

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Friday, April 10, 2026
9:30 a.m
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 515

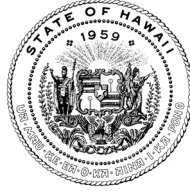
Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 515, the appointment of Jon Itomura to be Chair of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a term to expire in 6 years.

Jon Itomura is one of Hawai'i's most experienced utility consumer advocates, with more than 25 years of public service and regulatory experience. From 2003 to 2019, he served as Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy within the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, where he represented Hawai'i's ratepayers before the Public Utilities Commission in cases involving electric, gas, water, and telecommunications utilities. He previously served as a Deputy Attorney General and as General Counsel for the Campaign Spending Commission.

I am confident that Mr. Itomura's experience and record of service demonstrate his qualifications for this appointment, and I am pleased to offer my full support for his nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 10, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229, and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 515, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JON ITOMURA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2032.**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dean Hazama, and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. I support the appointment of Jon S. Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

Having had the privilege of working with Mr. Itomura over the years, I've seen firsthand his professionalism, fairness, and deep commitment to serving the public interest. He brings more than two decades of experience in regulatory proceedings before the Commission, including his service as Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy from 2003 to 2019, where he represented Hawai'i's utility ratepayers in complex and often high stakes matters.

Beyond his technical expertise and extensive legal background, from his time as Deputy Attorney General to his role as General Counsel for the Campaign Spending

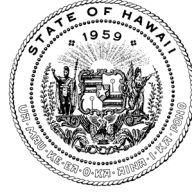
Commission, Mr. Itomura approaches every issue with balance and integrity. He listens carefully, considers all perspectives, and makes decisions guided by what best serves the people of Hawai'i.

I also know him to be deeply connected to our community through his leadership roles in organizations such as the Hawai'i United Okinawa Association and other nonprofit and cultural groups. Those experiences have shaped his understanding of how Commission decisions ripple through everyday life, impacting families, small businesses, and communities across our state.

With his experience, thoughtful leadership style, and genuine care for Hawai'i's future, I have no doubt Mr. Itomura will excel as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission as it continues to navigate issues of affordability, reliability, and clean energy transition.

For these reasons, I support the confirmation of Jon S. Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 10, 2026
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On the following measure:
**G.M. 515, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JON ITOMURA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2032.**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the appointment of Jon S. Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. Itomura brings over two decades of experience before the Public Utilities Commission, including service as Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy from 2003 to 2019, where he represented the interests of Hawai'i's utility ratepayers in complex regulatory proceedings. His prior roles as Deputy Attorney General and General Counsel to the Campaign Spending Commission, as well as his work as a hearings officer and arbitrator, demonstrate his strong grounding in administrative law, adjudicatory processes, and fair, transparent decision-making.

He also has community roots and leadership experience, including with the Hawai'i United Okinawa Association and other nonprofit and cultural organizations, giving him a practical appreciation of how Commission decisions affect families, small businesses, and communities statewide. Combined with his legal training and background in environmental biology, Mr. Itomura is well prepared to lead the Commission as it addresses affordability, reliability, and Hawai'i's ongoing clean energy transition.

For these reasons, the Department supports the confirmation of Jon S. Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/10/2026

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: CPN

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: GM515, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JON ITOMURA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2032.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports GM515. This measure confirms the nomination of Jon Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

The Department relies on consistent and accessible utility services, including electricity and internet, to maintain safe and functional learning environments. The Public Utilities Commission plays a vital role in overseeing these essential services, and the confirmation of a qualified Chairperson is paramount to ensuring their continued stability and improvement. Mr. Itomura's leadership at the Public Utilities Commission will contribute to the effective regulation of utilities, which in turn supports the operational needs of our educational institutions.

Mr. Ito's experience in the non-profit and the public sector make him uniquely qualified for this position as he has served as the Executive Director of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and a Deputy Attorney General in the Hawaii State Department of the Attorney General. Additionally, his time as the Supervising Attorney at the Division of Consumer Advocacy resulted in direct experience providing legislative support and general counsel on issues before the Public Utilities Commission.

While GM515 is a nomination confirmation and does not directly involve the Department's programmatic operations, the effective functioning of the Public Utilities Commission under Mr. Itomura's leadership will indirectly benefit the Department by fostering a stable environment for essential services.

The Department respectfully urges the Senate to confirm the nomination of Jon Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**TESTIMONY OF NORTH KONA NOISE ACTION
OFFERING COMMENTS WITH CONCERNS ON GM515
CONFIRMATION OF JON S. ITOMURA AS CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION**

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday, April 10, 2026, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
Position: COMMENTS

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tony Nodine. I am the founder and coordinator of North Kona Noise ACTION (NKNA), a community advocacy organization based in Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii. NKNA works to ensure that aviation and transportation policy decisions affecting our communities are made with transparency, genuine accountability, and full consideration of the impacts on residents and ratepayers.

I am submitting comments with concerns regarding GM515, the confirmation for a term expiring June 30, 2032, of Jon S. Itomura as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission. My concerns are not personal. They are grounded in the public record and in an early policy action by Chair Itomura since taking office.

The PUC's SB 2400 Testimony Raises Serious Questions

On February 25, 2026, the PUC submitted testimony to this committee on SB 2400, a bill that would exempt wing-in-ground craft (commonly called seaglidors) from PUC jurisdiction under the Hawaii Water Carriers Act. The testimony was filed under Chair Itomura's name and on official PUC letterhead. It stated that the Commission "supports the intent of this measure" to remove its own regulatory authority over this emerging class of electric transportation.

That testimony was three sentences long.

It contained no ratepayer impact analysis. It offered no examination of what commercial-scale electric vessel charging would do to neighbor island grids. It included no assessment of how infrastructure costs might be distributed across residential electric customers. It performed none of the independent due diligence that Hawaii's ratepayers have a right to expect from the agency charged with protecting their interests.

This is worth pausing on, given Chair Itomura's own professional history. He spent sixteen years as the Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy at DCCA, where

his entire job was to represent ratepayers before the PUC in proceedings involving electric, gas, water, and telecommunications utilities. He has the training, the experience, and the institutional knowledge to conduct exactly this kind of analysis. The fact that he chose not to, so early in his tenure as Chair, is what concerns me.

The Big Island Grid Reality

Every supporter of SB 2400, including REGENT Craft, the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, HCDA, and the broader Hawaii Seaglider Initiative coalition, describes seaglidors as "zero-emission" technology. On Oahu, where the grid includes a meaningful and growing renewable portfolio, that framing has some basis in fact. On the island of Hawaii, it does not.

HELCO's generation mix on the Big Island remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels. When a commercial seaglider operation draws significant power from the HELCO grid to charge its vessels at Kawaihae or Kailua-Kona, that electricity will be generated in large part by burning oil and diesel. Calling that "zero-emission" is accurate only if you ignore everything upstream of the charging cable. The emissions do not disappear. They just move from the vessel to the power plant.

IBEW Local 1186, in its own testimony supporting SB 2400, specifically referenced the need to build "electrical infrastructure and charging systems" for these vessels. That infrastructure will cost money. If the PUC has already walked away from jurisdiction before anyone asks who pays for it, the answer will default to residential ratepayers. On the Big Island, that means local families and small businesses absorbing costs to support a commercial transportation venture backed by mainland venture capital, including investors like Founders Fund and entities with connections to UAE defense interests.

The PUC is the one state agency positioned to ensure these costs are properly allocated and that ratepayers are protected through a formal proceeding. Chair Itomura's PUC volunteered to surrender that role without raising the question.

A Question of Regulatory Independence

I want to draw the Committee's attention to the full context of the SB 2400 testimony record. The Hawaii Community Development Authority stated openly that it is a member of the Hawaii Seaglider Initiative. REGENT Craft's Regional Director for North America testified under the HSI logo. David Uchiyama testified in support as "Former President & CEO, Island Air" without disclosing his role within HSI. Aero X Ventures, a venture capital firm focused on aerospace investment, submitted testimony with closely aligned talking points.

The PUC's position in this proceeding was indistinguishable from the position taken by the industry coalition that stands to benefit from deregulation. When the agency responsible for ratepayer protection lands on the same side as the companies it should be independently evaluating, and does so without any visible independent analysis, that warrants scrutiny.

I want to be clear: I am not alleging corruption or bad faith. What I am saying is that Chair Itomura's early policy decision aligned his agency with an industry coalition rather than demonstrating the independent analytical rigor that ratepayers rely on. If that pattern continues, it will define his tenure and erode public trust in the Commission.

Requests of the Committee

The Senate confirmation process exists for exactly this kind of moment. It is the Legislature's opportunity to ask substantive questions and secure commitments before granting a regulator a term that extends through 2032.

