

February 10, 2013

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The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Economic Development
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

2013 FEB 11 AM 8:13

Re: Written Testimony in Support of Mark K. Rigg, as Director of Honolulu Emergency Services Department

Dear Chair Fukunaga and Members of Council and the Committee on Public Safety and Economic Development:

This testimony is offered in support of the nomination of Mark K. Rigg as the Director of the Honolulu Emergency Services Department ("HESD"). I have known Mark since 1982 when I first joined the City and County EMS Department as an Emergency Medical Technician. Over the years, I worked with Mr. Rigg as MICT (paramedic) many times on the streets of Honolulu. His care for patients has always been exemplary. As a team member in emergency situations, Mark was always in sync with me as well as the other members of the emergency crew (Honolulu Fire Department, Ocean Safety and Honolulu Police Department personnel) in caring for patient(s).

I recently returned to Hawai'i after living in Colorado for many years to take the EMS Program Director/Department Chair position at Kapi'olani Community College (KCC). At the time, Mark was the Deputy Director of the HESD. Our working relationship did not miss a beat. Mr. Rigg's communication continued to be straightforward, clear, and honest. I had no problem having difficult conversations with him regarding the many issues that KCC and the HESD face together (KCC is the only designated EMS training entity for ambulance personnel in the state of Hawai'i). Even though we may not agree at all times, the level of respect Mark gives me is always at the highest level.

Being someone who worked on the ambulance as a paramedic for many years will help Mr. Rigg tremendously as the Director of the EMS Department. His top priority remains as providing quality patient care. Mark will be making many challenging decisions in the near future. Having this in mind will undoubtedly help him make the best choices for the citizens of the County of Honolulu.

As a surfer and paddler, I know Mark as one of the top watermen in Hawai'i. He has raced in the Moloka'i Ho'e across the Kaiwi Channel many times. I have witnessed Mr. Rigg's bodysurfing prowess first hand in high surf conditions. In short, his knowledge of the water, especially in dangerous situations, is optimum to lead the Ocean Safety Department.

Without hesitation, I recommend that this Council affirm Mark K. Rigg as Director of the Honolulu Emergency Services Department. In these challenging times, I am confident that Mark has the knowledge, experience and character to lead EMS and Ocean Safety personnel into the future. Most importantly, as I mention above, Mr. Rigg has the safety of the citizens of the County of Honolulu as his top priority. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Me ka pono (Respectfully),

Mark Kunimune
Program Director/Department Chair
Emergency Medical Services
Kapi'olani Community College