# GM757

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILBERT CHEE, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

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#### Testimony of Wilbert (Wil) C.F. Chee

#### To Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing (EGH); Confirmation to Stadium Authority; GM 757

#### April 8, 2013

Chairman Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing. Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I want to express gratitude to Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me to the Stadium Authority. It is an honor. I also want to thank those individuals who on short notice submitted written testimony on my behalf, and of course to those present today who testify and lend support toward my confirmation.

I am a lifelong resident of Hawaii, educated through the public and parochial school system in Honolulu, and then Saint Louis High School. I attended the University of Hawaii for two years before transferring to the University of Illinois, graduating with a bachelor's degree in urban planning. My formal schooling ends with a master's degree in urban environment from the University of Southern California.

In seeking confirmation to the Stadium Authority, I ask the committee to consider that I have run a successful land planning and environmental services company in Honolulu for the last 36 years. In December of 2012, I turned over the company to my vice-president, resigned as president, and am still trying to get accustomed to the notion of "semi-retirement". I am part-time vice president of marketing. I have background experience in a wide array of institutional/public facilities, and consider myself to be a fairly decent manager of people and relationships. I am a fan of common sense and simple language, and truly believe that decisions are best made when there is effort made toward accurate/truthful information, and when all sides are heard.

At this point in my career, I have run projects on all of our Hawaiian Islands (including Niihau), in Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Indonesia...), and many of the islands and island nations in the Pacific. Federal, State and County government agencies have been our clients, along with private corporations and individuals. So I have this diversity in background, not only in project types, but also in exposure to different cultures to offer as qualification.

I approach the possibility of being on the Stadium Authority with an open mind to the issues which will confront the Stadium in the months/years ahead. I do have a background in the conducting of site selection studies for University of Hawaii campuses (West Hawaii and West Oahu) and other educational institutions. Perhaps this may serve the knowledge pool for the Stadium Authority.

I cannot promise any specific results if confirmed to the Stadium Authority, but I can pledge that my conduct and actions will be studied; guided by fairness, common sense and a commitment to best interest of the Stadium.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR DEAN H. SEKI COMPTROLLER MARIA E. ZIELINSKI DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

#### STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96810-0119

#### TESTIMONY OF DEAN H. SEKI, COMPTROLLER DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING ON APRIL 8, 2013

#### **GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 757**

# SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STADIUM AUTHORITY, WILBERT CHEE

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on G.M. 757. The Department of Accounting and General Services supports the confirmation of Mr. Wilbert Chee to the Stadium Authority.

Mr. Chee is the founder and president of Wil Chee – Planning, Inc. which has been in business for over 35 years and has over 40 years of professional experience in the practice of land use planning, environmental services, architecture, and engineering. Mr. Chee's technical knowledge and professional experience provide him with the necessary skills to be a contributing member of the Stadium Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



#### TESTIMONY OF SCOTT L. CHAN, STADIUM MANAGER STADIUM AUTHORITY DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING ON APRIL 8, 2013 2:45 PM STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 16

#### G.M. 757

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Wilbert Chee for a term to expire 06-30-2017.

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of Mr. Wilbert Chee.

We welcome the opportunity to work with Mr. Wilbert Chee and support his nomination to the Stadium Authority. As a board member, his wealth of knowledge and experience in land use planning, environmental studies/remediation services to private and government clients will be of great value to Aloha Stadium.

Therefore, we support the appointment of Mr. Wilbert Chee to the Stadium Authority.

#### WALTER S. KIRIMITSU

#### **5111 POOLA STREET**

#### **HONOLULU, HI 96821**

#### SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

## CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND HOUSING

SENATOR SAM SLOM

#### VICE-CHAIRMAN

# RE: GOVERNOR'S NOMINATION OF WILBERT C.F. CHEE TO THE ALOHA STADIUM AUTHORITY

**Dear Senators:** 

I am writing to you to highly recommend your approval of Wilbert C.F. Chee to the Aloha Stadium Authority.