I respectfully ask that the Committee press Chair Itomura on the following points before acting on GM515:

1. Why did the PUC support exempting seaglidgers from its jurisdiction without conducting any ratepayer impact analysis?
2. Has the PUC evaluated the grid-loading implications of commercial electric vessel charging on neighbor island grids, particularly HELCO on the Big Island?
3. What safeguards will the PUC establish to ensure that infrastructure costs tied to electrified transportation are not passed through to residential ratepayers without a formal proceeding?
4. Did the PUC consult with or receive input from any member of the Hawaii Seaglider Initiative before filing its testimony on SB 2400?

Satisfactory answers to these questions would go a long way toward addressing my concerns. I am not asking the Committee to reject this nomination. I am asking that the Committee use this confirmation to establish, on the record, what Hawaii's ratepayers can expect from this Chair over the next six years.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Tony Nodine

Founder and Coordinator
North Kona Noise ACTION
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
NorthKonaNoiseAction@gamblesbest.com



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**IBEW LOCAL 1260 — TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF JON ITOMURA, CHAIR OF THE PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION
CPN Hearing — Thursday, April 9, 2026 — 9:30 AM**

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1260, we respectfully submit testimony in **support** of Jon Itomura’s appointment as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

IBEW Local 1260 represents approximately 3,000 members across Hawai‘i and Guam, including approximately 1,100 members who work in Hawai‘i’s electric utility system. These are local skilled workers who live here, raise families here, and respond to emergencies here. Our members are deeply committed to maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable electric service and supporting the State’s clean energy transition.

Mr. Itomura brings over 25 years of experience in public service, with a career grounded in law, regulation, and consumer protection. He has served in key roles within state government, including as a Deputy Attorney General, General Counsel of the Campaign Spending Commission, and as Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy within the DCCA. In that capacity, he represented Hawai‘i’s utility consumers in proceedings before the PUC which gives him a deep understanding of the process.

This depth of experience is particularly important given the scope and responsibility of the Commission, which oversees critical infrastructure impacting every resident and business in the State. Jon’s extensive work advocating on behalf of ratepayers provides him with a strong understanding of the balance required between affordability, reliability, and long-term system planning.

In addition to his legal and regulatory experience, Jon has demonstrated leadership in both government and community settings. His prior service as Executive Director of the Hawai‘i United Okinawa Association and his appointment to the Campaign Spending Commission as a volunteer Commissioner reflect a commitment to public service that extends beyond his professional responsibilities.

Jon’s career reflects a consistent focus on fairness, transparency, and accountability—principles that are essential to maintaining public trust in the regulatory process. His familiarity with administrative law, legislative processes, and complex regulatory matters positions him well to guide the Commission during a time of significant transition in Hawai‘i’s energy and utility landscape.

As Hawai‘i continues its transition to a clean energy future, it is critical that the Commission’s leadership also recognizes the importance of a skilled workforce in maintaining a safe and reliable grid. IBEW Local 1260 believes that Mr. Itomura has the experience, judgment, and commitment to public service necessary to lead the PUC at this critical time.

For these reasons, IBEW Local 1260 respectfully urges the Committee to confirm Mr. Itomura as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Governor's Messages 514 and 515
TESTIMONY**

Hawaii State Senate
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
April 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the nomination of Jon S. Itomura to serve as Chair of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC). AES Hawai'i is the state's largest renewable energy provider. We share the state's vision for a 100% renewable energy future to enhance energy resilience, decarbonization, and promote energy equity. We are working to accelerate and support Hawai'i's transition toward a carbon-free energy future with renewable projects across the Hawaiian Islands totaling over 405 MW of solar, solar plus storage, and wind resources in operation or under contract.

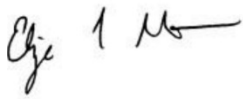
Mr. Itomura brings more than three decades of distinguished public service, with deep expertise in utility regulation, administrative law, and legislative process. Most notably, he served for sixteen years as Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy, where he was responsible for all matters before the PUC and represented the interests of Hawai'i's utility ratepayers. In that capacity, he developed extensive experience in complex regulatory proceedings, legislative support, and public policy analysis directly relevant to the duties of the Commission.

Mr. Itomura's career also includes senior legal roles within the Department of the Attorney General, the Campaign Spending Commission, and the Hawai'i State Senate, providing him with a comprehensive understanding of state government operations and interbranch coordination. His service as Commissioner at the Campaign Spending Commission further reflects the confidence placed in his judgment, integrity, and commitment to public accountability.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Itomura has demonstrated longstanding dedication to community leadership and public service throughout Hawai'i. Mr. Itomura's experience, institutional knowledge, and demonstrated commitment sound governance and regulatory integrity make him exceptionally qualified to lead the Hawai'i PUC.

AES Hawai'i believes Mr. Itomura's expertise is critical to ensure we can achieve our ambitious renewable energy goals and provide reliable, affordable energy to Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Eliza Talbot Manchester
Head of Government and Regulatory Affairs
AES Hawai'i



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

GM 514 & GM 515:
Testimony in Support of Confirmation of Jon Itomura as
Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission

Friday, April 10, 2026, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Committee Members:

Earthjustice supports the confirmation of Jon Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission. Earthjustice's Mid-Pacific Office has engaged for almost two decades on clean energy issues in Hawai'i, through numerous commission proceedings. We have regularly practiced before the commission and interacted and worked with commissioners and staff, as well as the many parties and stakeholders in this arena. We have a definite interest and commitment in ensuring qualified and committed people are appointed to lead this important institution.

I had the opportunity to associate with Mr. Itomura and see him in action while he was a longtime counsel for the Division of Consumer Advocacy. He played a prominent role for the CA in the NextEra change of control proceeding, one of the most complex, comprehensive, and consequential cases in the commission's history. As counsel for one of the many other parties working alongside the CA in that case, I interacted with Mr. Itomura in that professional context and observed his work handling key witnesses during the hearing. I also got to know him more in another challenging situation where the CA was on the opposite side of an issue, as well as in a more personal context when we would see each other in the community after his retirement from the CA office.

Through these interactions, Mr. Itomura impressed me not only with his dedication as a public servant, acumen in the subject matter, and skills as a lawyer, but even more with his professional character and calm and even-handed temperament. Even in adversarial contexts, he never harbored an insider, "us vs. them" mentality that can sometimes hold back those in public office. He conveyed openness to perspectives and dialogue, appreciation of the big picture and long term, and a focus on solutions. I believe this character will serve him well as chair of the commission, which can be a taxing and thankless job, but nonetheless is a critical position for the state and its people.

The pivotal importance of this commission in empowering Hawai'i's energy consumers and marketplace and meeting its clean energy and climate mandates cannot be overstated. We have seen how leadership in the chair position can move the commission and state progressively forward, or set this progress back years. In this time for rebuilding commission staff capacity and morale and public trust and confidence in the institution, it again comes down to proactive and independent leadership. Based on our experiences with Mr. Itomura, our expectation and hope is that he is "fit, willing, and able" to meet this responsibility and lead the agency forward. Earthjustice thus supports this Committee and the Senate voting in favor of his confirmation. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Isaac H. Moriwake, Esq.
Managing Attorney
Earthjustice, Mid-Pacific Office



Nathan Nelson
745 Fort Street, Suite 1800
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 808-535-5912
Email:
nnelson@hawaiigas.com

April 8, 2026

Re : Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Jon Itomura as Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

My name is Nathan Nelson and I am the Vice-President, General Counsel, Secretary & Administration for Hawaii Gas. I am pleased to write this letter in strong support of Jon Itomura to be confirmed as the Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

I have worked with Jon very closely for many years when he was Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy, State of Hawaii. In that role, Jon was responsible for representing the interests of consumers before the Public Utilities Commission. I found him to be smart, capable, and an effective advocate for consumers, and our interactions were frequent and substantive in matters involving Hawaii Gas.

While advocating for the interests of consumers, I found Jon to be reasonable and fair in his treatment of Hawaii Gas. He listened carefully, always asked thoughtful questions, and approached difficult issues with a deep professionalism and even temperament. He leads with compassion and humility, open-mindedness, a deep understanding of regulatory law, and was always willing to consider the challenges and operational realities of operating a utility.

Based on my experience working with him, I believe Jon would bring significant strength, and experience leading the Public Utilities Commission. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support his confirmation as Chairperson.

Very truly yours,

Nathan Nelson

VP., General Counsel, Secretary & Administration

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Friday, April 10, 2026
Conference Room 229; 9:30 AM

RE: GM 514 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JON ITOMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2026; and GM 515 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JON ITOMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2032

Aloha Chair Keohokalole and Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Ono. I submit this testimony in strong support of Jon Itomura's appointment as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of Hawaii since 1980. Currently, I am a partner at the law firm Watanabe Ing LLP. As a significant part of my practice, I regularly appear before the PUC representing various regulated utilities and other parties that have business before the PUC.

