GM645



AUDREY HIDANO DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 www.hawaii.gov/labor

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Nominee, Wallace Fukunaga (GM 645) As a Member of the Hawai'i Civil Right Commission

> Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:15 a.m. Rm 016, State Capitol

Testimony of Dwight Takamine, Director,
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

The department supports the confirmation of Rev. Wallace Fukunaga to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC). The Commission carries out our state's constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights (Article I, Section 5). HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai'i laws that prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and access to state and state-funded services. The Commission plays a vital role in protecting the civil rights of all citizens of the state and requires members with a passion for civil rights.

Rev. Fukunaga brings the professional, volunteer and life experiences that will enable him to serve the Commission and the public interest well in the role of a Commissioner. Rev. Fukunaga is a United Church of Christ minister who has a long record of community service and a record of experience that reflects a demonstrated commitment to civil rights. He served as a minister for congregations across the state, as President for a successful self-start business, as President of the ACLU, Hawaiʻi Chapter, and as a board member of the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu

S.B. 0000 January 28, 2012 Page 2

Chapter.

I urge you to confirm Reverend Fukunaga as a Commissioner for the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, where he will be a valuable asset to the Council and hence to the entire state.

March 20, 2012 Rm. 016, 10:15 a.m.

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair,

and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

RE: Governor's Message 645

Nomination of Wallace Fukunaga to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission
The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over
Hawai'i's laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public
accommodations, and access to State and State-funded services. The HCRC carries out
the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the
exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sect. 5.

The HCRC supports the confirmation of the nomination of the Rev.Wallace Fukunaga to the Commission. Rev. Fukunaga is a United Church of Christ minister who has a long record of community service and a record of experience that reflects a demonstrated commitment to civil rights. The breadth of professional, volunteer, and life experience that he brings will serve him, the Commission, and the public well in his new role as an HCRC Commissioner. He served as a minister for congregations across the state, as President for a successful self-start business, as President of the ACLU, Hawai'i Chapter, and as a board member of the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter.

Upon confirmation, Rev. Fukunaga will be a valuable contributing member of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission. We support confirmation of his nomination.

Alan J. Goto 2764A Booth Road Honolulu, HI 96813

March 10, 2012

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairperson Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Nomination of Reverend Wallace Fukunaga to the Civil Rights Commission

I support the nomination of Reverend Wallace Fukunaga to the Civil Rights Commission.

I am the immediate past president of the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin. I have known Reverend Fukunaga for about four years through our mutual affiliation as board members of The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii. I am a board member and treasurer of the Counseling & Spiritual Care Center of Hawaii for which Reverend Fukunaga currently serves as its Interim Executive Director. I also serve as a board member and treasurer of Reverend Fukunaga's Sunrise Ministry Foundation.

My experience of Reverend Fukunaga is that he is an effective leader who desires to contribute to our community based on the concepts of interdependence, inclusiveness and compassion. He shares my commitment for a continuing open dialogue among people from many religious or faith traditions; appreciating our commonality and diversity with respect and harmony.

Sincerely,

Alan J. Goto

Andrew W. Char

c/o Chun, Kerr, Dodd, Beaman & Wong LLLP 745 Fort Street, 9th Floor Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 2, 2012

Via email hee6@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hawaii State Senate 415 Beretania Street, Room 407 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Attention: Hon. Clayton Hee, Chairman

Re:

Rev. Wallace T. Fukunaga

Hawaii Civil Rights Commission

Dear Chairman Hee and Committee Members,

I write in support of the nomination of Rev. Wallace T. Fukunaga to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

I have known Wally for close to 20 years, as minister, confidante, and friend. As a citizen of Hawaii, I am delighted that Wally has been nominated to the Civil Rights Commission. I firmly believe that Wally will be an outstanding member of the Commission, and urge the Committee to confirm his nomination.

