

Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-08-06 1:30 PM

Meeting Time: 08-06-24 13:30

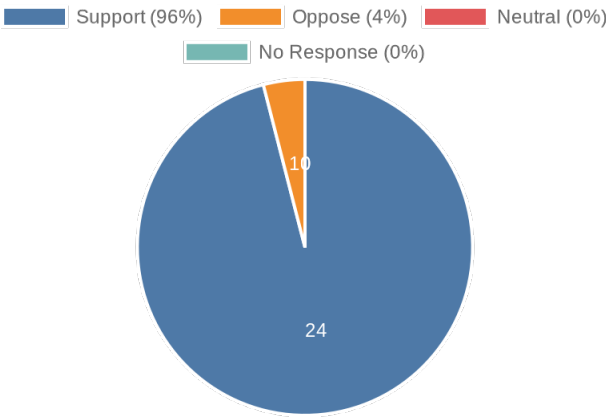
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-08-06 1:30 PM	08-06-24 13:30	4	25	24	1	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

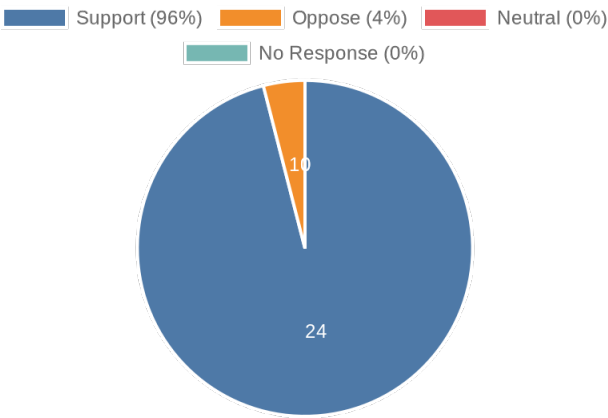


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	5	5	0	0
GREAT-1(15) Reso 24-129 RESOLUTION 24-129, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GINA M. YOUNG AS DIRECTOR OF THE EAST MAUI REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (GREAT-1(15))	20	19	1	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

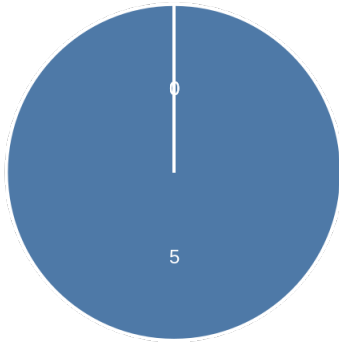
Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment

Support (100%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)
No Response (0%)



Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 12:31pm 08-06-24

August 5, 2024

Faith Seim
Kihei, HI 96753

Testimony in support of Gina Young as the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority

Chair U'u-Hodgins and Members of the GREAT Committee:

Gina is a phenomenal candidate and by all accounts, is beyond well-suited to hold this position; she knows the water authority both inside and out, is seasoned in working with both the county and the state, highly professional, and competent. Most importantly, our government should respect and honor the will of the public, as well the East Maui Community Board, which gave her FULL UNANIMOUS support with every commissioner representing all the communities that have suffered water diversions of the past 100 years.

It is past time for us to change the way we approach our water usage, as evidenced by last year's disastrous and deadly fires, as well as the ongoing fires the island now suffers on a regular basis. Mahalo for your k_kua in making a decision that determines our island's precarious future.

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 6:03pm 08-05-24

August 5, 2024

Kim Willenbrink
388 Kinaole Circle

Kihei, Hawaii 96753

Testimony in support of Gina Young as the DIRECTOR OF THE EAST MAUI REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

Chair U'u-Hodgins
and Members of the GREAT Committee:

I first worked with Gina Young in 2011. She was a Planner for the County Administration, and I was a Legislative Analyst for the Council. I worked with her briefly prior to that when she was KCA President and Committee Chair Victorino wanted to discuss water legislation with her. She and I have worked together in various capacities since that time.