From January, 2011 to August, 2016, I was the Executive Director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy (Consumer Advocate), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. At that time, Jon Itomura was Chief Counsel of our office. I relied heavily on Jon to tutor me on the intricacies and complexities of the law of utility regulation.

The Consumer Advocate's office has typically been small and lean. That meant that Jon, as one of the leaders in the office, had to take on a much larger role than just handling legal matters. Jon wrote legal briefs and statements of position, supervised the research and analysis, and trained and mentored lawyers and staff. Jon is a skilled lawyer who practices to the highest of ethical and moral standards. I thoroughly enjoyed working with Jon during our time together at the Consumer Advocate's. He is an empathetic and courageous leader.

As this committee is well aware, the Consumer Advocate's responsibilities are as broad and varied as that of the Public Utilities Commission. Jon gained a wealth of experience in electricity, synthetic natural gas, telecommunications, private water & wastewater, and to a lesser extent motor carriers while he was Chief Counsel at the Consumer Advocate's office. The breadth of Jon's experience in utility regulation makes him uniquely suited to be Chair of the PUC.

I am in strong support of Jon Itomura's appointment as the Chair of the PUC.

The following is my contact information:

Phone number: (808) 554-9903

E-mail address: jeffreyono@gmail.com

To the Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Sen. Rachel Lamasao, Member
Sen. Angus L. K. McKelvey, Member
Sen. Brenton Awa, Member

Regarding Governor's Message Nos. 515 –
Nomination of Jon S. Itomura for Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission
9:30 a.m. on April 10, 2026 in Room 229

Testimony in Strong Support for Confirmation

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga,
and Members Lamasao, McKelvey, and Awa,

My name is Mickey Knox, and I am testifying, in my personal capacity, in strong support for the confirmation of the nomination of Jon S. Itomura as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, for a term to expire on June 30, 2032.

Jon was my first supervising attorney when I began working for the Division of Consumer Advocacy about eleven years ago. He was a patient and thoughtful legal mentor. He taught me to directly apply the actual and specific text of the statute, and to state the Division's positions in plain and accessible language. He brought a mix of gentle wit and good humor to legal hearings and proceedings in front of the Public Utilities Commission at the time. And he always possessed a deep knowledge of the law of utility regulation in Hawai'i.

I have no doubt that as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, Jon will bring that same deep knowledge of the law, but also that same mix of wit and humor. And finally, I also have no doubt that he will continue to mentor many of the employees of the Public Utilities Commission with the same patience and thoughtfulness.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support for this nominee.

Sincerely,

Edward "Mickey" Knox
Supervising Attorney for the
Division of Consumer Advocacy

Sandra-Ann Y.H. Wong

Attorney at Law, a Law Corporation

2101 Nuuanu Avenue, #804

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 514 and GM 515
Consideration and Confirmation of Jon Itomura as the Chairperson of
the Public Utilities Commission**

Before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 9:30a.m.
in Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee:

I am in **support** of Nominee Jon Itomura to be confirmed as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”).

I have practiced before the PUC for the last 33 years and have worked with Jon in his capacity as an Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy (“CA”) for approximately 20 years. Since the CA is statutorily a party in each PUC Docket, Jon is familiar with all the issues that come before the PUC. The PUC is an important agency because it touches the lives of almost every resident in Hawaii because it regulates public utilities in the following industries:

- Energy;
- Telecommunications;
- Water;
- Waste Water; and
- Transportation.

Thus, it is important to have a Chairperson that is ready to hit the ground running. I believe that Jon can do just that.

Jon also has the disposition to become Chair of the PUC. He is calm, fair and has integrity.

Also, Jon’s experience as the Executive Director of the Okinawan Association will be beneficial in his administrative duties as the head of the PUC.

For all the reasons stated above, I support the nomination of Jon Itomura to be Chairperson of the PUC.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in Strong.

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 10, 2026
9:30 AM**

On the following measures:

**GM 514 – Regarding the confirmation of Jon Itomura as the Chairperson of the
Public Utilities Commission, for a term to expire 6-30-2026**

And

**GM 515 – Regarding the confirmation of Jon Itomura as the Chairperson of the
Public Utilities Commission, for a term to expire 6-30-2032**

Honorable Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dean Nishina and I offer my strongest support for this committee to confirm the appointment of Jon Itomura as a commissioner and Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission for the remaining term to expire on June 30, 2026, as well as the following term that will expire on June 30, 2032.

I served the community as staff and, later, executive director of the Division of Consumer Advocacy (DCA), which is the state agency responsible for representing consumers' interests before the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I accumulated over 32 years of experience of working before and alongside the PUC as part of the utility and transportation regulatory arena in the state of Hawaii. Based on that experience, I believe that I am well versed in the regulatory process and have an in-depth understanding of the Commission's general operations.

During my time at DCA, I had the honor and privilege of working with Mr. Itomura and, thus, had first-hand opportunity to assess his abilities in the utility and transportation regulation arena in Hawaii. As a result, I support, without reservation, the finding that Mr. Itomura possesses the knowledge, judgment, integrity, temperament, and technical understanding necessary for this critically important role that will guide and set Hawaii's energy, telecommunications, utility, and transportation paths into the future.

It is axiomatic that technical knowledge and experience is critical in determining who might be a viable and preferred candidate and Mr. Itomura's resume should be an integral part of concluding that Mr. Itomura is one of the best qualified individuals to serve as a commissioner and chairperson of the PUC. However, I respectfully offer that Mr. Itomura's interpersonal and leadership skills are also critical as to why he should be confirmed. These skills are not always evident in a resume but they are critical to an effective PUC chair and sorely needed to restore the morale within the PUC and to maintain and improve the PUC staff that is necessary to fulfill the PUC's duties and responsibilities. With the turnover that has occurred within Hawaii's regulatory agencies, the challenges of acting in a timely and appropriate manner has become even more pronounced and I am certain that Mr. Itomura will be prioritizing and addressing those

issues within the PUC as quickly as possible. I also believe that Mr. Itomura will be able to leverage his interpersonal and communication skills to build stronger relationships with other state utility commissions to share Hawaii's continued progress in renewable energy adoption and modifying regulatory paradigms and gain additional insights that may be helpful to Hawaii as we navigate the many complex issues that surround Hawaii's energy goals and other regulatory challenges. These types of relationships will also be integral in attracting support and investment from other jurisdictions and investors outside of Hawaii. Mr. Itomura's role as the executive director for the Hawaii United Okinawa Association is not only another example of his leadership abilities but also of his dedication to community and his ability to maintain and strengthen relationships. It would not be surprising to see Hawaii and Okinawa build upon their existing ties, especially in the areas of clean energy, due to the connections that Mr. Itomura has built over the years. Further speaking to his commitment to the community, it should be clear that Mr. Itomura is seeking this confirmation as further demonstration of his effort to serve Hawaii as can be observed by his past positions as a deputy attorney general, general counsel for the campaign spending commission, and his legal pro bono work. Mr. Itomura has also supported his local community in Kaneohe by volunteering to be a coach in the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) in the past.

Another intangible that might not be evident from his resume is that Mr. Itomura has a very thoughtful approach to finding solutions and the judicial temperament that will greatly aid in the role of PUC commissioner and chairperson. Mr. Itomura will not rush into complex decisions and will take the time to solicit input from peers, staff, and – within the Commission's rules and processes - stakeholders to ensure that any decision is an informed one that will serve Hawaii's needs. Mr. Itomura's abilities include being able to break down complex issues into parts that will be more easily weighed and decided upon. That thoughtful approach is combined with his calm, level-headed approach to all matters that should instill calm and confidence in PUC staff as they tackle the many challenging complex issues that are before them. Such an approach will be critical to inspire the PUC staff in all of their various roles and will also hopefully encourage greater collaboration within the three commissioners for creative and timely solutions.

I will not belabor the experience and knowledge related to regulation and, more specifically, Hawaii's utility/transportation regulation that Mr. Itomura gained over his 16 years with DCA but that experience and knowledge should not be underestimated. Those in the field of regulation have a keen understanding that the ability to effectively participate in utility regulation involves a steep learning curve that usually requires a few years before people can "run". Mr. Itomura will be able to hit the ground running and tackle all of the ongoing matters currently before the Hawaii PUC and this committee would be well served to confirm Mr. Itomura's appointment as commissioner and chairperson just based on his experience and knowledge.

I am confident that the committee will find that Mr. Itomura brings all of the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to justify his appointment as Hawaii PUC commissioner and chairperson and I hope that the committee will find the additional information regarding intangible skills useful in determining that it would best serve Hawaii, its

residents, and its businesses to confirm Mr. Jon Itomura as the next commissioner and chairperson for the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these measures.

