



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

G.M. NO. 574, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE UNIFORM LEGISLATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHAEL TANOUE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2026

TIME: 10:15 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Jill T. Nagamine,
Deputy Attorney General, at 808-586-1276)

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General supports the reappointment of Michael Tanoue to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (CPUL) of the Department of the Attorney General.

The CPUL is advisory to the Attorney General and to the Legislature on matters pertaining to uniform legislation. Members of this state commission are Hawaii's representatives to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which is also referred to as the "Uniform Law Commission" (ULC). The Uniform Law Commission requires that each appointed commissioner be a lawyer licensed to practice law and that members from each state attend and participate in its annual meeting.

Commissioner Tanoue is a lawyer licensed to practice law in Hawai'i. He is the Vice President/General Counsel/Secretary of Island Insurance Company, Ltd., and before that he served as the President of the Pacific Law Group. His expertise is primarily in insurance matters, and he has worked on legislation for many years. He attended the William S. Richardson School of Law, where he served on the University of Hawai'i Law Review as Executive Editor (1985-1986) and Case Note Author (1984-

1985). He also co-taught a class on pretrial litigation and procedure and presented various lectures at the Richardson School of Law.

Since his initial appointment to the CPUL in 2022, Commissioner Tanoue has actively participated in the work of the ULC. He attended in person the 2022 ULC annual meeting held in Philadelphia, where he attended sessions to consider the Model Public Meetings During Emergency Act and the Uniform Debt Collection Default Judgments Act. He was selected in 2023 to serve on the ULC Study Committee on Indian Child Welfare Act Issues and served on that committee until 2024.

In July 2023, Commissioner Tanoue participated in person the 2023 ULC annual meeting held in Honolulu, where he attended sessions to consider the Uniform Consumer Debt Default Judgments Act, the Uniform Health-Care Decisions Act, and the Tenants in Common Transactions Act. He also began serving on a Working Group on Guardianship coordinated by Representative David Tarnas and continues to work with that group to the present.

In August 2024, Commissioner Tanoue attended and participated in the ULC Legislative Summit in Dallas, Texas, during which he met with ULC legislative staff and legislative liaisons from other states.

In 2025, he participated virtually in the ULC annual meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and attended several sessions remotely, including the consideration of the Uniform Assignment for Benefit of Creditors Act, the Uniform Judicial Interview of Children Act, and the Model State Uniform Law Commission Act.

Commissioner Tanoue reviews and tracks the progress of bills related to uniform laws introduced in the Hawaii Legislature, helping to ensure that the State remains informed about developments in uniform legislation.

In view of his continuing participation in the activities of the Uniform Law Commission and of the CPUL, Michael Tanoue's continued service as a member of the CPUL and of the Uniform Law Commission will be beneficial to the State of Hawai'i and the Uniform Law Commission. Consequently, the Attorney General respectfully requests that this Committee recommend the confirmation of the reappointment of Michael Tanoue to the CPUL.

DATE: March 17, 2026

TO: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
And Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: Testimony in support of **GM 574**, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL TANOUE, for a term to expire 6-30-2028

FROM: Lani Ewart
(808) 547-5702; lewart@goodsill.com

HEARING: Friday, March 20, 2026, 10:15 a.m., Conference Room 016

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lani Ewart, and I am a member and the current chair of the Hawai`i Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation (“CPUL”). I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of the nomination of MICHAEL (Mike) TANOUE to serve another term on the CPUL.

All of the commissioners on the CPUL serve as commissioners to the Uniform Law Commission (“ULC”), which is a body of attorneys from all States who spend countless hours, without pay, to develop proposed laws to be enacted in all States. ULC’s goal is to provide uniformity in the laws among the States without sacrificing control to the federal government. The best known products of ULC include the Uniform Commercial Code, the Uniform Probate Code, the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act and the Uniform Partnership Act, all of which have been adopted in Hawai`i; these and other uniform laws affect the lives of residents of Hawai`i and other States every single day.

A ULC commissioner’s duties are two-fold: First, the commissioner needs to participate in the drafting of uniform laws, including the careful review and consideration of their provisions on a line-by-line, and sometimes, word-by-word, basis. Secondly, the commissioner needs to work with the legislature of his or her State to get uniform laws enacted.

As a fellow commissioner on the CPUL, I know that Mike Tanoue has diligently and enthusiastically fulfilled those duties. He is an active participant in the review of the proposed uniform laws and makes valuable contributions to the final products.

