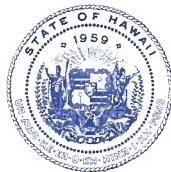


LATE



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 5, 2015

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

HEARING: 1:45 p.m., Thursday, March 5, 2015, Conference Room 016

RE: GM 511 - NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION OF RACHEL WONG AS DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

I am pleased to provide, with highest recommendation, my testimony in support of GM511, to confirm Rachel Wong as the State Director of Health.

I have known Rachel for 13 years, as a staff member at the House of Representatives and as a Legislator. Ms. Wong has worked with me and our House Committees on Health and Human Services by providing essential information to ensure rock solid policy in the areas of health and human services.

Ms. Wong has displayed admirable qualities of dedication and sincerity in her work while serving the state, community, and the legislature. She has always been considerate to other legislators, government and private employees, staff, media, businesses, and the public.

Ms. Wong's experience and her expertise in community service, reasoning skills, analytical intellect, and outstanding organization are attributes which will move the Department of Health in the right direction. Her ability to collaborate and seek solutions are valued here in the legislative arena.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is with great pleasure that I provide strong testimony in support of Ms. Wong's confirmation, with complete confidence that she will be successful and serve our State and the Department of Health with compassion and proper insight while ensuring essential services are maintained.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Mizuno".

Representative John M. Mizuno, Vice Speaker

Representative John M. Mizuno – VICE SPEAKER of the House of Representatives

District 28, Kamehameha Heights, Kalihi Valley, portion of Lower Kalihi

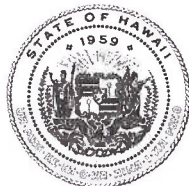
State Capitol, Room 439 – Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 586-6050 – Fax: (808) 586-6051

Email: repmizuno@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony of
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 5, 2015
1:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

GM 511

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RACHAEL WONG, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Rachael Wong as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Ms. Wong received degrees from Princeton University, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has been the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and was the Executive Director of Kokua Mau and the Hawai'i Consortium for Integrative Healthcare.

Ms. Wong is an excellent nominee that we need as Director of DHS who has the vision, the skill, and the knowledge to help many families and individuals towards a better life. She has the wisdom and compassion to help the most vulnerable. When it comes to solving the homeless issue, we know that the challenges are great. We have been pleased to work in partnership under her leadership to provide care and services to the homeless, a challenge often found at our bridges, airports and harbors facilities. She is the right person for the job, and we strongly support her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



LATE

March 4, 2015

Sharene Urakami-Oyama
AT&T Mobility
500 Kahelu Avenue
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Oakland and Honorable Green,

I am delighted to submit my support of Ms. Rachael Wong's nomination for Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Human Services.

I had the privilege of meeting Rachael over eight years ago through the Hawaii Pacific Century Fellows program. I am sure you are aware of her professional background and the amazing work she has done in her community but I had the opportunity to know her on a personal level and she is definitely the right person for the job.

Rachael has a passion for serving others and has a caring heart that will serve her well in this position. She also has the diplomacy and leadership skills to bring people with varied objectives to work toward a common goal.

I look forward to celebrating with her once the Senate confirmation makes it official!

Sincerely,

Sharene Urakami-Oyama
Area Retail Sales Manager
AT&T



LATE

PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Board of Directors

Howard Garval, Chair
Joanne Lundstrom, Vice Chair
Jerry Rauckhorst, Treasurer
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Marya Grambs
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Katherine Keir
Jeeyun Lee
John McComas
Robert Naniole
Darcie Scharfenstein
Alan Shinn

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Human Services & Housing

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 1:45 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 016**

Testimony in Support of GM511 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Rachael Wong for Director of the Department of Human Services.

On behalf of PHOCUSED (Protecting Hawaii's Ohana, Children, Under-Served, Elderly & Disabled), I am writing to express our full support for the appointment of Rachael Wong as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community. Our membership includes some of the largest health and human service providers throughout our state, including AlohaCare, Catholic Charities Hawaii, Child & Family Service, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Helping Hands Hawaii, Parents & Children Together, Lanakila Pacific, Parents in Development Foundation, the Honolulu Community Action Program, and many others.

Since Director Wong started in her position, our members have had the opportunity to meet with her, and have been greatly impressed by her experience and her desire to strengthen the programs of the Department of Human Services to best serve Hawaii's many vulnerable populations. We firmly believe that Director Wong is not only qualified for this position, but has the heart and will to do the job. We look forward to working with her and the department in the years to come.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly urges your confirmation of Rachael Wong as the Director of the Department of Human Services. Mahalo for this opportunity to express our support.

LATE

CLIFFORD CHANG, MPH

RESIDENCE

4924 Wa'a Street
Honolulu, HI 96821-1446
Telephone/Fax: (808) 373-3654

BUSINESS

Executive Director
Pacific Islands Primary Care Association
737 Bishop Street Suite 2075
Honolulu, HI 96813-3200
Telephone: (808) 537-5855
Fax: (808) 537-6868
Email: <pacificislandspca@yahoo.com >

TO: Committee on Human Services and Housing
RE: GM 511: Consideration and Confirmation of DHS Gubernatorial Nominee RACHAEL WONG
Hearing scheduled for **Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 1:45 pm, Conference Room 16**
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

March 5, 2015

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of the Confirmation of RACHAEL WONG as the Director of the Department of Human Services; GM 511

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong and complete support for the confirmation of Dr. Rachael Wong (GM 511) as the Director of the Department of Human Services; GM 511.

I am Clifford Chang a colleague and personal friend of Rachael for over 10 years, and am testifying today in that capacity. In my work capacity I am currently the Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Primary Care Association, which supports the delivery of primary health care services in the US-affiliated Pacific Island territories and nations – American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam as territories, and the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau as compact of free association nations.