Testimony of Sean McLaughlin
Hawaii' Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Thursday April 16, 2026 at 09:30am

Supporting GM 514 & 515 - Jon Itomura confirmation as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

Thanks for this opportunity to support Governor Green's appointment of Jon Itomura to serve as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission. While I don't personally know Mr. Itomura, his record of service with both the public sector and nonprofit community based sector is commendable and clearly qualifies him for this role.

Importantly, his independence from industry interests is necessary for the integrity of State regulation to ensure that our essential utility services meet local needs while protecting consumers.

While the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has huge responsibility for our energy and transportation sectors, that essential agency also has regulatory oversight for our communications sector, which stays mostly neglected.

As a consumer and public interest advocate, I am greatly concerned about the extractive design of Hawaii's communications networks by absentee owned "settler" corporations (Charter/Cox, HawTelcom/Nomura, etc.) - at the expense of local consumers and the declining health of our information ecosystem across the islands. In my analysis since 1982, the well documented rise of news deserts in Hawai'i is a direct result of consolidated absentee ownership combined with regulatory capture. As a result, Hawaii consumers pay more for less reliable, lower quality services and our information ecosystem declines.

Given Mr. Itomura's independence from the powerful corporate interests that control our Broadband Internet Access Services (BIAS) and essential telecommunications (POTS+), I am hopeful that Mr. Itomura can help to restore regulatory integrity for Hawai'i - much the way that PUC Chair Yukio Naito reinvigorated Hawaii's telecom regulation back in the late 1990's with his "Communications Infrastructure Docket" (#7702).

Ideally, Mr. Itomura can bring vision for the State to thoughtfully consider local information needs that are not met by the commercial marketplace, including: public health & safety; education; community based economic development; culture & arts; and, civic engagement. I recommend a comprehensive Community Needs Ascertainment to fill gaps left by the negligence of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to complete this essential benchmark for transparent and accountable regulation.

Your thoughtful consideration of this testimony is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information or perspective regarding State and county interests in regulating our information ecosystem to ensure that local public interests and consumer protections are fully considered.

O wau me ka ha'aha'a,

Sean McLaughlin

e: seantaketa@gmail.com

c: 808-595-4877



Yamamoto | Hetherington
a limited liability law company

April 8, 2026

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Writer's Direct Dial: (808) 540-4503
Writer's Email: jyamamoto@yamamotolaw.com

Re: Jon S. Itomura –State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Committee Members:

My name is Jodi Yamamoto, and I am an attorney with Yamamoto Hetherington, which practices in the areas of energy, telecommunications, finance, real estate, and health care. I have been practicing for over 30 years, and for the past 18 years, have focused much of my practice in the energy and telecommunications space. It is with great pleasure that I submit my wholehearted support for Jon Itomura to be confirmed as the Chairperson of the State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("PUC").

I have known Jon for over 17 years and first came to know Jon through his work at the State of Hawaii Division of Consumer Advocacy ("CA") when Jon served as the Supervising Attorney. As the Supervising Attorney, Jon was responsible for representing the CA's office (and therefore, the interests of the public) in all matters before the PUC. Our firm represents a wide variety of energy companies, renewable project developers and telecommunications companies. As such, we interface on a regular basis with the CA's office. While working with Jon on dozens of dockets over the years, I came to know Jon and his work. Jon is very bright, hard-working, and always looking for reasonable solutions to problems. He is balanced in his thinking and approach. Although Jon and I did not always agree on every issue, Jon was always willing to listen to differing points of view and to move forward towards sensible outcomes that were workable for all parties involved.

Note that because of Jon's position with the CA's office and participation in PUC dockets for over 17 years, he has a broad and unique understanding of the PUC and the important issues pending before it. Jon began his work with the PUC a few years after the Hawaii State Legislature adopted the Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS") to move Hawaii towards 100% renewable energy by 2045. Again, because of his work with the CA's office during the implementation of the RPS, Jon has an invaluable perspective and knowledge of energy issues facing Hawaii.

Following his career at the CA's office, Jon decided to continue his public service through the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, as their Executive Director. Jon had been a dedicated member of the association for years and enjoyed serving as its head for many years. Whether it be honoring his cultural heritage, or serving the public through his work at the CA's office, or representing the State of Hawaii as a Deputy Attorney

Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection
April 8, 2026
Page 2 of 2

General, or serving as General Counsel to the Campaign Spending Commission, Jon's service to our community has been consistent and outstanding. In short, Jon would be a great asset to the PUC, and I support his candidacy without reservation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the numbers listed above. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for Jon and for your consideration of my comments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jody A', written in a cursive style.

Jodi S. Yamamoto
for
YAMAMOTO HETHERINGTON
A Limited Liability Law Company

Testimony of Karyn Takahashi

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 10, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

On GM 515 Submitting for consideration confirmation as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jon Itomura, for a term to expire 06-30-2032

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karyn Takahashi and I am testifying in **support** of the appointment of Jon Itomura to serve as chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

I know Mr. Itomura to be extremely hardworking, ethical, respectful, and always willing to lend a hand to his community. I believe he will have a positive impact on the energy future of Hawaii and am personally grateful that he is willing to serve in this important role.

I respectfully request that you recommend approval of his appointment as chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:36:14 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ji Sook "Lisa" Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In full support of this nomination. Thank you.

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 12:35:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael L Brosch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Michael Brosch and am testifying in support of the appointment of Jon Itomura to chair the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("HPUC"). Jon is uniquely qualified for this position of tremendous responsibility to the State and its citizens.

I worked with Jon for many years when he served as counsel for the Consumer Advocate in high profile Hawaii rate case proceedings. My firm, Utilitech Inc., is the consulting firm that handled most of the largest rate cases coming before the HPUC from the late 1990s until 2022 when I retired. I had the privilege of working with Jon in many of those cases, serving as his expert witness. Jon was always diligent in working to understand the issues while preparing to effectively negotiate and/or litigate contested matters.

Utility rate cases involve complex issues of finance, accounting, operations and law that are presented for consideration by the HPUC. Because of his years of relevant experience working within the Consumer Advocate's office and appearing before the HPUC, Jon possesses the institutional knowledge of the utilities in Hawaii, their complex issues and the parties presenting those issues; knowledge that is foundational to effectively chairing the HPUC. Jon offers a balanced perspective, understanding both consumer interests as well as the importance of financially and operationally strong regulated utilities... a key attribute when adjudicating regulatory issues. I recommend approval of his appointment as Chair of the Commission. Thank You.

Craig I. Nakanishi
1000 Bishop Street, Suite 1200
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4212
Direct Line: (808) 521-9263
Email: cnakanishi@ca-des.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

THE HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE-CHAIR

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 515
NOMINATION OF JON ITOMURA
SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Testimony in Support
By Craig I. Nakanishi

April 7, 2026

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 515 concerning the Governor's nomination of Jon Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Hawaii for the term ending June 30, 2032.

I submit this testimony in **strong support** of Mr. Itomura's nomination. I have known Mr. Itomura since 2003 when he was the Supervising Attorney at the Division of Consumer Advocacy, State of Hawaii. Over the years, I have had the good fortune of getting to know Mr. Itomura on both a social and professional basis.

Throughout the time that I have known Mr. Itomura, he has always shown the highest level of excellence in his analysis and resolution of complex legal and business issues. In addition, Mr. Itomura adds a level of practicality to every situation and has an intuitive feel for getting to the crux of any issue.

I have the highest personal regard for Mr. Itomura's values, standards and ethics. He always acts professionally, with the highest level of integrity, character, fairness and good judgment. Mr. Itomura, quite simply, is an asset to the Public Utilities Commission and the State of Hawaii.

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair
April 7, 2026
Page 2

In short, Mr. Itomura's strong professional background, knowledge, and genuine interest in the public utilities field, and his history of acting with the highest ethical standards, make him an excellent choice to lead the Public Utilities Commission now and in the future in its regulatory function of overseeing the public utilities in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment of Governor's Message 515 in strong support of the appointment of Jon Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

Sincerely,



Craig I. Nakanishi

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 4:19:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hermina Morita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for the Confirmation of Jon Itomura as Chair of the Hawai‘i Public Utilities Commission (GM514 & GM515)

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee,

I write in strong support for the Senate confirmation of Jon Itomura as Chair of the Hawai‘i Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to complete the term ending on June 30, 2026 (GM514) and for a six year term ending on June 30, 2032 (GM515). I have known Jon for over 15 years. As the Division of the Consumer Advocacy is a party in every proceeding before the PUC, I have had the privilege of interacting with Jon when I was the Chair of the PUC and truly valued his expertise and professionalism.

Jon brings a rare combination of public service experience, deep institutional knowledge, and a demonstrated commitment to advancing the public interest. His tenure in the Division of Consumer Advocacy, in his role as a supervising attorney, reflects both leadership and a clear understanding of the balance that must be maintained between protecting consumers and ensuring stable, well-functioning public utilities.