Wally would bring an unusually broad range of experience and insights to the Commission. He has been schooled in the finest institutions of learning of this State and our country: McKinley High School, Harvard College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Pacific School of Religion. He has worked in the public sector in support of poverty programs. He has worked in the private sector, having started and grown a business, and as such, knows the responsibility of having to meet a payroll. And he has been an exemplary minister. As the pastor of the Community Church of Honolulu - where I am a member – Wally was instrumental in bringing together the various groups of the church and knitting them together in a community. His ability to listen, guide (and sometimes prod!), and to find humor in difficult situations made him a wonderful leader and shepherd. I know that he will bring his great wisdom, insights, patience, and compassion to the Commission.

Very truly yours,

en W. Cum

Andrew W. Char

Attorney-at-law



THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

Planting seeds of self-sufficiency

March 6, 2012

Women & Families' Shelter
Business Office
546 Ka'aahi Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone 808.447.2800
Fax 808.845.7190

Men's Shelter 350 Sumner Street Honolulu, HI 96817 Phone 808.447.2900 Fax 808.537.2697

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Roberta "Bert" Du Teil The Rev. Msgr. Terrence Watanabe *Members Emeritus* The Honorable Clayton Hee Senator, District 23 Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407 Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Rev. Dr. Wallace Fukunaga

Aloha Senator Hee:

I am Connie Mitchell, Executive Director for IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc., a community-based non-profit charitable organization that serves homeless persons or those at risk for homelessness through a broad consortium of social and support services. It is my pleasure to offer this letter in support of Rev. Dr. Wallace Fukunaga for his appointment to serve on the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

I worked closely with Rev. Fukunaga when he served as the Interim Minister at Christ Church Uniting Disciples and Presbyterians from 2008-2010, during which I also served on the church's governing council. Pastor Wally, as we called him, had a challenging call in his role as interim pastor at CCU, as we were a collective of very independent minds that often found it difficult to agree on many issues. I experienced him to be an excellent manager, compassionate minister and a skilled mediator who was able to build consensus among very strong-minded people. This skill would be a major asset in any mediation functions required serving on the HCRC.

Rev. Fukunaga's preaching offered fresh thoughtful perspectives on our mission as a church, particularly in the area of social and environmental justice. His commitment to honoring diversity, a commitment to serving the poor in ways that empowered and inspired them, and his ability to support military personnel while advocating peace, all contribute to a testament of an individual who has a strong vision of personal justice and wholeness for all in our society. These qualities resonate well with HCRC's mission of eliminating discrimination and protecting civil rights.

Wally Fukunaga's award of educational degrees from three very fine colleges (Harvard University, Princeton University, and the Pacific School of Religion) attest to his sharp intellect and open-mindedness which should be quite commendable in a role with the HCRC given the agency's work in discerning rights violations and promoting diversity.

The Honorable Clayton Hee Hawaii State Senator, District 23 March 6, 2012

A review of Dr. Fukunaga's curriculum vitae will show a lifelong history of service to the community, advocacy for justice, education and inspiration to all, regardless of whether they belong to a faith community. Wally's had a remarkable ability to communicate with people from all walks of life, from "talking story" with the long-time local resident to public discourse and debate on the most controversial issues of the day.

Finally, I offer my recommendation of Wally Fukunaga to this office from the personal perspective of a local Asian woman of faith, having experienced a divorce, working with the underserved as a nurse, people of all ages as a minister, persons struggling with mental illness as a clinician, and manager at Hawaii State Hospital, and those who are homeless currently in my position as a non-profit leader at IHS.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 447-2824.

Mahalo.

Connie Mitchell, MS, APRN, BC

Executive Director

March 14, 2012

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Senator Clayton Hee, Chairperson

Re: Rev. Wallace Fukunaga's Nomination to the Civil Rights Commission

Aloha Senator Hee:

I have personally known Reverend Wallace Fukunaga for twelve years, first as a patient of mine, then as a friend and colleague. As a friend, we have had many talks on philosophy, religion, spirituality and equality issues. As a colleague, we have worked together in planning of workshops for health and well-being for people of all beliefs. It has always been a pleasure and an enlightening experience whenever I have a discourse with Reverend Fukunaga.

With Reverend Fukunaga's life experiences, he would be an excellent addition to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. He is a passionate advocate for the rights of all people, especially the minority groups, and negotiates for fair outcomes for all involved. Even with beliefs based in Christianity, Reverend Fukunaga is open and accepting of people of different faiths. I have seen him work well with leaders from different religions. With his personal convictions and experience, Reverend Fukunaga will contribute greatly to the Civil Rights Commission. Both, the Commission and Reverend Fukunaga, will benefit from each other.