I have had the honor and absolute pleasure to work with Dr. Wong going back over 10 years ago initially as a fellow Board member and owner of Kokua Natural Foods Market Cooperative, and continuing through the years through her involvement as the Executive Director of Kokua Mau, the Hawai'i hospice and palliative care organization; Executive Director of the Hawai'i Consortium for Integrative Healthcare; consultant with the Joyful Heart Foundation, and most recently in her capacity as the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i.

I can think of no better person than Rachael, given her knowledge, skills, caring, compassion, and absolute dedication to helping make Hawai'i a better place for all of us in whatever capacity she is able to, to serve and contribute as the Director of the Department of Human Services. I support her confirmation completely, without any hesitation or qualification.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Clifford Chang, MPH

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:42 PM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: rae_seitz@hmsa.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM511 on Mar 5, 2015 13:45PM

Categories: Purple category

GM511

Submitted on: 3/4/2015

Testimony for HSH on Mar 5, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rae Seitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I recommend that Ms. Rachael Wong be confirmed as the head of the department of Human Services and Housing. I have known Ms. Wong for over 10 years, working with her when she was the executive director of Kokua Mau, the state's coalition to improve palliative care and end of life care for the people of Hawai'i, and later as VP and COO at Healthcare Association of Hawaii. I have been privileged to become a friend as well. In all of my dealings with Ms. Wong I have found her to be exceptionally intelligent, thoughtful, well-read, and caring. The combination of outstanding intellect and ability to forge partnerships with a vast array of individuals and organizations while maintaining high ethical and moral standards is rarely seen. Rachael embodies these abilities and is deft at leveraging them for the greater good of our community. Rachael is no push-over; her deep commitment to this community and particularly to those underserved and most marginalized drives her to work to gain deep understanding of issues, clarify positions, risks and benefits before taking action. Her strength of character leads her to stand up for what she ultimately feels is the best position for the people she serves. She also has the capacity to temper her advocacy with a broader view of the community as a whole so that decisions are made from a multidimensional viewpoint and with an eye towards building a healthier, stronger community at large. It is my great pleasure to recommend, highly and without reservation, Rachael Wong to you. Thank you for your kind consideration of my testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
State Capitol, Room 016
Honolulu HI 96813

March 4, 2015

Re: Rachael Wong, confirmation of Director of Human Services, State of Hawaii

This is a letter of support for the confirmation of Rachael Wong as the Director of Human Services for the State of Hawaii.

I have known Ms. Wong for at least eight years, both personally and professionally. She and I both served on the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee of Legacy of Life Hawaii (LLH), the federally designated transplant organ procurement agency for Hawaii, and the Public Health Fund (PHF) Committee and its Executive Committee of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce.

I have found Ms. Wong to be focused, hard-working, and passionate about improving the health of the people of Hawaii, both in helping those with illness and, more globally, in preventing illness through public health measures.

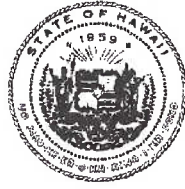
At LLH, we were involved at the Board level in helping guide it through the period when the Transplant Center at the former Hawaii Medical Center (aka St. Francis Medical Center) was under tremendous financial pressure and through the transition to Queen's Medical Center's establishment of a Transplant Center. We also sought ways to improve the numbers of potential organ donors and Ms. Wong was especially passionate about collaborating with other agencies such the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii, demonstrating a fundamental personality trait of wanting to reach out to others to take advantage of common purpose.

The PHF Committee reviews and recommends to the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, small public health grant proposals that support non-profit healthcare agencies such the Waikiki Health Center, IHS and the Life Foundation. Ms. Wong has used her expertise in public health to help the Committee focus on projects that address the social determinants of health, which may have a wider impact on disease prevention and health outcomes and provide a more efficient use of funds. Through her ability to network, she has been very helpful in recruiting new members to the PHF Committee.

In all my interactions with Ms. Wong, I have found her to be extremely ethical, as exemplified by her membership on the Ethics Commission of the City of Honolulu. Personally, I have found that Ms. Wong is open and friendly, receptive to ideas, cooperative and flexible in crafting solutions to problems. I think that her previous professional positions and experiences have prepared her well to understand the many health challenges that face Hawaii. The personal attributes that she possesses will make her an excellent and effective Director Human Services.

Sincerely,
David T. Horio, MD

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

March 5, 2015 at 1:45 P.M.
Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of

G.M. 511
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
RACHAEL WONG, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-3-2018

Honorable Chair Chun Oakland and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments regarding Governor's Message (G.M.) 511, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial nominee, Rachael Wong, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. Wong to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services. We believe that Ms. Wong will be able to effectively fulfill her role as the Director of the Department of Human Services through her life experiences and professional expertise. Over the past several months, Ms. Wong has been actively working with the HPHA in positively contributing her ideas and concerns with the agency, and we look forward to continuing our working relationship in the future.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing with the agency's position regarding G.M. 511. We respectfully request the Committee to confirm Ms. Wong as the next Director of the Department of Human Services.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2015 1:27 PM
To: HSH Testimony
Cc: Phyllis.Shimabukuro-Geiser@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM511 on Mar 5, 2015 13:45PM

Categories: Purple category

GM511

Submitted on: 3/5/2015

Testimony for HSH on Mar 5, 2015 13:45PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser	Agriculture	Support	Yes

Comments: I apologize for the late testimony. I support the appointment of Dr. Rachel Wong. Since January of this year I have interacted with Dr. Wong in various gatherings and training sessions. In the short time I have known her, I came to recognize her passion, energy and intellect for her leadership of the Department of Human Services. I believe she will service the people of Hawaii well. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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