His leadership also extends beyond the regulatory arena. As Executive Director of the Hawaii United Okinawa Center, Jon has demonstrated a deep dedication to community, cultural stewardship, and service. This experience also demonstrates an ability to lead with integrity, build trust, and remain grounded in the needs and values of Hawai‘i’s people—qualities that are essential for effective public utility regulation.

This combination of public service and non-profit leadership, administrative experience and understanding the idiosyncrasies of utility regulation is particularly important at a time when Hawai‘i is navigating increasingly complex energy, infrastructure, and affordability challenges. The PUC’s decisions carry long-term implications for ratepayers, system reliability, and the successful implementation of the State’s broader policy goals. Regulatory leadership requires not only legal and technical understanding, but also the ability to apply sound judgment within a complex regulatory framework in guiding the performance of public utilities to serve the public interest.

In this context, Jon's appointment as Chair of the PUC is especially valuable. He brings institutional memory and a working knowledge of the State's prior dockets, evaluations, and long-term strategies tied to Hawai'i's clean energy transition allowing for more informed and consistent decision-making, ensuring that current actions build meaningfully on past work rather than revisiting or fragmenting established efforts. This knowledge is especially valuable as Hawai'i continues to advance grid modernization, clean energy integration, and the need to ensure that costs remain reasonable and equitable for all ratepayers.

More importantly, with Jon's legal and regulatory background, he has a clear understanding of the PUC's quasi-judicial role as an independent, evidence-based decision-maker, to evaluate the record before the PUC with discipline and fairness, while maintaining the impartiality that is essential to earning the public's trust.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support Jon Itomura's nominations as Chair of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hermina "Mina" Morita

P.O. Box 791, Hanalei, HI 96714 herminamorita@gmail.com

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:03:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Hiraoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Jon Itomura for the position of Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

Jon has an extensive background in administrative law after serving as Deputy Attorney General from 1994 to 1999, general counsel for the Campaign Spending Commission from 1999 to 2003, and Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy from 2003 to 2019. Jon's comprehensive work experience at the Division of Consumer Advocacy has given Jon a deep understanding of the complex energy and policy issues facing the Public Utilities Commission.

I worked with Jon for many years while he was the Supervising Attorney at the Division of Consumer Advocacy. Through our work together, Jon has always shown impeccable character and sound judgement along with a pragmatic approach to problem solving. Jon is an effective communicator, focuses on team development, welcomes new ideas and has a positive demeanor, traits necessary for a strong leader. Jon is passionate about his community and has served in leadership positions in various community organizations. I am confident that Jon will continue to be passionate about his community by ensuring that community concerns will always be given serious consideration in any Commission decision.

I believe Jon is highly qualified to serve as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Jon Itomura.

Randy Iwase
95-711 Lewanuu Street
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

April 7, 2026

Re. Support for Jon Itomura Re: GM 514 (Interim) and GM 515 (Chair)

Aloha, Chair Keohokalohe, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Jon Itomura as Interim Chair (GM 514) and Chair (GM 515) of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

During my tenure as Chair of the PUC, Mr. Itomura was serving as the State Consumer Advocate's (CA) chief counsel. In that capacity, he presented or assisted in the presentation of the CA's case on a number of dockets including the complex NextEra case. I was impressed by Mr. Itomura's professionalism, his preparation, and his grasp of the complex issues involved in cases like NextEra. It is a strong testament of his skills as an attorney and an advocate on behalf of the public interest.

Just as important is Mr. Itomura's well-rounded life and professional experiences. He has served in various capacities in our State's Legislative, Judicial, and Executive branches and has been involved in several community organizations. I have come to learn that heading a quasi-judicial body like the PUC means governing based on the law. It is also shaped by one's life experiences to understand the effect of decisions on our community as a whole.

Having known Mr. Itomura for a number of years, I truly believe he will make an excellent Chair who will help lead the PUC as it confronts the issues of today and make the decisions that will directly affect the future of Hawai'i.

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Jon Itomura as Interim Chair and as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

Aloha,

Randy Iwase

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:38:29 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Okabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Andrew Okabe, and I am writing in support of GM514 and GM515, confirming Jon Itomura to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission as the Chair and Commissioner of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission.

I have known of Jon for the past 9 years, though I haven't gotten to work with Jon until more recently. Based on my assessment, I believe that he is well suited to serve as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

First, Jon is well seasoned with the procedural matters of the Public Utilities Commission, fully understanding all the nuances of how the Commission operates externally – as evidenced in his role as the Supervising Attorney at the Consumer Advocate. Second, Jon has thoughtfully approached his role with a willingness to listen to staff input without passing criticism to staff, and instead offering his thoughts on potential solutions. Third, Jon takes his role seriously, taking the time to better understand the complex matters before the Public Utilities Commission, often agreeing to continue fruitful discussions while encouraging staff to be forthcoming with information, all without admonishing staff or otherwise preventing staff from providing input. Fourth, Jon is positive through the more difficult periods, even when issues occur, such as when his home experienced water encroachment at the same time as an important docket team meeting. Fifth, Jon understands the charge of the Public Utilities Commission.

While Jon could have remained retired, he returned to work for the State, for the benefit of the ratepayers. I understand the due diligence your committee needs to do, and I fully respect that, but I believe that your committee should look to better understand Jon for all that he can offer to the State of Hawaii.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to confirm Jon Itomura to the Public Utilities Commission to serve as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission.

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 10:53:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Kamita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Jon Itomura to serve as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), for a term to expire on June 30, 2032.

I worked with Mr. Itomura for six years while he served as Supervising Attorney and I was Chief Research Analyst for the State of Hawaii Division of Consumer Advocacy. Mr. Itomura is well-versed in the complexities and tradeoffs inherent in utility regulation. He is familiar with many of the issues currently facing the Commission including but not limited to those involving equity, reliability, affordability, and achieving the State's renewable energy goals.

Mr. Itomura is well suited for the chairperson position. He is fair, open-minded, and level-headed. He is a hard worker and a strong communicator. He is not afraid to have honest conversations or to confront difficult issues and does so with respect for everyone involved. Most of all, Mr. Itomura is public-spirited. I believe that he will provide strong and collaborative leadership and contribute greatly to the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Rene Kamita

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026
9:30 a.m.

TO THE HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY ON GM 515

My name is Jayson Horiuchi, and I strongly support the confirmation of Jon Itomura as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Mr. Itomura was the supervising attorney at the Division of Consumer Advocacy when I joined that office as an education specialist in 2007. Through my eight years working there I appreciated his balance of professionalism and friendliness. His lighthearted demeanor made him easily approachable to ask questions and lean on his experience with public utilities. It was evident he was well-liked in the community as on any given day random people stopped to chat with him when we walked out to grab lunch in downtown Honolulu. In proceedings before the commission, he was all business and demonstrated his deep knowledge and mastery of the law while delivering arguments to support the consumer advocate's positions.

I also quickly learned Mr. Itomura was an important member of the Hawaii Okinawan community and attribute him to reconnecting with my cultural heritage. I believe he was serving as president of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) at the time, and then later found out he was essentially an ambassador to Okinawa for Hawaii, often leading contingents when the governor or other local dignitaries travelled to Okinawa and likewise when Okinawan leaders visited Hawaii. Jon-san probably gets stopped on the street in Okinawa just as much as I would see him get stopped in downtown. His connections, roots, and dedication made him an obvious choice as executive director for HUOA, and he effectively led the organization for several years, including in difficult times during the pandemic when its largest fundraiser, the ever-popular Okinawan Festival, could not be held in-person for a couple years.

While he was away from the public utility industry during his time as executive director of HUOA, arguably it brings with him a fresh perspective to the PUC. His strong relationship with Okinawa also opens pathways to examining how another island nation tackles utility challenges and presenting possible cost-effective solutions for our state. His experience as a leader and ability to work well with others unquestionably qualifies him as chair of the commission.

In addition, Mr. Itomura co-founded Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts, a cultural group centered around Hawaii's youth to perpetuate Okinawan Culture. Although this activity is unrelated to public utilities, it demonstrates his appreciation for and commitment to future generations. Dozens of kids have grown with Uncle Jon, and he undoubtedly would undertake the role as PUC Chair with the utmost importance to optimize Hawaii's security as it relates to public utilities for years to come.

I've never questioned Mr. Itomura's integrity and believe he is the perfect person to be approachable from the utility's side while also appreciating the position of the consumer advocate. I strongly support Governor's Message No. 515, and hope that this committee recommends the full Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mr. Itomura as PUC Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF
NAOMI KUWAYE

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, April 10, 2025

9:30 AM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES 514 and 515

Nomination of **JON ITOMURA**

To the HAWAII PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Jon Itomura's nomination to the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Mr. Itomura for over thirty years when he first served as deputy attorney general to the Land Use Commission and later as counsel to the Consumer Advocate. During that time, I have always found him diligent, fair, professional, and a strong advocate for his government clients. More importantly, I have always known him as a problem solver who will put in the hard work to resolve whatever is before him.