Reverend Fukunaga's communication skills are exceptional. He listens well and speaks with a great deal of thoughtfulness and understanding, drawing in his audience. I have noticed how people with differing opinions respect Reverend Fukunaga and appreciate his input. He has gentleness in his soul and strength in his spirit. This gentleness can be seen in his compassion of giving comfort to those he consuls. His strength comes out in his advocacy for moral justice.

Senator Hee, I appreciate your consideration of Reverend Fukunaga to this important membership position on the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mahalo,

Corey S.C. Wong, Licensed Acupuncturist 1611 Keeaumoku Street #205 Honolulu, HI 96822 (808) 220-0934 coreyscwong@gmail.com March 19, 2012

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: March 20, 2012 Time: 10:15 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Re: Governor's Message GM645 (2012) -- Nomination of Wallace H. Fukunaga to the

Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

From: David M. Forman

I am writing in *strong support* of the nomination of Wally Fukunaga to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC). Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 368-2(a), he has both knowledge and experience in civil rights matters and a demonstrated commitment to the civil rights of all individuals. I had the privilege of serving with Wally on the board of directors for the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter (JACL Honolulu), and firmly believe that he would be a tremendous asset to the Commission.

Wally played an instrumental role in bringing the perspective of faith communities to the JACL Honolulu board. Even on those occasions when we ultimately disagreed about the approach to be taken in response to a particular issue, I remained impressed by Wally's ability to forcefully state his position in a manner that reflected both intelligence and respect.

As a former Enforcement Attorney with the HCRC from 2004-2010, I am confident that Wally will make a substantial contribution to the work and success of the agency. I respectfully urge your Committee's confirmation of Wally Fukunaga to the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

David M. Forman 1609B Iwi Way

Honolulu, HI 96816

From: yoshie tanabe
To: hee6 - Dinna

Subject: Fwd: Re: Mr. Wallace Fukunaga for Hawaii Civil Rights Commission

Date: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:36:39 AM

Dear Mr. Hee:

I just re-read my letter to you and realized I misspelled "members." Making correction.

Very sincerely, Yoshie Tanabe

On Mar 11, 2012, **yoshie tanabe** <<u>yojimbo@hawaiiantel.net</u>> wrote:

Dear Mr. Hee:

We are James and Yoshie Tanabe, members of the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu chapter, also members of the ACLU and NAACP and very concerned citizens.

We understand that Governor Abercrombie has nominated Mr. Wallace Fukunaga to be a member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. Please accept Mr. Fukunaga as a member because we believe he is very, very well qualified to be a member. We've worked together successfully on several cases--including standing up for Mr. Bruce Yamashita who was almost thrown out of the Marine Training Corps in 1993 and the Ehren Watada case. Bruce was finally vindicated and received his captain's commission in 1994. Ehren was the soldier who refused to go to Iraq, declaring it was an illegal war. His case lasted from 2006 to 2009 and ended in a mistrial.

Wallace operated a coffee shop at the University of Hawaii where students felt comfortable to congregate and discuss various subjects and events. Always, Wallace was respected as a facilitator, a teacher as well as a listener!

We've known Wallace since he was a high school student--he was in one of our young people's groups. Wallace has developed into a wonderful wise young man we are so very happy to call our friend. We believe he will be of great help as a member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. You will not regret it!

Very sincerely Jim and Yoshie Tanabe 1149 Namahealani Place Honolulu, HI 96825 394-1908 Office of Senator Clayton Hee

Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Senator Hee:

I am privileged to write to you in support of the nomination of the Reverend Wallace Fukunaga to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

I had the opportunity to work with Wally while serving as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Conference, United Church of Christ. Subsequent to those years, we both served on the Board of Trustees of the Pacific School of Religion. Wally is an active participant in meetings, is a good listener, sensitive to other people's comments and opinions and is a critical and conceptual thinker and serves with a passion.

Among the achievements as the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award by the Pacific School of Religion in 2006, is Wally's involvement in issues of social justice, locally as well as the wider global community.