Gina will work with persistence and thoroughness in anything she takes on, just as she has shown thus far with her involvement in all aspects of the creation of the East Maui Regional Water Authority (Water Authority). She was instrumental in assisting Chair Sinenci's committee in the adoption of the Water Use and Development Plan. For the past two years, she worked on the Water Authority Budget and staffing positions. She is no stranger to the Water Authority, State and County Law, the administrative process, and the needs of the community. She is ready for this position and eager to share her experience and knowledge.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Resolution 24-129, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GINA M. YOUNG AS DIRECTOR OF THE EAST MAUI REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY.

Sincerely,

Kim Willenbrink

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:18pm 08-05-24

Kula Community Association
P.O. Box 417
Kula, Hawai_i 96790

July 22, 2025

To: Chair U'u-Hodgins

Vice Chair Paltin

Members of the GREAT Committee

From: Bobbie Patnode, President, Kula Community Association (KCA)

RE: Kula Community Association Unanimous Support for Gina Young

The Board of the Kula Community Association met on July 2nd, 2024, and voted unanimously to support Gina Young as Director of the East Maui Water Authority.

Our Board thinks it is very important to have someone who understands and supports Upcountry and who will work hard to address our water needs. Her existing relationship with the Kula community, built on years of listening to and representing our community as both a member of the KCA Board and as President, has created a strong foundation of trust among the people of this region.

When Gina was our President, we benefited from her fair and ethical leadership style. As just one example, when the topic of a "Mayor Manager" was presented to the general membership, we had many offers to present in favor, but could not find someone willing to present against. Gina would not allow the KCA to present a one-sided view of such an important topic, so she took on the task of presenting the opposing view to our members. We know she will ensure we hear all sides of the relevant issues.

As our President, Gina surveyed the community to ensure the Board would have quality information for us to act upon. She has promised to continue this practice by meeting with the KCA Board and community regularly to make sure she understands what we want and to give us information that will help us set our priorities and make decisions around water. At our recent Board meeting, she discussed the need for financial data to assist with decision making. The community needs to understand all factors around meeting the meter wait list and even thinking beyond the wait list to be sure the needs of local farmers are addressed.

The Kula Community Association Board is looking forward to continuing to work with Ms. Young in her new position.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

ANTONETTE EATON

Location:

Submitted At: 9:21am 08-05-24

see attached.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:40pm 08-04-24

William Spence
P.O. Box 880267
Pukalani, HI 96788

Chair U'U-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members
Government Relations, Ethics and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council

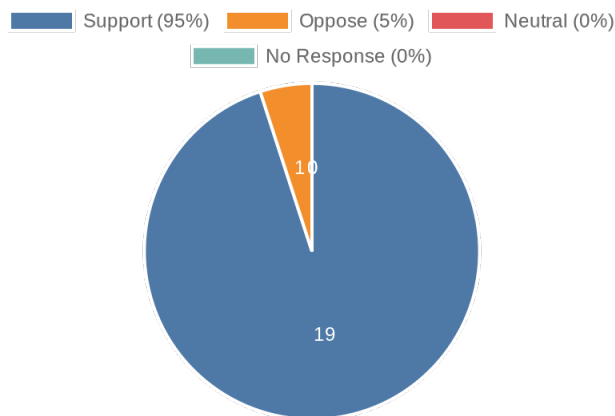
Dear Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members,