Briefly, I am current President and CEO of Saint Louis School, Waialae Avenue, Honolulu, and have been serving since July 2006. Prior to this, I served as University General Counsel for the University of Hawaii for approximately 8 years. Prior to that, I served as Associate Judge of the State of Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals for approximately four years. And prior, was a civil litigation attorney for the law firm of Shim, Tam, Kirimitsu, Naito & Chang for about 22 years. When a senior at the University of Hawaii, I served as a member of the Honolulu Stadium board of directors by virtue of my being President of the Associated Students of the University of Hawaii. I have known Wilbert, known to me as Wil, continuously for at least the past 10 consecutive years, both professionally and personally. Wil has performed consulting work for Saint Louis School over the past years, especially in the areas of planning, assessment and management of our educational facilities. Wil has also served on our school Board's Facilities Committee, and he has given us invaluable professional advice in the master planning of our campus into the next few decades.

On the basis of my professional and personal knowledge of Wil, I can state to you that Wil is a reliable, trustworthy professional who has extensive experience in facilities planning, master planning, land use planning and environmental services for private as well as state and federal governmental clients. As a person, Wil has the highest integrity, truthful and solid character; as we say at Saint Louis School, Wil has proven himself as a TRUE SAINT LOUIS MAN.

I am convinced that Wil, with his extensive professional experience and personal integrity, will be a strong contributor and asset to the Stadium Authority. I do plan to appear before your Honorable Committee on Monday, April 8 to submit personal testimony to support Wil and his confirmation.

Thank you for your precious time.

Respectfully,

Walter S. Kirimitsu

#### April 3, 2013

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz Chair, Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing The Senate State Capitol, Room 202 Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Wilbert C.F. Chee as a member of the Stadium Authority

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

I am pleased to write this letter of support on behalf of Wilbert C.F. Chee who is nominated to become a member of the Stadium Authority.

Rather than repeating Mr. Chee's impressive background and experiences which are provided in his resume and by other supporters, I hope my testimony will add information regarding his outstanding character and abilities to serve on the Stadium Authority. As founder and president of Wil Chee-Planning, Inc., he has gained a solid reputation as a respected entrepreneur and planner in our community and internationally. His wide-ranging expertise in land use planning, environmental services, architecture and engineering will greatly benefit the Stadium Authority in mapping its strategies and plans to maintain a world class stadium for our community's athletic and major events. His first hand experiences in Japan, Korea and China will bring global perspectives and ideas to the Stadium Authority. He understands finances which will further benefit the challenging decisions facing the Stadium Authority.

Mr. Chee is very respected by his peers and those who have contracted his services. He brings integrity and thoughtful perspectives to whatever he undertakes. I have known him for more than 20 years professionally as the former executive director of the Hawaii Government Employees Association and also as a friend. During this time, I have had the pleasant fortune of witnessing the growth of his company first locally and now internationally. And he is always the perfect gentleman who together with his wife, Queenie, share a deep love and caring for our community.

I am very pleased to support his nomination as a member of the Stadium Authority without any reservations. Our community is very fortunate that Wilbert C. F. Chee chooses to serve the people of Hawaii as a member of the Stadium Authority.

Respectfully submitted.

Russell K. Okata

### Sam O. Hirota, Inc.

April 5, 2013

Mr. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair Mr. Sam Slom, Vice-Chair Senate Committee on Economic Development http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/committeepage.aspx?comm=EGH

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Wilbert C.F. Chee Stadium Authority Confirmation

Dear Mr. Dela Cruz and Mr. Slom

I am Dennis I. Hirota, President of Sam O. Hirota, Inc. a 50 year old local civil engineering and land surveying company. I have recently served as a Regent for the University of Hawaii for four years and understand the time and effort required for public service.

I have known Wil Chee, for over 15 years on both a professional and personal basis. This relationship started when I started to work with him on planning and civil engineering projects for the US Army Corps of Engineers. Many of these projects involved the removal of un-exploded ordinance on the big-island. So we had many discussions on correct solutions on locating (surveying) and planning removal of the discovered UXO.

I have found Wil extremely detailed in his advice and in discussions with me on questions that I would ask him concerning work that his planning and environmental firm was accomplishing relative to the best interest of the Hawaii community.

What makes Wil unique compared to others involved in this type of work is his total commitment of using the best approaches to accomplish the project and his ability to getting the job finished correctly the first time. He is well respected planner in our State. He demonstrates leadership and management skills that will be very valuable to the Stadium Authority.

For the foregoing reasons, I wholeheartedly support his appointment as a member of the Stadium Authority.

Sincerely

Dennis I, Hirota, PhD, PE, LPLS President