One of my favorite quotes is from a speech given by Robert F. Kennedy which epitomizes who Wally is:

"Each time a man stands for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hopeand crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

I ask you to give Wally Fukunaga your highest consideration to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

Sincerely,

Janet H. Fujioka

jhfujioka@msn.com

From: <u>yoshie tanabe</u>
To: <u>hee6 - Dinna</u>

Subject: Mr. Wallace Fukunaga for Hawaii Civil Rights Commission

Date: Sunday, March 11, 2012 9:47:38 PM

Dear Mr. Hee:

We are James and Yoshie Tanabe, members of the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu chapter, also members of the ACLU and NAACP and very concerned citizens.

We understand that Governor Abercrombie has nominated Mr. Wallace Fukunaga to be a member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. Please accept Mr. Fukunaga as a member because we believe he is very, very well qualified to be a member. We've worked together successfully on several cases--including standing up for Mr. Bruce Yamashita who was almost thrown out of the Marine Training Corps in 1993 and the Ehren Watada case. Bruce was finally vindicated and received his captain's commission in 1994. Ehren was the soldier who refused to go to Iraq, declaring it was an illegal war. His case lasted from 2006 to 2009 and ended in a mistrial.

Wallace operated a coffee shop at the University of Hawaii where students felt comfortable to congregate and discuss various subjects and events. Always Wallace was respected as a facilitator, a teacher as well as a listener!

We've known Wallace since he was a high school student--he was in one of our young people's groups. Wallace has developed into a wonderful wise young man we are so very happy to call our friend. We believe he will be of great help as a member of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. You will not regret it!

Very sincerely Jim and Yoshie Tanabe 1149 Namahealani Place Honolulu, HI 96825 394-1908 From: jchatfieldmm@hawaii.rr.com

To: <u>hee6 - Dinna</u>

Subject: Recommendation for Rev. Dr. Wally Fukunaga

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 8:27:25 AM

Dear Senator Hee.

My path has crossed that of Wally Fukunaga as far back as his days with campus ministry at University of Hawaii and has since woven a line of connections covering much of his commitment to the people of Hawaii as both an ordained United Church of Christ minister and a competent restauranteur. Now we are connected with his newest venture, the creation of Sunrise Ministries, an interfaith ministry of presence, compassion and wellness.

Wally's growth in ministry has been well documented. It is now time for him to give service to the commission that carefully considers the civil rights of others. His life has readied him for this position, well practiced in listening and suggesting, in his ministry of presence.

In addition to these strengths, Wally sees the intricacies of government as a "work in progress" and will bring his skills, now well honed, to this task.

This documents both my recommendation for and admiration of Rev. Dr. Wally Fukunaga.

Sincerely,

Joan Chatfield, M.M., Ph.D. Executive Director Institute for Religion and Social Change 808-225-7976 www.joanchatfield.com From: John Gillmor
To: hee6 - Dinna

Subject: Wally Fukunaga, Candidate for Civil Rights Commission

Date: Friday, March 02, 2012 8:17:51 PM

Dear Senator Hee,

I am writing in support of Wally Fukunaga, candidate for a position on the Civil Rights Commission. I worked extensively with Wally during the years 2001 to 2004 when he was the interim pastor and I was the vice moderator and then moderator of Waiokeola Congregational Church, UCC. During that time Wally used his considerable talents to help heal a dysfunctional congregation, This involved sound administrative skills as well as great sensitivity to the emotional needs of the congregants. Often he was cast in the role of a conciliator and a negotiator.

Civil rights, simply put. involve a balancing of individual interests against the interests of the group or organization as a whole. Wally has demonstrated his ability to see all dimensions of an issue and to reach a just result. I recommend him for this position without reservation. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 737-9151.