Thank you for considering this letter of reference for Gina Young. I have known Gina for more than 14 years. Our first meeting was when she was the president of the Kula Community Association. I was impressed how she ran meetings, even when government officials attended to discuss sometimes controversial topics - such as water. Gina was a staff planner when I became Planning Director in 2011, and I was her superior for 7.5 years. She was a pleasure to work with and conveyed a great attitude. She was always prepared for meetings, did the research, understood the issues and codes, and found creative ways to meet goals. Especially impressive was the way she carried herself in front of the Hana Advisory Committee, the Maui Planning Commission and County Council. Her presentations were always clear and understandable. Her demeanor was always fair to the public, applicants, and other professionals. Though in this position we didn't always touch on native Hawaiian issues, when we did, she exhibited a sensitivity and understanding of the matter. Now she is an aide to Councilmember Sinenci, a native Hawaiian who spearheaded the creation of the East Maui Water Authority. As a consultant, I have worked with her from time to time on different matters before the Council. This position has brought her a deeper, perceptive understanding of politics and policy, native Hawaiian issues, as well as legislative process - the means to get things done. We have remained in touch while she holds this position and have found her to be effective, always personable.

Gina would make a good director and I would highly recommend her for this position.

Sincerely,
William Spence

Overall Sentiment



Scott Crawford

Location:

Submitted At: 8:20am 08-06-24

Aloha Chair U_u-Hodgins and Members of the Committee,

I would like to express my support for the appointment of Gina Young as the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority.

I have known Ms. Young for many years and consider her to be highly knowledgeable and qualified to serve in this position.

I served on the Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission, including a period as Chair of the Committee, during a time when Ms. Young worked in the Planning Department and was assigned as staff planner to support the HAC. In bringing matters before the Committee, Ms. Young was always extremely professional and prepared, providing the Committee with presentations that helped us clearly understand the items for our consideration, and answering our questions thoroughly to help us deliberate and make good recommendations on behalf of the Hana community.

During her time working with CM Sinenci's office, I have worked with Ms. Young on a number of issues that are important to our Hana community and the county as a whole, including the creation and development of the Department of Agriculture. She is extremely knowledgeable of the inner workings of the county government, the state water code, as well as the issues and needs of East Maui, and brings a true dedication and caring that is immeasurably valuable.

I respect that the community water authority board went through a very thorough and transparent process to review candidates for this position, and I fully support their selection of Ms. Young to serve as their Director. I respectfully encourage the Committee Members to approve her hiring in this role.

Mahalo,
Scott Crawford
Hana resident

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:48am 08-06-24

Aloha Chair U_u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members of the GREAT Committee,

I am Amanda Martin and I support wholeheartedly the appointment of Gina M. Young as director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority.

I have known Gina for over 17 years. I consider her a good friend and someone that I can rely on. I have worked alongside Gina as volunteers at community events. She is loyal, trustworthy and dependable. Her infectious laughter and casual sense of humor got everyone laughing.

She is a diligent individual who consistently shows her dedication towards her professional duties. She communicates well with everyone. Her firm understanding of the administrative and legislative branches of government makes her truly valuable.

I ask that you honor the appointment by the community board. They worked hard and diligently to select the best qualified candidate, which is Ms. Gina M. Young. I strongly believe she will exceed in her role as the EMRCB Director.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Amanda M. Martin

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:56am 08-06-24

Pamela Eaton
Maui, Hawaii

August 5, 2024

The Honorable Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Chair
And members of the Government, Relations, Ethics, and Transparency (GREAT) Committee
200 High Street, 8th Floor
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

RE: RESOLUTION 24-129, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GINA M. YOUNG AS DIRECTOR OF THE EAST MAUI REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (GREAT-1(15))

Dear Chair U'u-Hodgins and GREAT Committee Members,

I am sending this letter in support of Gina Young and ask that you confirm her to become the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority.

I have experience in addressing water issues on Maui as I was the Division Chief in the County of Maui's Department of Water Supply for the Water Resources and Planning Division from 2011 to 2014. During that tenure I worked with many of the communities, stakeholders, advocates and watershed partnerships in East Maui. Water use, supply and availability in East Maui are critical issues and after time I learned to appreciate the passion with which all of the water users feel toward this critical resource. Whether the topic was water conservation, watershed management or the Water Use and Development Plan, almost always, passions and

emotions ran very high. The East Maui Regional Water Authority will play an important role in addressing East Maui's water use, availability, allocation and preservation. Someone who is fair, transparent, intelligent and understands and respects long held tradition and the myriad of nuances with the legalities and historical use of water should be in the role of the Director of this very important body. Gina Flammer is that person.