Now, as the Commission Chair, Mr. Itomura brings that same disposition to the PUC. Since his appointment earlier this year, he has been earnest in addressing the tough issues that the Commission has had to face. He listens to all sides of an issue and asks the questions that are needed to resolve whatever matter is before us. He has provided invaluable insights in our deliberations, and I have found him well-prepared and professional in his approach to work. His collaborative style, skill, legal temperament, and empathy will serve the State of Hawaii well.

The Commission and the State will benefit from Mr. Itomura's service. I have confidence in Mr. Itomura's ability to make sound and deliberative choices and respectfully ask that this honorable committee to Advise and Consent to his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 7:37:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cary Tanaka	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have previously submitted written testimony in GM514 on behalf of Jon Itomura for the position of Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission. Please accept that written testimony for GM515 as well.

Thank you,

Cary Tanaka, Esq.

April 8, 2026

Re: Governor's Messages 514 and 515 – Nomination of Jon Itomura to the Hawaii PUC

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

I encourage you to confirm Jon Itomura to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("HPUC" or "Commission"). He brings decades of experience to the HPUC after serving in senior leadership at the Consumer Advocate's ("CA") office. During that time, the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative launched, and the CA's office represented Hawaii's consumers in multiple complex regulatory proceedings to chart the state's path towards clean energy. Jon is a veteran of this critical policy initiative and the HPUC will benefit from his knowledge and perspective.

As a staff member at the HPUC during this time, I had the opportunity to work with Jon and see him represent consumers before the Commission. He is inquisitive, thoughtful, and always maintained a steady demeanor in his appearances at the HPUC, including during high stakes hearings. These are important traits for a commissioner, and he will complement well the current HPUC members.

In closing, please support Jon's nomination to the Commission. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

James P. Griffin

Former HPUC Commissioner and Chair

April 8, 2026

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Public Hearing for Number: **GM515**

Hearing: April 10, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 2329

I write in support of the Confirmation of Jon Itomura for the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

My name is Jason Umemoto. I am a landscape architect and small business owner in Kailua. I would like to offer my strongest support for the confirmation of Jon Itomura for the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission for the term set to expire on 6/30/2032.

I cannot think of a stronger candidate than Jon. Most of Jon's career has been in the consumer advocacy arena as the Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy within the DCCA and as the Deputy Attorney General and General Counsel for the Campaign Spending Commission. In his role within the DCCA, Jon represented local ratepayers related to domestic utilities before the Public Utilities Commission. His fundamental knowledge of the PUC responsibilities coupled with his advocacy for the people of Hawai'i is specifically well positioned for the role of Chair.

More than any technical background quality Jon possesses, I believe the most important character asset Jon brings to this position is his equity minded thinking and thoughtful consideration of all points of view. I have known Jon for over 30 years and he has always found a way to connect and communicate with all persons encountered. He has succeeded in roles from public service throughout the State of Hawai'i to the Executive Director of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association because of this and has created lasting and fond connections with people throughout the State of Hawai'i and the Pacific region.

I ask for your support for the Confirmation of Jon Itomura for Chair of the PUC.

Respectfully submitted and with great Aloha,

Jason Umemoto

Colin A. Yost
273 Ulua Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

April 8, 2026

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
OF GM 514 AND GM 515
Consideration and Confirmation of Jon Itomura as
Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I write in strong support of your consideration and confirmation of Jon Itomura as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission. I have only known and worked with Jon for around three months, but he has already impressed me with his subject matter knowledge, integrity, communication skills and commitment to resolving the most difficult issues we face at the PUC in a timely manner.

Prior to his first official day at the PUC, Jon enthusiastically agreed to meet with Commissioner Kuwaye and myself on a Saturday to get up to speed on our most pressing matters and prepare for his leadership of our Commission. It was immediately clear that he shared our priorities of promoting affordability, public safety, reliability and Hawaii's transition to 100% renewable energy by 2045. We also appreciate and benefit from his more than 15 years of regulatory experience as an attorney for the Consumer Advocate, and his approach to the Chairperson position is one of inclusiveness, good humor and effective collaboration.

Our work at the PUC often requires complex balancing of diverse interests to serve the public interest. I'm confident that Jon Itomura will do his best to objectively fulfill his duties and obligations as Chairperson, and our state will be better off as a result.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Yost', written in a cursive style.

Colin A. Yost
Commissioner

David Ryo Jones
2416 Kini Place
Honolulu, HI 96819

April 8, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President And Members of the Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Strong Support for GM 515, Nomination of Jon S. Itomura for Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

I am writing to wholeheartedly express my support for Governor Josh Green's nomination of Jon S. Itomura to serve as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2032. I have known Jon for two decades as a friend, a mentor, and a trusted colleague. I can think of no better person to represent the State of Hawaii and look out for the best interests of our community.

My relationship with Jon is rooted deeply in our local community, specifically through the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA). I first met him when he was a member of the Young Okinawans of Hawaii, an organization he later led as President in 2000. His leadership continued to grow, eventually serving as the President of the HUOA in 2008. For me personally, he was an invaluable mentor in cultural arts, guiding me in Eisa Taiko drumming and Shisa. He is a core leader whom everyone knows and respects. I often joke with him that he is the "Mayor of all Okinawans in Hawaii," but the reality is that his influence extends across the ocean; whenever you travel to Okinawa, you quickly realize he is treated as a celebrity there as well.

I had the distinct privilege of working closely alongside Jon in 2022 when I served as President of the HUOA and he was our Executive Director, a position he held from July 2019 to September 2025. As Executive Director, Jon was responsible for managing operations, events, fundraising, and financial budgets for both the HUOA and the Hawaii Okinawa Center. The HUOA is a vibrant, active organization 40,000 members strong. Guiding an organization of that magnitude requires a rare blend of strategic vision and interpersonal grace. He regularly interacted with high ranking government officials throughout Hawaii and maintained constant, high level communication with the Okinawa Prefectural Government. He possesses a magnetic personality that people instantly remember, but his true impact

comes from the fact that he cares deeply. He takes the time to get to know you, listens intently, and builds profound, meaningful relationships.

While my direct experience with Jon is in community leadership, his professional background uniquely qualifies him for this specific regulatory role. From September 2003 to July 2019, Jon served as the Supervising Attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy for the State of Hawaii. In this capacity, he was deeply immersed in the very matters he will now oversee, taking responsibility for all matters before the Public Utilities Commission and providing general counsel on behalf of State of Hawaii utility ratepayers. This extensive, nearly 16 year tenure ensures he is intimately familiar with the complexities of public utilities and the critical needs of our state's consumers.

Jon's leadership style is exceptionally effective because it balances decisive action with harmonious collaboration. He is outspoken and has no fear of taking charge when the situation requires it, yet he remains incredibly easy to work with. He is highly analytical, taking the time to survey the entire landscape of an issue and understand all perspectives before making a move. He is a natural mediator and a solution finder who knows exactly how to bridge divides and bring differing sides together.

Beyond his executive and legal talents, Jon's heart remains with the people. He is deeply passionate about teaching and mentoring youth, having served as the Founder and Co Director of Hawaii Okinawa Creative Arts since 2012. In this role, he continues passing down the cultural Shisa art to the next generation, consistently energizing kids to learn and engage with their heritage.

Jon Itomura is a principled, honest, and utterly dependable man. His collaborative leadership style guarantees that his team will excel and enjoy working under his guidance. I stand firmly behind Jon, just as I know the local Okinawan community and the broader prefecture of Okinawa stand behind him. He will do an exceptional job as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Ryo Jones

Past President of Hawaii United Okinawa Association in 2022

Past President of the United Japanese Society of Hawaii in 2024 to 2025

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 8:38:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Kikuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the appointment of Jon Itomura as the Chair of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission for the following reasons.

1. He has prior experience in the field of public utility regulation having worked as the chief legal counsel for the Division of Consumer Advocacy. In this capacity he was involved in the Division's analysts review of the various applications filed by the regulated utilities seeking the Public Utility Commission's approval of matters such as rate increases, external financing and commitment of funds for the construction of facilities needed to provide the utility service. As a result of his involvement, Jon is well aware of the need to balance the interests of the utility's customers and investors in providing reliable service at a reasonable cost.
2. Jon has the judicial temperament needed to lead an organization such as the Public Utilities Commission which must often deal with conflicting interests of individuals and organizations involved in matters before the quasi judicial organization. He is able to facilitate discussion of differing interests and view points of the parties.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 9:07:18 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anand Samtani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

I am in strong support of Jon Itomura’s nomination as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”).

