great pleasure that I submit testimony to express my full support of Edith Ignacio Neumiller for confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Neumiller will be an effective representative for the women and girls of Kaua`i. She has been involved in organizing, and moving forward numerous events and activities that highlight important women issues. She doesn't shy away from addressing the pressing needs of our islands women. Ms. Neumiller has also been a strong advocacy partner for the YWCA of Kauai, we have collaborated on projects highlighting issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and pay inequality. She uses her many talents and skills to increase community awareness of these vital issues.

Ms. Neumiller has been an active member of Zonta Club, the Philipino Chamber of Commerce as well as her service on the Kauai Committee on the Status of Women. All of her volunteer efforts are a testament to her dedication to making our community better, especially for women. Her passion for women's issues is the foundation for the countless hours she has given in service to the community. Her interest and willingness to serve on the State Commission on the Status of Women is a natural fit for someone as dedicated, knowledgeable and service oriented as Edie is.

Mahalo for considering Ms. Neumiller for this Commission, the work of the Commission is very important to the community and especially to the women and girls of Hawaii. Respectfully, Renaë Hamilton-Cambeilh

Susan A. Kanoho
5306 Kula Mau'u St.
Kapa'a, HI 96746
sue.kanoho@gmail.com



May10, 2020

Aloha Members of the Committee –

Re: GM 611 Edith Ignacio Neumiller / Nomination for the Commission on the Status of Women

I would like to offer my full support for the consideration and confirmation of Ms. Edith Ignacio Neumiller to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee. I have known Edie Neumiller for over 30 years and served with her on the Zonta Club of Kaua'i for over 15+ years.

Edie has a tremendous commitment to supporting and lifting women's right and has served our local Status of Women organization well. In the past 5 years, I have been especially proud of Ms. Neumiller's public relations work for the Zonta Club of Kauai and the Status of Women's local chapter.

I currently serve as the Executive Director of the Kaua'i Visitors Bureau (KVB) and have been in this position for 22 years. Prior to KVB, I was the Executive Director of the Kaua'i Economic Development Board (KEDB) for 9 years. I know the nomination of Edie Neumiller to the Commission on the Status of Women will serve you well and you would be lucky to have her further the efforts statewide.

Should you have any questions about my comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at: sue.kanoho@gmail.com or via the phone (808) 245-3971.

With Aloha,

Susan A. Kanoho
Executive Director
Kaua'i Visitors Bureau

1. Please describe your understanding of the role and jurisdiction of the Commission on the Status of Women (Commission).

My role and jurisdiction of the Commission is to represent Kauai's Committee on the Status of Women (KCSOW) during the meetings and to provide updated information on the programs and mission of the Commission. To engage the KCSOW and/or partner with similar yearly projects such as Human Trafficking awareness in Hawaii.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission?

To be ethical and honest on my passion in bringing awareness on women and girls issues (i.e., domestic violence against women, human trafficking facts, mentoring young women in high schools, legislative bills relating to women and girls etc.)

3. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Commission? Please note if you initially applied to be nominated to the Commission or if you were invited to apply.

I applied to be a member of the Commission on my own. I feel that the KCSOW needs a State representative to sit and participate on the monthly meetings on Kauai.

4. Please describe why you believe that you are qualified to be a member of the Commission. Please discuss any skills, expertise, knowledge, or volunteer involvement that would aid in your decision-making ability.

My volunteer opportunities

I have been appointed under five (5) County of Kauai Mayors: JoAnn Yukimura, MaryAnn Kusaka, Bryan Baptiste, Bernard Carvalho and Derek Kawakami. During my appointments, I served in various capacities as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Public Relations, and Historian.

Zonta Club of Kauai volunteer

As a member since 2004 with the Zonta Club of Kauai I served as Past President, Secretary, Programs & Advocacy Committee, Public Relations Committee & Fellowship Committee. Currently, I am the Area 1 Director for four (4) Hawaii Clubs from July 2018 to July 2020. I am advocate for issues relating to the Zonta Says No to Violence Campaign, 16 Days of Activism, Denim Day, Equal Pay Day, and other Zonta International programs.

Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce volunteer

With the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce, I was a Director from 2000 – 2015 and still remain a member. I served as Secretary, Scholarship Committee and Membership Committee.

Kauai Fashion Weekend volunteer

Kauai Fashion Weekend is once a year which I promote through social media on Facebook and Instagram. I work with the KFW team 4-5 months leading up to the fashion show. Kauai Fashion Weekend is a destination for fashionistas.

Skills

For eight (8) years I serve at the Commission Support Clerk for the County of Kauai Department of Water. My strengths relay on supporting and coordinating a seven (7) member board, setting up board monthly meetings that includes administrative tasks, occasional research and knowledgeable of the Sunshine Law.

5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term as a member of the Commission?

To be an active State Commissioner representing Kauai by engaging in all of the State programs and legislative issues. Currently, I attend all CSOW monthly meetings because I in invested in the programs we have done.

6. What issues do you believe that the Commission has handled well in the past? What issues do you believe that the Commission should address in the future?

I have attended four (4) of the annual conferences of the National Association of Commission for Women (NACW) when they were hosted in Honolulu 2016, Boston 2017, Los Angeles 2018 and Chicago 2019. Most memorable was the Los Angeles NACW where a video was shown of a 12 year old girl that was trafficked in Los Angeles. During the presentation, I knew I wanted to bring the Human Trafficking issue back to Kauai as a forum to highlight studies, statistics, and trafficking facts in Hawaii especially on Kauai. On January 9, 2020, we had a standing room only with 85 people in attendance to the Human Trafficking Forum that included six (6) hand-picked panelist and two professional presenters. KCSOW plans to work on Human Trafficking “next steps” FY 2020-2021.

Future issues to be addressed with the Commission could be the continued partnership with other island on the tracking results on Human Trafficking in Hawaii. Possibly education students in the schools.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

Currently, I don't foresee any conflicts on my service with the Commission. If there was a conflict on an issue, I would be honest and to bring it up on a one-on-one with the Executive Director.

8. Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered for your nomination?

Most information on my experience are in the answers for question no. 4.
In addition, I have more than 30 years of administrative experience, 9 years of Human Resources and 5 years of supervisory experience.

9. Is there anything in your background that might be deemed as negative or controversial by the Senate?

Not to my knowledge.