I worked in the Planning Department for many of the years Gina was a planner in the permitting division, and came to know her quite well. Often times I would seek her advice in addressing difficult issues in Maui and had always been impressed by the depth of her knowledge and that Gina's approach was always "solutions oriented." I also observed the way Gina, often handling some of the more difficult issues in the Planning Department, was cool headed, logical and exhibited no drama. I was impressed by how she approached each challenge with openness and identified solutions creatively. I can appreciate that there may be concerns that she has not been a Director or in senior management – however many of the County's past and present leadership have not been directors, and some of them were quite effective and successful. I respectfully offer, having spent 14 years working in the County for the Departments of Water Supply, Planning and Transportation (for the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization), a requirement that previous tenure as a Director -- should not be the litmus test for this position. Gina has demonstrated her abilities in addressing land use planning, cultural and natural resource issues during her time in the Planning Department and especially on Council Member Sinenci's staff. She has long standing relationships with East Maui communities and has earned their trust and support.

Please support Gina Young to be the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority.

With respect,
Pam
Pamela Eaton

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 9:22pm 08-05-24

Committee Chair Nohealani U'u Hodgins
Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin, and Members
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council

Re: Resolution 24-129, Appointment of Gina M. Young as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority

Dear Chair Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Committee Members:

E_ e n_ __iwi _olino, n_ pulapula a H_loa I am writing to express my support for Gina Young as the Director for the East Maui Community Water Authority. Not only is she the best candidate, but the _Aha Wai O Maui Hikina Community Board voted unanimously for her appointment after conducting a diligent selection process. She understands the need to heal the watershed, grow water and manage our resources responsibly — in I_kahi.

Our ancestors understood that all things are interconnected and the need for balance to provide survival and well-being. In East Maui, the cultural and generational knowledge of the _Aha Wai O Maui Hikina Community Board will provide enduring and wise leadership.

Through my twenty years as an Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee and ten of the years as the Chairperson, I

understand the importance of good leadership. The leadership of this new Board has been an example of operating with excellence. Ms. Young's responses to the interview questions demonstrate her commitment to the people of this area and all of Maui, extensive background in public service, existing relationships that will serve the authority well, and knowledge and respect.. She is absolutely correct that watershed restoration is a key aspect of the work of the authority. This work rests upon community input and involvement and it will help to revitalize the community in return. Ms. Young also clearly supports water for the Department of Hawaiian Homes and sees this as a priority. Her passion for DHHL's mission to provide housing for Native Hawaiians sets her apart from the other candidates.

I ask that you honor the work and leadership of the Board and confirm their selection of her to be their Director. May the work of this new Board and Water Authority not only improve the watershed but enable strength and vision for Maui and the pae__ina of Hawai_i nei.

E ola i ka wai mau a mau!

S. Haunani Apoliona, Trustee Office of Hawaiian Affairs 1996-2016

Thomas Croly

Location:

Submitted At: 7:55pm 08-05-24

I am Tom Croly and I'd like to express my support for confirming Gina Young as Director of the East Maui regional water authority.

I first came to know Gina about 15 years ago when she was serving as the president of the Kula community association. I was so impressed to see how she was able to lead civil meetings of the association that often dealt with controversial issues. I think everyone knows there are some very outspoken upcountry residents, who can tend to dominate the public discussions, but Gina displayed a unique talent to encourage all to be heard and as a result the Kula Community association produced thoughtful positions on community issues like the Maui Island Plan, the Bed and Breakfast and STRH ordinances and multiple upcountry water issues.