In addition, Mike can be counted on to testify at hearings on bills for uniform acts and to be available to provide background information to legislators and all others interested in the acts. Most recently, he has worked with the Bankruptcy Section of the Hawai`i State Bar Association and the ULC legislative staff regarding the Uniform Consumer Debt Default Judgments Act. He plays a vital role in ensuring that the products of the ULC are enacted by the legislature to benefit the people of this state.

I have no reservation in supporting the nomination of Mike Tanoue for an additional term on the CPUL. Mike has been and will continue to be an outstanding commissioner on the CPUL and an excellent representative of Hawai`i to the ULC. I urge you to recommend that the Senate confirm his nomination.

Peter J. Hamasaki
5333 Malu Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
p Hamasaki@gmail.com

March 17, 2026

Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary
The Senate
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM No. 574 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL TANOUE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in **strong support** of Governor's Message No. 574 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL TANOUE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028, which is to be heard by your Committee on Judiciary at 10:15 a.m., on March 20, 2026.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation ("Commission") with Commissioner Tanoue since his appointment to the Commission in 2022. During our time together, Commissioner Tanoue has provided valuable and tireless service to the Commission, both at the national level by participating in Uniform Law Commission committee work, and at the state level by his diligent efforts to support the enactment of uniform legislation by the Hawai'i Legislature. At a personal level, Commissioner Tanoue is always willing to help other members of the Commission. For these reasons, I respectfully support Commissioner Tanoue's re-appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Peter J. Hamasaki

TESTIMONY OF ALISON UEOKA

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Friday, March 20, 2026
10:15 a.m.

GM 574

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Alison Ueoka and I am here to testify in strong support of Governor's Message 574, appointing Michael Tanoue to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, term to expire June 30, 2028.

I have known Mr. Tanoue for more than 15 years, primarily in a professional capacity. Mr. Tanoue and I worked together on various issues when he was in private practice and we continue to work together today: He as General Counsel for Island Insurance and I, as President of Hawaii Insurers Council. I know he is extremely knowledgeable in insurance statutes and case law, but he also has broader experience outside insurance as he is also an arbitrator. In addition, Mr. Tanoue is particularly adept at analyzing and drafting legislation. In my professional experience, I have worked with many attorneys and found that Mr. Tanoue is by far one of the best legislative analysts I have worked with. Reading, analyzing, drafting, and amending legislation is an art. Few people possess this skill, and Mr. Tanoue does. He has an eye for perfection but is not myopic. He can think at a high level while at the same time identifying the smallest imperfections in the law or legislative measure. This mix of ability allows him to be pragmatic in his approach to accomplishing larger goals while perfecting laws along the way.

In addition to the extensive amount of time we spend together in our professional capacity, I also know Mr. Tanoue to be a loving and caring father of two daughters and one who is very generous with his personal time having been involved in high school speech and debate activities for many years and serving on non-profit boards. Mr. Tanoue is humble, even keeled, and very thoughtful. I have been in my current

capacity at Hawaii Insurers Council for quite some time and I have never met anyone who does not truly like and have the utmost respect for Michael Tanoue.

I believe Mr. Tanoue will make an excellent Commissioner and I urge his confirmation.

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFIRMATION OF
MICHAEL TANOUE TO THE COMMISSION TO PROMOTE UNIFORM
LEGISLATION**

Friday, March 20, 2026

To: Chairman Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I have been a member of the Uniform Laws Commission since 1978 and currently serve as a Life Member on the Commission. I am testifying in strong support of the confirmation of Michael Tanoue for a term to expire on June 30, 2028.

Mike is a current Commissioner and has participated in various activities of the Commission. He is currently the Legislative Liaison for Hawaii and is responsible to monitor the uniform legislation submitted in the Hawaii Legislature and report to the Legislative Council of the Commission and to the Commission staff.

I have known Mike Tanoue for almost 40 years, and he is one of the most dependable individuals that I have been associated with. He has always exhibited the highest degree of integrity, and I can say with confidence that he is an excellent attorney, and I feel that he will continue to be a contributing member of the Commission.

I strongly recommend his confirmation by this committee and the full Senate. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony.

GM-574

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 7:15:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/20/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the nomination of Michael Tanoue to the Commission to Promote Uniform Laws (CPUL). I first met Mike when we were students in law school. Then, I was impressed by how smart he was. Now, after having had an opportunity to work with him on the CPUL during his past term, my opinion remains the same. Additionally, he brings expertise and experience to the CPUL that compliments that of other CPUL members and helps the community.

I urge you to vote "aye" on this nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Kent