

May 22, 2015

Committee Chair Trevor Ozawa and Members  
of the Executive Matters and Legal Affairs Committee  
Honolulu City Council  
530 S. King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
& C OF HONOLULU  
2015 MAY 22 AM 11:02

Dear Committee Chair Ozawa and Members of the Committee:

RE: Testimony on Resolution 15-139 Appointing The City Clerk  
and the Deputy City Clerk of the City and County of Honolulu

EMLA Committee Meeting on May 26, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Resolution 15-139. As a former public servant with 43 years of State and County service, 30 of which were spent with the Office of the City Clerk with the last six years as the Honolulu City Clerk, I want to share my comments relating to Resolution 15-39 with you.

I share and support the selection committee's recommendation for the appointment of Mr. Glen Takahashi for the position of Honolulu City Clerk. As I stated in my recommendation letter to the selection committee on behalf of Mr. Takahashi, he has the professionalism, abilities, knowledge and characteristics to lead the Office of the City Clerk. Most importantly, he will undoubtedly work to preserve the integrity of this institution for years to come. He will continue to ensure that the Office of the City Clerk maintains the highest degree of integrity as it services the members of the Honolulu City Council and the voters and citizens of the City and County of Honolulu.

I was, however surprised to learn that a deputy city clerk position was also being filled on a full-time permanent basis. Since before my tenure started with the Clerk's Office in 1984, there was never a deputy position in terms of this job title. The duties and responsibilities of a deputy were provided for in the creation of the Departmental Staff Executive Assistant (DSEA) position — a civil service position.

My first-hand observation during my 30 years with the Clerk's Office and directly through my last six years (2008-2014) as the City Clerk, is that a permanent full-time deputy clerk position is unnecessary. The Office of the City clerk is civil service-based and the stability of the DSEA and the other managers' positions both combine to providing capable, effective and cost effective service to the City Clerk while he/she is on duty or away on leave.

I only reinstated the deputy clerk position on a temporary limited term basis to ensure a smooth transitional period for the replacement of the City Clerk's position upon my retirement. With the reinstatement of a permanent full-time deputy position, what then becomes of the DSEA position? You will then, in fact, have two people doing the same job.

However, if it is the wishes of the Council to provide a deputy clerk position to the Office of the City Clerk, I would like to point out that by selecting a person from the pool of City Clerk applicants denies other well qualified applicants who may have applied had they known that a deputy clerk position was also going to be considered. There are two or three current employees in the Office of the City Clerk who each average more than 30 years of experience that may have likely applied had they known a deputy position was also going to be considered.

In closing, although I have retired from the City and County of Honolulu, I still care for and have concerns about the Office of the City Clerk as the office and the people were a big part of my life. Your consideration of my comments would greatly be appreciated. Mahalo.

Bernice K. N. Mau