I currently work at the Commission as an economist. During my 11 years with the Commission, I have witnessed several changes in staff and leadership and offer my personal comments.

With the depth of knowledge and experience that comes with 16 years of dedicated public service as a supervising attorney at the Consumer Advocate, Jon offers a unique and valued perspective that compliments and enhances our work at the Commission. In the short time that I have had the opportunity to know and work closely with him, Jon has demonstrated leadership traits that I have come to value – vision, humility, accessibility, and integrity.

In challenging times, at many levels, Jon offers a welcome and steady hand to Commission leadership.

Anand Samtani

April 8, 2026

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Public Hearing for Number: **GM515**

Hearing: April 10, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 2329

I write in support of the Confirmation of Jon Itomura for the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

My name is Nancy Cassandro. I am a small business owner, living and working in Kailua since 1995. I would like to offer my strongest support for the confirmation of Jon Itomura for the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission for the term set to expire on 6/30/2032.

I have known Jon for over thirty years. He has shown consistent advocacy for the people of Hawaii whether it be through his public service career with the DCCA or as Executive Director of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. His most important asset is his ability to communicate with all people from different backgrounds and age groups. His natural leadership would bring to this position a person who can elevate others in an equitable way, with thoughtful consideration of all points of view.

I ask for your support for the Confirmation of Jon Itomura for Chair of the PUC.

Respectfully submitted and with great Aloha,

Nancy Cassandro

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 9:14:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tomoko Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I am writing to express my strong support for GM Nos. 515, and for the confirmation of Mr. Jon Itomura as PUC Chairman on an interim basis.

Mr. Itomura's experience as Executive Director of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) demonstrates his effective leadership and deep commitment to public service. I believe these qualities make him well-qualified to serve in this important role.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration.

Tomoko Valdez

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

As a former 4-year staff attorney at the Public Utilities Commission, I offer my testimony in **strong support** of Jon Itomura's nomination as Chair of the PUC. I worked at the PUC until just last week when I transferred to another state agency (a unique opportunity that I applied and interviewed for before Chair Itomura's nomination). I will remember the last three months of working for Chair Itomura as a distinct pleasure, and I regret that I did not get to work for him longer.

With his sixteen years of experience at the Division of Consumer Advocacy, I found that Chair Itomura has a particularly keen understanding of the work of the PUC, and I observed he was able to smoothly jump right in to managing and directing the work of the PUC. I have been very impressed by the extensive efforts Chair Itomura makes to get to know PUC staff, listen to feedback, and develop improvements to internal processes and procedures. He has made himself very accessible, and he constantly emphasizes that he is open to everyone's ideas and opinions, which is very important to staff.

In February, I traveled with Chair Itomura and other staff to a neighbor island for a utility site visit and public hearing, which was a particularly fun and valuable experience for staff as he entertained us with stories from his career. During the utility site visit, I observed that Chair Itomura is well-respected by utility counsel who previously worked closely with Chair for over a decade together during Chair's prior role at the Division of Consumer Advocacy. During the public hearing, I observed that Chair Itomura engaged with the community and asked sharp and thoughtful questions. Following both of these events, Chair provided staff with clear directions and guidance. It was my impression that the community of ratepayers really appreciated interacting with a PUC Chair who cares deeply about their concerns and who they trust to fairly scrutinize the utility's rate requests.

Chair Itomura has transparently shared his goals for the agency, which include affordability, resiliency, and improving efficiency. In service of his goals, he has routinely been working long hours, and I've often checked my email in the morning to find that he stayed up past midnight responding to emails, providing revisions to work product, and drafting new internal policies for review. This commitment and dedication to the work is widely appreciated by staff.

The people of Hawaii are fortunate to have such a smart, thoughtful, and ethical long-time public servant safeguarding all of our interests. Jon Itomura is an authentic leader who is the right person to guide the PUC at this critical juncture, and I am grateful to have worked for him.

Lisa Engebretsen
PUC Staff Attorney, June 2022-April 2026

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 9:28:36 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Norman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the House CPN Committee,

I am in strong support of Jon Itomura's nomination as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). I have worked as PUC Utility Analyst for almost 10 years and respectfully offer my comments and observations.

In the few months since Jon has joined the PUC, he has made clear his vision for our agency's prioritization of energy affordability, grid reliability, and bold achievement of our state's renewable energy goals. He has brought a spirit of optimism and focus to the work, and he has made clear how much he cares for the PUC mission and staff, as well as his intent serve the public interest while ensuring viability of Hawai'i's utility entities and systems. His enthusiasm for the important work required in utility regulation is matched by his many years of experience leading the Consumer Advocate team, a critical PUC partnering state agency.

In a time of major transition for the PUC as well as challenging economic times for Hawai'i, I am confident that Jon Itomura's extensive skill set, strong leadership, and collaborative, yet focused, approach will help our agency and our state boldly and effectively navigate this new era.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Jon Itomura's nomination as PUC Chair.

Thank you,

Ashley Norman

Hawai'i PUC Utility Analyst

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 9:44:20 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlito P. Caliboso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Jarrett Keohokalole and Members of the Committee,

As a former Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, and an experienced regulatory and public utility attorney myself, I have known Mr. Itomura for over 20 years, since he was an attorney for the Division of Consumer Advocacy. I found him to always be thoughtful, reasonable and highly capable in the regulatory and public utility arena. As such, I strongly support his nomination.

Respectfully,

Carlito P. Caliboso



Yamamoto | Hetherington
a limited liability law company

April 8, 2026

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Commerce
& Consumer Protection

Writer's Direct Dial: (808) 540-4509
Writer's Email: slarsen@yamamotolaw.com

Re: Jon S. Itomura – State of Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection:

My name is Sandra Larsen, and I am Of Counsel at Yamamoto Hetherington, LLC. I am writing in strong support of Jon Itomura's appointment as Chair of the State of Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission.

I have had the opportunity to work with Jon over the years during his time with the State of Hawai'i Division of Consumer Advocacy, and I have always had a great deal of respect for him. He is thoughtful, fair, and deeply committed to the public interest. What has always stood out most to me, though, is his judgment and the way he approaches difficult issues. He listens carefully, he is always prepared, and he brings a balanced perspective that reflects both a strong command of the issues and a practical understanding of their real-world implications.

Jon also understands Hawai'i's unique energy landscape and the important role the Commission plays in ensuring reliable, affordable, and sustainable utility service for the State. His experience at the Consumer Advocate gives him a strong foundation for this position, especially at a time when Hawai'i is working through significant and complex energy issues. He understands the challenges, the tradeoffs, and the importance of thoughtful, steady regulatory leadership.

Just as importantly, Jon has the right temperament for this role. He is respectful, even-handed, and someone people trust. In my experience, he has always handled challenging matters with professionalism and good sense, and I think he will bring those same qualities to the Commission as Chair.

I am confident Jon will do an excellent job in this role and serve the State well.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Commerce
& Consumer Protection
April 8, 2026
Page 2 of 2

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra W. Larsen".

Sandra W. Larsen

for

YAMAMOTO HETHERINGTON

A Limited Liability Law Company

Blake K. Oshiro, Esq.
222 S. Vineyard Street, #401
Honolulu HI 96813
Blake.Oshiro@808cch.com

April 8, 2026

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Subject: Testimony in **Support of GM514 and GM515** Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, **JON ITOMURA**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of Jon Itomura's appointment to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

I have known Jon personally for over 20 years. We first met through his wife Darlene when we worked at the same small law firm. Over the years, we have become friends, but I have also had to deal with one another when he was an attorney at the Campaign Spending Commission, was at the Consumer Advocate (CA)'s office, and through his countless hours dedicated to the Okinawan community as a volunteer and the Exec. Director of the cultural center.

Whether it was as an attorney, as a representative of the CA or as a leader of the community, I have always found Jon to be forthright, intelligent, and good to work with. He is able to analyze a problem or issue, and not just look at it with a legal mind, but also able to apply practical and common-sense perspectives that help provide balance and consideration to the outcome.

As our state faces more complicated, more long-lasting, and more impactful decisions related to energy and other regulated entities, I am confident that Jon's background as a CA, as well as his legal skills and lifelong experiences will all be brought to the table when he is at the PUC. He will fairly listen and take input from all sides and after weighing all of the due considerations and factors, come out with a balanced decision.

I can also attest to Jon's qualifications to be the Chair of the PUC as he has shown leadership skills in his various roles, but especially as a leader of the Okinawan community. He is able to effectively communicate, relate to his peers, and organize different personalities towards a goal and mission. I am certain these skills will help make him a good Chairperson.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Blake Oshiro

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 3:54:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kumura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Kumura, and I am a kama‘aina resident of Hawai‘i. I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Jon Itomura as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

I have had the opportunity to know Itomura through our shared involvement with the Hawaii United Okinawa Association. Through this connection, I have observed his leadership, integrity, and genuine commitment to serving the community. He brings a thoughtful, steady presence and a deep respect for the responsibility that comes with public service.

