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CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Todd K. Apo
Chairman and Presiding Officer
City Council of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members, aloha kaua:

I am aware that the City Council is considering the re-confirmation of Michael Nakasone as Bandmaster of the Royal Hawaiian Band, and I would like to express my personal appreciation for all he has done for the band and the community over the past four years. I was happy to know that Mayor Mufi Hannemann has re-appointed the Bandmaster and has shown his continued support and confidence in Mr. Nakasone.

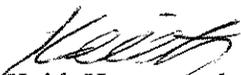
As an educator, I'm thrilled that the band is now more involved in educational, school-related programs, a tribute to Mr. Nakasone, who devoted so much of his life to music education.

And as a performer specializing in Hawaiian music over the past 50 years, I am happy that he continues to put emphasis on Hawaiian music, especially the music of the monarchy era and the songs of the great royal composers of Hawai'i nei.

Lastly, I am quite often impressed with the talents and skills of the Royal Hawaiian Band members, also a tribute to the maestro. It is an honor to have in our city's historically significant band, some of the finest musicians in Hawai'i. I could name a few who stand out as the very best in their field, but I'm afraid I might miss someone.

Under the baton of Bandmaster Michael Nakasone, they seem to become better and better. I hope you will confirm his appointment post haste, and let him continue the fine traditions of the only municipal band in the United States.

Me ka pono,



Keith Haugen, educator
Life Member, AFM Local 677

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