

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
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NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 11, 2025
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and via Videoconference

On the following measure:
G.M. 593, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
HAWAI'I HURRICANE RELIEF FUND,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MARIE WEITE,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jerry Bump, and I am the Acting Insurance Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department supports the confirmation of Ms. Marie Weite to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund (Board).

Ms. Weite has over 40 years of leadership experience and expertise in insurance industry adjusting and management. Ms. Weite has also served our community on numerous professional and community organizations.

Given her extensive career and professional experience, Ms. Weite is a valuable resource with wide-ranging insurance industry expertise, as well as an excellent candidate to serve on the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

TESTIMONY OF ALISON UEOKA

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Friday, April 11, 2025

9:30 a.m.

GM 593

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, my name is Alison Ueoka, President for Hawaii Insurers Council. The Hawaii Insurers Council is a non-profit association of property and casualty insurance companies licensed to do business in Hawaii. Members companies underwrite approximately forty percent of all property and casualty insurance premiums in the state.

I am here today in strong support of Marie Weite for the Board of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF) whose term will expire June 30, 2028. I have known Marie for many years including during her tenure at First Insurance Company of Hawaii. In that time, Marie served as the Law & Regulations Policy Committee Chair as well as Property Insurance Policy Committee Chair of Hawaii Insurers Council. Her broad claims experience in insurance and her volunteer work with State Boards will serve the HHRF well. Although retired, Marie is very active in the community and has even worked as session staff to Representative Aaron Johanson while he was the House Consumer Protection Committee Chair. Marie is an asset to HHRF and I fully support her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Hearing: Friday, April 11, 2025 @ 9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 229

TO: Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Carol Fukunaga and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Steven J.T. Chow, Esq.

RE: GM 593 - Confirmation of MARIE WEITE to the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund Board.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection. I am writing to ask your support of the nomination and confirmation of MARIE WEITE to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund.

I am a practicing attorney for over forty years in the State of Hawaii and a partner with the firm of Fukunaga Matayoshi Ching & Kon-Herrera. I have known and worked with Ms. Weite for over thirty years both professionally in the insurance industry, through other State Boards (Motor Vehicle Repair Board and Motor Vehicle Industry Board) where we have served together as public members, and non-profit Boards (Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii) where we served as Board members.

Based on my personal knowledge and professional experience with Ms. Weite, I have found her to be very conscientious, hardworking, and analytical in her resolving complicated issues. She has an insurance background and understands statutes and administrative rules governing whatever Board she is on which makes her exceptionally qualified. She can, and will, more than adequately contribute to and perform the duties of a Board member.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my humble opinion why MARIE WEITE should be CONFIRMED to the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roy M. Sasuga



RE: Letter of Recommendation For Nominee Marie Weite

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of Marie Weite nomination to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board.

I have known Ms. Weite for over the past 30 years while being employed in the Property and Casualty Insurance Industry. I personally have seen her start with our company as an adjuster trainee and over the years elevated herself to an experienced litigation adjuster. She eventually left our company to pursue a position as a Senior Litigation Claims Adjuster at First Insurance. With her exceptional talent and interpersonal skills, she was promoted to Claims Manager.

She is evidently a person with substantial experience functioning in the professional world with exceptional insight and analytic skills. In all my years of knowing Ms. Weite, I have found her to be very professional, motivated, enthusiastic, and compassionate.

With her many years in the Insurance Industry, I wholeheartedly recommend Marie Weite to be a member of Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board. I have no doubts that with her skills, passion, and dedication she will make a valuable addition to the Board.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sasuga', with a large, sweeping loop at the beginning.

Roy M. Sasuga

Retired Claims Manager, Island Insurance Company

GM-593

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 12:14:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Ling Johanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole & Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Marie Weite for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. As a lifelong insurance professional, Marie rose up through the ranks of the industry to a key leadership Vice President position from which she retired at First Insurance. This insurance expertise cultivated over her entire career makes her knowledge of property and casualty insurance unparalleled. To say that Marie would be a tremendous asset to this important board is an understatement.

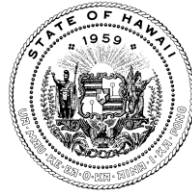
More personally, Marie served as a key advisor to me when I had the privilege of chairing the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee. I relied on her expertise to navigate numerous complex insurance and regulatory issues during the 2022 legislative session. She was often key in helping to analyze the potential impacts of our legislative bills and potential policy changes. She balances a keen intellect and diligence with a realistic perspective and analysis needed to make important policy decisions that may impact people's lives.

The State of Hawaii and the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund Board would be fortunate to have Marie as once of its members. I cannot think of anyone more fitting for this important Board.

Thank you so much for all of your hard work and for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Ling Johanson



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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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EDWARD HAIK
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Testimony of the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 11, 2025
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TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAI'I HURRICANE
RELIEF FUND, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MARIE WEITE,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund supports the nomination of Marie Weite to the Hawai'i Hurricane Relief Fund Board of Directors.

Ms. Weite has over 40 years of leadership experience and expertise in insurance industry adjusting and management. Ms. Weite has also served our community on numerous professional and community organizations.

Given her extensive career and professional experience, Ms. Weite is a valuable resource with wide-ranging insurance industry expertise, as well as an excellent candidate to serve on the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.