

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lieutenant Governor

**MICHAEL McCARTNEY**  
Director



**LAND USE COMMISSION**  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
State of Hawai'i

**DANIEL E. ORODENKER**  
Executive Officer

**Bert K. Saruwatari**  
Planner  
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Planner

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Chief Clerk/Planner

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Statement of  
**Daniel E. Orodenker**  
**Executive Officer**  
State Land Use Commission

Before the  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Wednesday May 13, 2020  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of

**GM671**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LAND USE**  
**COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,**  
**LEE OHIGASHI**  
**for a term to expire 06-30-2024**

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Water and Land:

My name is Dan Orodenker, the Executive Officer of the State Land Use Commission. I am here to respectfully request that this Committee favorably consider the nomination of Lee Ohigashi to serve as commissioner for a four-year term to expire on June 30, 2024. Mr. Ohigashi has been nominated to fill the position of Maui County Commissioner.

Mr. Ohigashi is a well-respected attorney and member of the Maui community and has served on several boards or commissions throughout the course of his career. He has experience in the workings of organizations like the LUC and in the role of government in making critical decisions. In the time Mr. Ohigashi has served on the Commission he has shown himself to be hard working, intuitive of the issues facing the commission and insightful as to the legal implications associated with LUC decisions. Mr. Ohigashi has always shown himself to be fair, open minded and community oriented. He has been an invaluable addition to the working of the commission and is well respected by the other Commission members for his insights and his joviality.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Ohigashi's nomination to serve as Commissioner on the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before this Committee.

The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020

THE SENATE

Committee on Water and Land

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Wednesday, May 13, 2020; 1:00 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON GM 671  
APPOINTMENT OF LEE OHIGASHI TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION**

The ILWU Local 142 strongly supports the nomination of Lee Ohigashi to continue to serve as a commissioner on the Land Use Commission (LUC).

Mr. Ohigashi is well respected and has a vast array of knowledge and work experience and has served as a competent and capable member of the Land Use Commission since 2017.

Mr. Ohigashi graduated with a Bachelors of Arts from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and furthered his education with a Juris Doctorate from the William S. Richardson School of Law and has been employed in various prestigious and professional jobs such as the Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui and his current profession as a solo practitioner emphasizing in Family and Administrative Law.

Mr. Ohigashi currently serves on countless boards and commissions. He currently serves as a member of the Maui County Bar Association and a member of the Maui Japanese Cultural Association. Mr. Ohigashi has also served as a legal advisor for the Maui Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

Without a doubt, Mr. Ohigashi will continue be a strong asset to the Land Use Commission. His community and work experience provide invaluable knowledge and he will continue to serve with the upmost integrity and respect.

For the reasons mentioned above, the ILWU Local 142 strongly urges a favorable recommendation for Mr. Ohigashi. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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May 13, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON GM 671**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, LEE OHIGASHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Room 229  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB strongly supports the re-confirmation of Lee Ohigashi to the Land Use Commission.**

Mr. Ohigashi began his career as a Deputy Corporation Counsel on Maui to Council committees relating to Land use – the Planning Department, Public Works, and Water. Since then his interest in the area continues following issues in Land Use.

Mr. Ohigashi has served on many boards and commissions as well as for community organizations.

His attention to detail seeking to see all sides of an issue will serve him well.

HFB respectfully requests your support in confirming Mr. Lee Ohigashi as a Commissioner on the Land Use Commission.

**GM-671**

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 9:01:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George K. Lindsey, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

GM 671: Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Lee Ohigashi to the Land Use Commission. I have known Lee Ohigashi ("Lee") for about 44 years. Based on his conduct and professionalism during that time I can attest to his good character and professionalism.

The Ohigashi family has been steeped in community service for Lee's entire life. Lee is a product of that public service ethic. After graduating from William Richardson School of Law in 1979 Lee served on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. I remember him spending more time working on Regent business than his own to the detriment of his law practice. The degree of care and effort he put into that position was astounding. Luckily, his wife, Stephanie Ohigashi, is equally as dedicated and active in the service of Maui and the State of Hawaii. Through his hard work, financial responsibility and Stephanie's unwavering support Lee has managed to survive that sacrifice and build a successful law practice on Maui. He has earned a reputation for serving the best interest of his clients. They have described him to me as smart, honest, trustworthy, diligent and reliable. They also have appreciated the reasonableness of his fees.

I have served as co-counsel with Lee in the past and found him to be quick, thorough and practical. He pays close attention to legal ethics and professional responsibility. This habit has protected many clients from potential violations and missteps. His professionalism allows his team and his clients to focus on the most relevant issues in any case. Given our work in Hawaii land title and land use cases I know that Lee is well qualified to address any issues that may come before the Land Use Commission He is diligent and often obsessive about being fully prepared for any hearing or trials. He brings that same diligence to Land Use Commission hearings. I cannot imagine a more diligent or qualified public servant to sit on the Land Use Commission

Sincerely,

/s/ George K. Lindsey, Jr.

Attorney at Law, LLC

May 11, 2020

Kai Kahele, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
Senate  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

Re: Strong Support for Lee Ohigashi – GM671 Land Use Commission

I would like to state I am in strong support of Mr. Lee Ohigashi to be appointed to the Land Use Commission.

I have known Lee both professionally and personally and we can say that he is truly a man of honor, integrity and compassion. Professionally, Lee has been at the forefront on multitude of issues on Maui including as the Maui representative for the University of Hawaii, Board of Regents. Additionally, he ensured while a member of the Land Use Commission that we all know our duties to protect Hawaii's resources including water, iwi and cultural activities. He additionally, relayed the meaning of Hawaii and Aloha at each event he was present.

Lee has always been part of the community. His dedication to Hawaii can be seen through his leadership in various organizations. He truly believes that we must assist and better Hawaii for our future.

I strongly support Lee Ohigashi to be on the Land Use Commission. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arnold Wong /s/

**GM-671**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 10:54:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**GM-671**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 10:55:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Warren Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**

before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

**Governor's Message (GM) 671**

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Lee Ohigashi to serve as a member of the Land Use Commission.

I have known Mr. Ohigashi, both professionally and personally for over 10 years, and have had the opportunity to work directly with him during our respective careers. Specifically, during my tenure as the Director of the Office of Planning, I have had the opportunity to appear before the Land Use Commission in a number of dockets during his first term. His diligent work, high level of integrity, breadth of knowledge and experience, and holistic approach are just a few of the key assets that he has and will continue to share with his fellow commissioners.

Mr. Ohigashi has gained my trust and respect as someone that will uphold the highest levels of leadership, and there is no question that he will greatly contribute and apply his passion, knowledge and experiences to the work of the Land Use Commission.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Mr. Lee Ohigashi as a member of the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 671.