Soon after that first meeting, I was pleased to see that Gina was being considered for a position in the planning department. At that time I was working closely with the planning department to help improve the permitting process for B&Bs. In a very short period of time, Gina had established herself as one of the lead planners in the department, who the other planners looked to for guidance when processing permits. I observed that when Gina was presenting a permit application before the planning commission, she would quickly gained the confidence of the commission members, because she was always prepared to answer any question they might have.

Over the past 17 years, I have worked directly with more than 20 different planners in the current planning division. I can say without question that during the time Gina was in the department there was much better consistency between how planners processed permits. I often would tell permit seekers, there are planners who are problem makers and planners who are problem solvers. Gina was a problem solver. After she left the department, there was a notable lack of leadership amongst the planners and I saw planner decisions become much more inconsistent in their application of the code.

I think that Gina possesses a unique talent to lead through listening and making all involved felt heard. The difficult decisions about East Maui's water is just the kind of task that would make the best use of Gina's, well developed skill sets. And for these reasons I fully support her confirmation as Director of the East Maui Water Authority.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:09pm 08-05-24

August 5, 2024

Re: RESOLUTION 24-129, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GINA M. YOUNG AS DIRECTOR OF THE EAST MAUI REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY (GREAT-1(15))

Aloha e Government Relations, Ethics, And Transparency Committee,

This letter is given to provide testimony to the efficacy, enthusiastic and capable support given to initiatives which support Maui Hikina, and professional, sincere engagement, which I have had the privilege of receiving from Gina Young. As the Executive Director of the Hana Business Council (HBC), in my role as a businessperson, community advocate, and nonprofit director, two main initiatives in which I have seen Gina assist in orchestrating broader community outreach, bridging Maui County departmental leadership and resources, have been in the areas of Workforce Development and the current Hana Walking-Bikeway Plan.

Directly in the midst of the pandemic from the fall of 2020 through 2022, Gina shared her knowledge of working within the framework of the Maui County Budget, and assisted in shaping how local nonprofits were able to work with the Maui Office of Economic Development's federal funding opportunities. Through the East Maui Council office, working with HBC and other nonprofit leadership, she assisted in successfully bringing internship positions to several nonprofits including the HBC, Kipahulu Ohana, Ke A Hali, Hana Cultural Center and Hana's local low power radio station KOKO-LP. Prior to this she also was able to bring support to the ongoing development of an agricultural food aggregation system and agricultural hub planned for East Maui, which is strongly supported in the Hana District and through the East Maui Council Office. In 2019, a series of engagements with vendors at our local weekly farmers market culminated with a mini competition where entrepreneurs shared their value-added food products in partnership with the UHMC Food Innovation Center. Gina worked with Councilmember Shane Sincenci in providing a dynamic overview of the history of agriculture and the relationship with the Hana to cultivate generational knowledge and expertise that comes from familiarity with kumu and kupuna in respective ahupua'a. Gina has made it her mission to respectfully articulate policy and listen – ho'olohe – when important decisions need to be made for empowering next generation sustainability. From many conversations I have been party to, Gina is well respected for being a highly productive resource on policy and planning.

Finally, she has also been the bridge for the current study that is underway to plan sidewalk and bikeway improvement for the safety of our Ohana, through the Hele Maui Maui Unified Workplan within the Maui Metropolitan Organization. Her knowledge of what departments to work with for effective action is invaluable!

I strongly support Gina and the decision to choose her as the director of the East Maui Water Authority.