From my experience, Itomura demonstrates:

- A strong sense of **accountability and public responsibility**
- The ability to **listen, engage, and build trust across diverse stakeholders**
- A commitment to **servng with integrity and long-term perspective**

I am confident that he will approach this role with the care and diligence required to balance the interests of consumers, industry, and the broader public good.

I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Jon Itomura. His leadership will be an asset to the Commission and to the people of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Much Care,
Jennifer

Testimony of Valerie M. Kato, Deputy Director of the Department of Health

In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 514 & 515

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Public Utilities
Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,

JON ITOMURA, for a term to expire at 06-30-2032

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR

SENATOR CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Hearing Date: April 10, 2026 at 9:30 AM Room Number: 229

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in my individual capacity in **strong support** of the nomination and confirmation of Jon Itomura to serve as interim and full-term Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission.

I have known Jon for nearly 20 years, professionally as a fellow attorney and through his former work with the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy, as well as socially through his tenure as Executive Director of the Hawaii United Okinawa Association, of which I am a former officer.

Jon has a long and venerable history of public service, including 16 years litigating cases before the PUC on behalf of the people of Hawaii. I have always known Jon to be a hard-working and diplomatic leader able to defuse charged situations with humor and kindness. I also know him to be an intelligent and dedicated attorney who conducts himself with the highest degree of integrity. As a result, I firmly believe he is exceptionally well-suited to lead the PUC and I respectfully ask for the confirmation of Jon Itomura as the PUC Chairperson.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony.

April 8, 2026

Dear Senators,

I am writing to offer my strong support for the nomination of Jon Itomura as Chair of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission. I've known Jon for over 25 years, and I've seen his commitment to the community firsthand.

Jon's deep-rooted dedication to Hawai'i is evident in both his professional career and his longstanding service to the community. His active involvement in the Okinawan community reflects a genuine commitment to cultural preservation, community building, and service to others. In 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, I was President of the Hawai'i United Okinawa Association and Jon was Executive Director. Together, we led our nonprofit through some extremely challenging times but also used the opportunity to modernize and incorporate more technology into our everyday practices. I will always be thankful that Jon was our Executive Director during the pandemic years.

Professionally, Jon's experience at the Consumer Advocate has uniquely prepared him for this role as the PUC Chair. In that capacity, he was charged with protecting Hawai'i's residents, ensuring that their interests are represented in complex utility matters. He approached this responsibility with diligence, fairness, and a clear understanding of the balance required between regulatory oversight and the needs of our communities.

I am confident that Jon will bring the same level of thoughtfulness and community-centered leadership to the role of Chair of the Public Utilities Commission. Jon has consistently demonstrated humility and a strong sense of kuleana—qualities that are essential for public service in Hawai'i. We would be well served by his leadership at this critical time.

Thank you for your consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,
Lynn Miyahira

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Friday, April 10, 2026

9:30 a.m.

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Testimony In Support

GM515, Nomination of Jon Itomura as Chair of
The Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs:

My name is Delmond Won and I'm offering my written testimony in strong support of the appointment of Jon Itomura as Chair of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

I served as the Executive Officer of the PUC from 2015 to 2019 where I had the opportunity to work with Jon while he was Chief Counsel of the Division of Consumer Advocacy. During that time, I came to know Jon as an excellent attorney with a full understanding and total commitment to representing the interests of the consumers of the State of Hawaii. Jon demonstrated a deep understanding of the "public Interest" in performing his duties and approached his work with an open mind allowing him to consider all the implications of the dockets before him.

I feel I have the necessary experience to offer this judgement based on my regulatory experiences having served as the Director of Regulatory Affairs of Young Brothers, Limited from 1980 to 1990, a member of the Hawaii Land Use Commission from 1990 to 1994, as a two-term Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission (which regulated the U.S./Foreign trades of the container shipping industry) from 1994 to 2004, and as Executive Officer of the PUC.

I am fully aware of the challenges the PUC has faced in the recent past and am totally comfortable saying that Jon has the skills necessary make the necessary changes to restore the credibility and respect of the PUC.

I highly recommend that the State Senate to confirm Jon Itomura's appointment as Chair of the PUC as I believe that he will be a valuable and welcome asset to the agency.



Yamamoto | Hetherington
a limited liability law company

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Writer's Direct Dial: (808) 540-4501
Writer's Email: dyamamoto@yamamotolaw.com

Re: **GM514, GM515 – Jon Itomura, Gubernatorial Nominee as Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission**

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection in **support** of GM 514 and GM 515, the confirmation of the nomination of Jon Itomura as Chairperson of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission ("Commission"). I am an attorney in private practice and my practice includes the representation of various energy, telecommunications, water, sewer and transportation companies in regulatory, finance and commercial matters.

I have known Mr. Itomura for many years, first meeting him when he was with the Supervising Attorney at the Division of Consumer Advocacy of the State of Hawaii ("DCA"). In that capacity, Mr. Itomura represented the State of Hawaii and its residents in regulatory proceedings before the Commission. For many years, I, along with others in our firm, worked with Mr. Itomura on various of our clients' regulatory proceedings before the Commission. Through his experience with the DCA, Mr. Itomura developed a solid understanding of the regulatory process and the various industries which are regulated by the Commission. I found Mr. Itomura to be intelligent, diligent, hardworking, and conscientious in his efforts. I have observed and experienced that he conducts himself with the highest degree of ethics, honor and integrity. And, perhaps most importantly, I found Mr. Itomura's views and approaches to problem-solving to be thoughtful and practical.

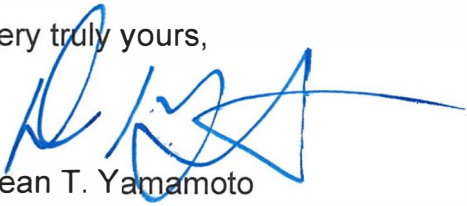
Following the DCA, Mr. Itomura joined the Hawaii United Okinawa Association and served as its Executive Director for six years. His service there, following a successful career as a top governmental regulatory attorney, is a testament to his desire to continue to serve his community.

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
April 9, 2026
Page 2 of 2

I believe Mr. Itomura's background provides him with the appropriate skill and temperament set to tackle the very complex issues that confront the Commission. I believe Mr. Itomura will be an excellent Chairperson and will serve our State well.

For the foregoing reasons and more, I strongly support Mr. Itomura and urge this Committee to confirm his appointment to be Chairperson of the Commission.

Very truly yours,



Dean T. Yamamoto
for

YAMAMOTO HETHERINGTON
A Limited Liability Law Company

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 11:04:44 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Nitta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Keoholalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and members of the committee:

I'm in strong support of Mr Itomura being confirmed as PUC chair Mr. Itomura has extensive experience which makes him suited as PUC Chair

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 6:16:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/16/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pam Toguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone who has worked with Jon at the Department of the Attorney General since the late 1990s, I unreservedly support his appointment to the PUC Chair. As a more experienced work colleague, he was one of the first to offer his help and support to me and other newbie deputies, which I've continued to see him do at every workplace or organization where he has been in the 30 years I've known him. While I often joke with him that he was the older brother I always *thought* I wanted, the truth is that his intelligence, integrity, and commitment to do the right thing are what I greatly admire about him. In my opinion, you will not find a better person, both in terms of experience and personal character, than Jon.

GM-515

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:02:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/16/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob L Leclerc	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I am in **strong support** of Jon Itomura's nomination as Chair of the Public Utilities Commission. I am in my first year of working at the Commission as a staff attorney, but I both externed at and focused my studies on the Commission during my time at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

I was hesitant to begin working at the Commission last year not knowing how the nomination of a new chairperson would impact the important work I sought out to do. I'm relieved to say that Chair Itomura quickly quelled any worries I had by not only immediately bringing himself up to speed on every pending docket, but also becoming an active participant and an efficient decision-maker in each matter. He has made his goals for the Commission clear, and they align perfectly with my own goals, as well as the lofty, progressive, and necessary directives laid out over the past few years by the legislature. The State needs an affordable, resilient, and clean electrical grid as soon as practicable.

Chair Itomura has also sought feedback from every individual staff member and has already developed that feedback into concrete changes to be implemented post haste. He is both amenable to change and welcoming to criticism.

At this point in time, I very much look forward to working under Chair Itomura for the coming six years. I am excited to see what the Commission can accomplish with the right leadership—someone who is decisive and who seeks to further develop the already-impressive capabilities of an eager Commission staff.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jacob L Leclerc, PUC Staff Attorney