

GM 809

Testimony –

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAI DUPONTE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Report Title: Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HEA

Introducer(s):



**Hawai'i Commission for National
and Community Service**
University of Hawai'i
1601 East-West Road, JAB 4019
Honolulu, Hawaii 96848

Tracy Lee
Operations Supervisor

Phone: (808) 956-8145
Fax: (808) 956-2950
Email: hicncs@hawaii.edu

April 14, 2015

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair-Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate District 11
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Chairman Taniguchi and the Senate Higher Education Committee,

I am pleased to support the appointment and confirmation of Ms. Kai Duponte to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service for a first term. (GM 809)

This Commission enacted by Federal Statute, is responsible for administering and receiving federal funds to support AmeriCorps Programs in the State of Hawaii. There are currently 8 programs in the Hawaii portfolio, with approximately 350 to 400 members serving throughout the state bringing in over \$4,050,366.00 a year in Federal Funds. The current focus areas of our programs concentrate on education, land conservation, legal help for the needy, sustainable agriculture, early childhood care, and youth media education.

The composition of the Commission by Federal statute requires a minimum of 15 members, an equal representation of political parties with NO one party having a majority, and representation of various professional occupations.

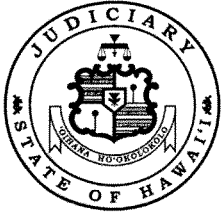
Ms. Duponte will represent Social Services. Her appointment will also allow the Commission to maintain the equal balance between political parties that is needed to remain compliant with the Federal Statutes.

Please allow Ms. Duponte the opportunity to serve on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service by confirming her.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Lee".

Tracy Lee
Operations Supervisor
Hawaii Commission for National & Community Service



Second Judicial Circuit - THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAII

Special Services Branch - 2145 MAIN STREET, SUITE 206, WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
Phone (808) 244-2729 Fax (808) 244-2870

Sandy S. Kozaki
CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Marsha T. Yamada
DEPUTY CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

SheriAnn P. Daniels
SSB ADMINISTRATOR

April 13, 2015

Senator Brian Taniguchi
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, HI
HEAtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: GM 809-Nomination to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

Aloha Senator Taniguchi,

Kai Duponte applied for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Advocates (CASA) Program in the summer of 2014. She completed all requirements to becoming a CASA and was sworn in on August 12, 2014. Ms. Duponte has provided over 100 hours of volunteer work to date.

The role of a CASA is to be an advocate for the child's interests in mental health, educational, family court, juvenile justice, criminal justice, and other community systems. A CASA is an independent fact finder whose task is to review all relevant information to ascertain the facts and circumstances of the child's situation. The CASA maintains a trusting meaningful relationship with the child through multiple face to face contact. Written reports of findings and recommendations are provided by the CASA, to the court on a regular basis while a case is open.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns about the CASA program to which Ms. Duponte actively volunteers for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelli A. Haaff".

Kelli A. Haaff
CASA Program Court Officer

From: [Susan Miyao](mailto:Susan.Miyao)
To: [HEA Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: Nomination Letter for Kai Duponte
Date: Monday, April 13, 2015 1:05:00 PM

From: Joan Apo [mailto:joansapo@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 12:11 PM
To: Susan Miyao
Subject: Nomination Letter for Kai Duponte

Joan Sheeran Apo, Ph.D.
98-211 Pali Momi St. – Suite 707
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
[\(808\) 483-8803](tel:(808)483-8803)

April 13, 2015

Nomination to the Hawai`i Commission for National and Community Service
RE: GM 809,

Dear Members of the Hawaii Commission:

My name is Joan Sheeran Apo. I have a Ph.D in Psychology and have practiced in Hawai`i as a Psychologist for 44 years (13 years with Department of Education-Honolulu District, and 23 years with Department of Health - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, as the Clinical Psychologist for the Honolulu Family Guidance Center). I continue a private practice part time which I started 24 years ago.

I have known Kai Duponte for 8 years. We met through our service on the local Planning Committee for the yearly IVAT Trauma Conference in Honolulu. As part of her volunteer work for the IVAT Conference, Ms. Duponte initiated the *Cultural Committee* on which we have worked together since 2007. In this capacity, we arrange the cultural components for the conference including: Native Hawaiian protocols, training sessions by local experts focused on Pacific Island cultural competencies in treating trauma, and Hawaiian entertainment. Kai also continues her volunteerism activities currently by serving as a CASA on the Island of Maui.

When we met, she was working for the University of Hawai`i School of Social Work. However, her tireless contribution on many other levels to the development and implementation of the IVAT Conference, which now has an attendance of approximately 1,000 attendees from 39 states, and 17 countries has been impressive to say the least. Her attributes of consistency, dependability, and unwavering commitment to excellence are well recognized. In fact, she received a much respected award by the Institute for her volunteerism in 2011. Moreover, her natural demeanor of joyful engagement with people, and deep belief in the bettering the of lives of others is infectious.

Without reservation, I urge you to confirm Ms. Kai Duponte as a Commissioner for the Hawai`i Commission for National and Community Service. It will certainly be a decision you will never regret.

Sincerely,
Joan Sheeran Apo, Ph.D.