Mahalo,
Heidi Lea,

Heidi Lea, WH6GXO
Hanaside News|Editorial Associate
Hana Community News List Moderator
Hana Business Council|Executive Director
Ho'omakaukau Maui Hikina ~ East Maui Ready (EMR) Leadership Team|Community Liaison
Hawaii Farmers Union United ~ Hana Chapter|Hana Hub Coordination
Email: Heidi@HanaMaui.com
iPhone (406) 600-4300
www.HanaMaui.com

Nicole Apoliona

Location:
Submitted At: 5:26pm 08-05-24

Maui County Council Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee,

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of support for Gina Young's appointment as the East Maui Water Authority Director. As you can see from Gina's resume and interviews she has a deep commitment to and knowledge of community service, advocacy, policy development and implementation. I have known Gina for 22 years. We first worked together with Kula Community Association then on Kula School PTA. We worked most closely together while I served as medical director of Kula Hospital and she was on the Maui Region of HHSC Board of Directors, chairing the Kula and Lina'i oversight committee.

Gina's work and community service experience makes her uniquely suited for this position. Her willingness to accept and skill in executing volunteer leadership positions very important in our community speak to her deep commitment to improving life for Maui residents. Through her volunteer and employed positions Gina has developed a wealth of skills, experience, and relationships that will serve the board well. Community Association work, planning department work, experience in legislative advocacy, financial background, Maui County council work focused on water use management - I can't imagine a candidate who could be better prepared for this position.

In our work together with Kula Community Association and with Kula Hospital, MMMC, and the Maui Region HHSC board I found Gina to be smart, enthusiastic and able to analyze complex situations and pinpoint what the most important issues were and where we should focus our efforts. Gina has a very grounded personality and approaches others with warmth and acceptance. She stays focused on issues and is able to manage others' agendas and personalities to get good work done.

I am thrilled that the 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina Community Board selected Gina Young for this important Director position to lead them in their ground breaking and precedent setting work. I really can't imagine a candidate who could be better positioned for this work. I ask that you honor the work and leadership of the Board and confirm her selection.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Nicole Apoliona, MD

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:56pm 08-05-24

August 5, 2024

Resolution 24-129

Aloha council,

My name is Sydney Smith and I'm the chair of the Ag Working Group. I'm testifying today on behalf of myself and the Ag Working Group.

I have personally known Gina Young for over twelve years. I worked with her when she was a planner in the Planning Department and when she joined council member Shane Sinenci's staff. When Shane was the chair of the Council Agriculture Committee Gina joined our Ag Working Group meetings and she never minded staying far into the night as we worked through legislation and crafted solutions to our agriculture issues. Even after Council member Gabe Johnson received the Agriculture Committee, Gina stayed active in our group.

The Commissioners for the East Maui Water Authority were approved by this Council. I was at many of those meetings and your deliberations were careful and balanced. The Commission unanimously chose Gina Young among all the applicants. Their deliberations were also careful and balanced with complex questioning about Constitutional issues, public trust doctrine and cultural concerns. I was impressed with Gina's grasp of the issues she will face as the Director of a brand new department. So were the Commissioners.

Please support the choice of the commissioners and confirm her appointment as Director of the East Maui Water Authority.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:49pm 08-05-24

Chair U'U-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members
Government Relations, Ethics and Transparency Committee

Re: Appointment of Gina M. Young as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority

Aloha Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for Gina Young as the Director of the East Maui Water Authority (Resolution 24-129). Gina Young has over a decade of experience with the County of Maui as an aide to Council Sinenci and working on the Maui Planning Commission. More importantly, she has demonstrated a commitment to serving the people of Maui by participating on several community boards and engaging with the community.

I have only known Gina Young in a professional capacity since taking on my responsibilities as a member of the East Maui Regional Water Authority. In that brief time, I have been impressed with her understanding of the complicated inner workings of our local government and her ability to navigate those processes. She has an outstanding resume of experience here on Maui and she is more than qualified to fulfill all the duties of the director position.

I am confident that Gina Young will continue to serve our community as the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority by performing her duties with integrity to ensure trust within our community.

I respectfully ask the GREAT Committee to confirm Resolution 24-129 The Appointment of Gina M. Young as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority.

