

PO Box 3255
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
February 9, 2009

The Honorable Charles Djou, Chair
and Members of the Executive Matters Committee
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Dear Chair Djou and Councilmembers:

Re: Resolution 09-08 Relating to the Nomination of Carrie K.S. Okinaga as Corporation Counsel

I submit this written testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Ms. Okinaga for a second term as the City's Corporation Counsel. The Department of the Corporation Counsel and the City are extremely fortunate to have an attorney with the distinguished educational qualifications, legal experience, professionalism and breadth of insight to serve in this position. I speak as a Deputy Corporation Counsel with a long tenure in the Department and who now serves as primary advisor to the City Council and this Committee. Ms. Okinaga strives for a high level of professionalism in our office led by her example, expecting from the attorneys no less than she demands of herself. Ms. Okinaga has pursued changes in the Department to improve the quality of legal service to all of our City-clients, to improve the efficiency of office practices, has stressed the importance of continual training and has afford attorneys and staff the opportunity for training in-house and otherwise, and is quick to recognize and express her appreciation for the efforts of attorneys and staff for work in legal matters as well as the myriad of City-related activities undertaken by the Department in the course of year.

Ms. Okinaga is ever mindful of identifying and evaluating the potential ethical conflicts designed by our charter to rest in our Department. Ms. Okinaga endeavors to provide the best legal advice to our Council-clients from attorneys in the Department with the greatest specialized training and experience in the subject matter area, and to do so without violating our ethical standards of professional conduct. In my opinion providing quality legal services to all our City-clients can only be accomplished by one who is ever vigilant of the potential conflicts and fully accepting of the nature of the conflict placed in the office by charter-design.

I respectfully urge you to support the nomination of Ms. Okinaga as the City's Corporation Counsel.

Sincerely,



Diane Kawauchi