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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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NADINE Y. ANDO
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, March 21, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 226, and Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
G.M. 668, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS
AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ALISSA TOYAMA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the appointment of Alissa Toyama, as a licensed member for the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board).

As a registered architect in Hawaii since 2017, Ms. Toyama has demonstrated her professional competence and commitment to the field. Her diverse working experience on architectural projects for educational institutions, federal agencies, and historic buildings showcases her ability to balance preservation needs with design requirements. This expertise will be invaluable on the Board, which oversees these critical professions.

Ms. Toyama's leadership in organizations like Docomomo US/Hawaii, where she served as President, reflects her commitment to architecture and historic preservation. Her scholarly work on topics like multi-ethnic design in post-war Hawaii and preservation projects, along with prestigious awards, showcases her expertise and ability to contribute valuable perspectives to the field.

Ms. Toyama's educational background, including degrees in Architectural Interior Design and Architectural Engineering, provides her with a strong foundation in both the creative and technical aspects of architecture.

Alissa Toyama's professional experience, leadership in industry organizations, and educational background make her exceptionally well-qualified to serve on the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 14, 2025



Prepared Testimony of Louis Fung, AIA, President, FAI Architects

Presented before the Senate Committee

Hearing on: "Nomination of Mrs. Alissa Toyama to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects (EASLA), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs" (GM 668)

Dear Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Senate,

My name is Louis Fung, Founder and President of FAI Architects, a local architectural firm established in Hawaii since 1998. I am the current employer of Mrs. Alissa Toyama. I have served for 14 years with the American Institute of Architects as Honolulu Chapter President, Hawaii State Council President, Northwest and Pacific Region Director and National AIA Strategic Councilor. Through my years with AIA, I have worked with the EASLA Board and am very familiar with their mission and duties.

Please accept my highest possible recommendation for Mrs. Alissa Toyama to become a member of the EASLA Board.

Mrs. Toyama joined our company as an associate architect in 2014, received her certification as Construction Document Technologist (CDT) in 2015 and Architect's license in 2017 (AR-17625), and became an Associate with the company in 2018. In her eleven years with us, she has worked as Project Manager leading project teams and mentoring younger professionals. She was also President for Docomomo US / Hawaii Chapter in 2018 and 2021, as well as a member of the American Institute of Architects, Historic Hawaii Foundation and National Trust for Historic Preservation. As a seasoned professional, her diligence and passion for our design profession has been beyond reproach.

Mrs. Toyama has also proven herself to be a responsible, loyal, self-disciplined and diligent individual, as well as a pleasant character to work with. She has a high degree of respect for our profession and our community, as well as a good and refreshing attitude in design, constantly striving for betterment of work and ethics. Born, raised and

FAI ARCHITECTS

Example Letter using FAI Stationery

educated in Hawaii, she understands the needs and challenges of our design professionals. Besides the diligence she will bring to the EASLA Board, as a local wahine architect, she can also inspire young professionals as I have often observed in her works. With my years of involvement with AIA, I personally believe this could be the greatest contribution she can bring to the board besides the regular duties; to inspire students and young professionals to stay and work in Hawaii.

My support for Mrs. Toyama to your EASLA Board is at the highest level of any design professional. I do so without reservation or hesitation.

Sincerely,

Louis Fung

Digitally signed by Louis Fung
DN: CN=Louis Fung,
E=louis@fai-architects.com
Reason: I am the author of this document
Location: FAI Architects Office
Date: 2025-03-14 15:36:52
Foxit PhantomPDF Version: 9.6.0

Louis Fung, AIA
President | FAI Architects
Louise Blanchard Bethune Fellow, AIA

2016-2018 President | American Institute of Architects Hawaii State Council
2016 Councilor | AIA National Strategic Council
2016 Region Director | AIA Northwest and Pacific Region
2013 President | AIA Honolulu Chapter



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13 March 2025

TO: Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Senate President
And Members of the Senate

FROM: Reid Mizue, AIA
OMIZU Architecture Inc.

SUBJECT: **Measure GM 668**
Consideration and confirmation of Alissa Toyama to Board of EASLA

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate

My name is Reid Mizue, AIA and I am a licensed architect and President of Omizu Architecture Inc. I am writing today to wholeheartedly support Alissa Toyama's appointment to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects (EASLA).

I have known Alissa since 2008, when we worked together at KYA Design Group. I have always known her to be a dedicated colleague and friend. Over the years, I've witnessed Alissa steadily grown into her career by obtaining her architecture license in 2017 and becoming an Associate at FAI Architects in 2018. She has consistently been dependable and easy to work with. Her sound judgement and positive outlook ensure a logical and practical approach to her endeavors.

I would also like to point out that Alissa's interest in mid-century architecture has also led her to be an active board member with Docomomo US/Hawaii Chapter since 2014, where she served as President in 2018 and 2021. Her passion and leadership combined with her integrity and dedication makes her an asset to any organization including a State board such as the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

I strongly urge the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature to **SUPPORT** the appointment of Alissa Toyama to the EASLA board.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Omizu Architecture, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reid T. Mizue', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Reid T. Mizue, AIA
President

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

March 21, 2025

Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members, Aloha!

I strongly support Alissa Toyama's appointment to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

I have known Alissa for over a dozen years, having initially met her when we served on the non-profit board of directors for Hawaii's chapter of Docomomo, (Documenting and Conserving the Modern Movement). Later, we worked together at FAI-Architects, where she is now an Associate. Alissa has been very active with Docomomo and has held leadership positions as Vice President in 2017, President 2018 and President again in 2021. I worked directly with her for a number of years on the organization's annual walking tour, as well as other events, including the national symposium which she helped organize when it was held in Honolulu in 2019.

Alissa has a pleasant, outgoing personality and is easy to work with. She is extremely responsible and can be depended upon to deliver on any commitments she makes. She is conscientious in carrying out her responsibilities and works effectively in group situations, well understanding the group dynamics which result in successful outcomes. She has a very positive attitude and an abiding dedication to the field of architecture. Tactful and very stable, she is guided by a well directed moral compass of doing what is right.

During the time I have known Alissa she successfully obtained her license to practice architecture. I admired her confidence to abandon the University of Hawaii's DArch program, the more conventional and shorter path to licensure, in order to engage herself more deeply in the practice of architecture. I suspect such an experience will provide an important perspective to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Again, I highly support the confirmation of Alissa to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,

Don Hibbard