Mahalo,

Francis Quitazol

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:15am 08-05-24

I am writing in support of Gina Young's pending appointment as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority. I have known Gina both personally and professionally for over 15 years. She reached out to me in 2017 when the Council was creating the position of Principal Archaeologist for guidance on desirable qualifications and salary. At that time, I had no plans to apply for the position, however, after COVID hit in the Spring of 2020, I applied and was awarded the position. Subsequently to my appointment, I worked extensively with Gina on the Environmental Agricultural and Cultural Protection and Agricultural and Public Trust committees. Gina is a natural leader and an excellent communicator. She understands the nuance required to be an effective community leader. Gina provides a balanced perspective and has strong community ties and an understanding of the importance of preserving traditional Hawaiian culture. It is with great pleasure that I highly recommend Gina Young be confirmed as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority. Please feel free to reach out to me at (808) 344-0566 or Janet.Six@co.maui.hi.us if you have any additional questions.

M_lama pono,

Janet Six, PhD

Principal Archaeologist for the County of Maui

Shay Chan Hodges

Location:

Submitted At: 8:27am 08-05-24

Chair U'U-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members
Government Relations, Ethics and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council

Dear Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members,

I am writing in support of the East Maui Regional Water Authority's transparent process that led to the approval of Gina Young as Director of this new and important department. I have been impressed and inspired by the work of the Authority since its inception and I am hopeful that the GREAT committee and the County Council will honor the members' dedication and efforts.

I watched most of the interviews for the director position, which were conducted publicly in real-time, and was impressed by the Water Authority members' questions and the job aspirants' responses. It was refreshing to see a process that was conducted in an open and transparent manner, providing the public with the opportunity to learn about the candidates' experiences, skills, and abilities, and further, to understand how the members of the Authority came to their decision.

While I believe that many of the candidates would bring valuable skills and experience to the position, I know from the interview process and my own experience that Gina Young will serve the position well.

Again, given the time and effort that were taken by the County Council to appoint the members of the East Maui Regional Water Authority, and the care that the Authority took in making their decision, I request that the GREAT Committee honor the members' unanimous approval of Ms. Young, and approve Resolution 24-129.

Mahalo.

--Shay Chan Hodges
Haiku, Maui

Shay Chan Hodges

Location:

Submitted At: 8:27am 08-05-24

Chair U'U-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members
Government Relations, Ethics and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council

Dear Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members,

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Mahalo.

--Shay Chan Hodges
Haiku, Maui

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:41pm 08-04-24

My name is Jeff Dack and I reside in Wailuku. I urge you to adopt resolution 24-129. I worked for the Maui County Planning Department for 17 years, 13 of which were as the Supervisor of the Department's Environmental Planning Section in the Current Division. I had the good fortune to be Gina Young's supervisor when she initially joined the Department. Her initial work was to process permits in the County's Special Management (Coastal) area. She was always a diligent, hard worker. While always maintaining the public interest utmost in her mind she was very accomplished at working cooperatively with applicants and any opposition which may have presented itself. She expressed respect, empathy and helpfulness to everyone and I believe that this early performance is a large reason that the Planning Director assigned her to be the lead planner to work with the County Council and Planning Commissions on major new bills regulating Short Term Rental Homes, and Bed and Breakfast Homes. She then led the team of planners implementing those new ordinances, with that team being named the Department Team of the Year and she named as Planner of the year.

While in the Planning Department for eight years Gina showed herself to be a great communicator and consensus builder on issues that were often controversial and otherwise difficult, with a friendly, diplomatic, but also pragmatic style. This often led repeat applicants to request that their new permit applications be assigned to her. I believe that all of the qualities I saw will lead her to be an effective leader and manager of the new Department and achieve the best results possible for the shorter and longer terms.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:53pm 08-04-24

William Spence

P.O. Box 880267

Pukalani, HI 96788

Chair U'U-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members
Government Relations, Ethics and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council