John P. Gillmor

 From:
 Dr. John Heidel

 To:
 hee6 - Dinna

 Subject:
 Personal Reference

Date: Sunday, March 04, 2012 5:45:47 PM

Subject: Personal Reference for the Rev. Dr. Wallace Fukunaga For: Appointment to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission

From: Rev. Dr. John R. Heidel

Minister: United Church of Christ

Youth Minister at Central Union Church, Honolulu, 1962-64, 1967-70

Chaplain at Punahou School, Honolulu, 1969-2001 President: The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii, 2004-Present

Member: Christ Church, Uniting Disciples and Presbyterians, Kailua

Testimony:

I'm honored to offer this testimony in strong support of Wally's appointment to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

We've know each other for over 40 years in a variety of personal and professional relationships - all here in Hawaii.

I have the highest regard for for his personal integrity, his dedication to service and his compassion for humanity.

If you need further information, I can be reached at 261-4585.

From: <u>bishopstephen@inclusiveorthodox.org</u>

To: <u>hee6 - Dinna</u>

Subject: Testimony on Behalf of Rev. W. Fukunaga - Human Rights Commission

Date: Sunday, March 11, 2012 8:56:30 PM

Importance: High

Aloha e Senator Hee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Rev. Wallace Fukunaga's appointment to the Human Rights Commission. I am providing a signed copy on letterhead, as a PDF attachment to this message

The text of the message is as follows:

Hawaii State Legislature 415 South Beretania Street, Room 407 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chairperson

Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Honorable Mike Gabbard Honorable Les Ihara, Jr. Honorable Sam Slom

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee:

This letter is written in support of Rev. Wallace Fukunaga to be confirmed as a member of the Human Rights Commission.

Rev. Fukunaga and I currently serve together on the board of The Interfaith Alliance Hawai'i. I have known him for over ten years and have worked with him on numerous occasions as a member of the board, in support of his ministries, and in his capacity as Interim Executive Director of the Counseling and Spiritual Care Center of Hawai'i.

Wally is a strong supporter of human rights and has dedicated his life to serving people of all creeds, races, and any other factors that could be cause for discrimination. I know him to be a man of authenticity and integrity. He is truthful and forthright. My observation is that when he takes on a project he fully commits himself.

I am confident he will do an excellent job as a member of the Human Rights Commission.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony on Rev. Wallace Fukunaga's behalf.

Aloha and many blessings,

/s/ +Stephen Randolph Sykes Bishop of Hawaiʿi Thank you very much,

Randolph

Bishop Stephen Randolph Sykes | +1.808.561.6010 | randolphsykes@hawaii.rr.com | bishopstephen@inclusiveorthodox.org

 From:
 Teruo Kawata

 To:
 hee6 - Dinna

 Subject:
 Dr. Wallace Fukunaga

Date: Sunday, March 11, 2012 8:40:34 PM

Senator Clayton Hee

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to write in support of the Governor's nomination of the Rev. Dr. Wallace T. Fukunaga for the Civil Rights Commission. From the time Dr. Fukunaga returned to Hawaii in the 1960's he has sbeen strong advocate for civil rights. During the turmoil on the University campus in the 60's not only did he do an outstanding job being vitally connected to the students he also kept a vital connection to the University faculty and the administration as represented by the Office of the Dean of Students. As I recall he was seen as a responsible and caring voice in behalf of the students and also seen as a trust worthy liaison by the University. I was pastor of the Waiokeola Congregational Church during those years and Dean Harold Bitner was a member of my congregation.

After leaving his position as Campus Minister for the United Church of Christ he continued his advocacy role and concern for the poor this time in the city government in the poverty program. He demonstrated his creative drive when after his time in government service he became a small business man, starting very small then building it into a thriving business in Haleiwa.

He was a caring son who kept in close touch with his aging parents. When his mother became unable to care for herself he sold his business and moved into town to be much more available to his smother and father.

It was during my time as General Secretary and Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ in Hawaii that Wally resumed his first vocation as a Minister in the United Church of Christ. Most of his ministry has been to serve as Interim Minister during periods of pastoral vacancy. His primary focus was to help churches refocus their ministry before they went on to call a regular pastor. He had one long ministry at the Community Church of Honolulu which grew in membership and mission outreach. He is a very bright and keen observer and has a creative mind which he brings to whatever areas of responsibility he gives himself to.

I believe the Civil Rights Commission would be greatly enhanced with his presence.

Very sincerely, Teruo Kawata, Conference Minister Emeritus, United Church of Christ in Hawaii.