Dear Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members,

Thank you for considering this letter of reference for Gina Young. I have known Gina for more than 14 years. Our first meeting was when she was the president of the Kula Community Association. I was impressed how she ran meetings, even when government officials attended to discuss sometimes controversial topics - such as water. Gina was a staff planner when I became Planning Director in 2011, and I was her superior for 7.5 years. She was a pleasure to work with and conveyed a great attitude. She was always prepared for meetings, did the research, understood the issues and codes, and found creative ways to meet goals. Especially impressive was the way she carried herself in front of the Hana Advisory Committee, the Maui Planning Commission and County Council. Her presentations were always clear and understandable. Her demeanor was always fair to the public, applicants, and other professionals. Though in this position we didn't always touch on native Hawaiian issues, when we did, she exhibited a sensitivity and understanding of the matter. Now she is an aide to Councilmember Sinenci, a native Hawaiian who spearheaded the creation of the East Maui Water Authority. As a consultant, I have worked with her from time to time on different matters before the Council. This position has brought her a deeper, perceptive understanding of politics and policy, native Hawaiian issues, as well as legislative process - the means to get things done. We have remained in touch while she holds this position and have found her to be effective, always personable.

Gina would make a good director and I would highly recommend her for this position.

Sincerely,
William Spence

Robin Rayner

Location:

Submitted At: 12:02pm 08-04-24

Hana Architecture and Interior Design

P.O. Box 125 Hana, HI 96713 Phone: 808-248-4950 E-mail: notes4robin2@hanahawaii.net

August 4, 2024

Committee Chair Nohealani U'u Hodgins
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council

Re: Resolution 24-129, Appointment of Gina M. Young as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority

Dear Chair Hodgins, and GREAT Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for Gina M. Young as the Director for the East Maui Community Water Authority.

I first worked with Ms. Young in 2011, while navigating some Hana architectural projects through the Maui Planning Department. I had the good fortune to be paired off with Ms. Young, a Senior Planner in the department at that time. She never hesitated to make the trip to Hana to help guide my clients in the planning policies. She brought a deep understanding of the regulations and provided clear guidance through the process. Over time, she developed a reputation in Hana as a person who could get things done successfully. When I would mention to a client that Gina Young would be on the team, there was always a sense of relief and an implication that the job would get done efficiently and timely.

When Ms. Young shifted positions to work with Councilman Shane Sinenci, I felt confident Hana would benefit. I watched her work, side by side with Councilman Sinenci, researching the minute details necessary to succeed in their various endeavors, dedicating herself to the Hana community and the goals established. In Hana, Ms. Young is known as a hard worker, and provides diligent review and recommendations through difficult challenges and issues. Her background, experience, and legal skills has prepared her to be an excellent manager and director.

I believe Ms. Young has the necessary wisdom, insight, and dedication to be an engaging and diligent Director. Her experience with the Maui County and the State of Hawaii government make her an excellent candidate for the position and will provide the community of Maui with the necessary expertise and guidance required for the position.

I strongly support her appointment and would ask that you honor the unanimous decision by the East Maui Regional Community Water Authority Board to appoint her as the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority and confirm Resolution 24-129

Mahalo,

Robin Riley Rayner, RA

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:48pm 08-02-24

Chair U_u-Hodgins and Members,

I offer my strong support of Gina Young for the position as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority. I am a Board Member but providing testimony as an individual.

I ask that you honor the appointment made by the community board. We had a diligent Aloha selection and interview process making sure that the candidate we put forth best fits the needs of the authority.

Gina brings many years of experience including her understanding of both the administrative and legislative branches of government. She has worked along side many outstanding leaders in the community. I have observed Gina at community meetings and her ability to make everyone feel comfortable in participating and sharing their thoughts and ideas were remarkable.

Gina is the best qualified person and I urge you to approve this appointment.

Mahalo!

Norman "Bush" Martin, Jr.

Wesley Lo

Location:

Submitted At: 2:04pm 08-02-24

Please see attached

Peter Horovitz

Location:

Submitted At: 3:38pm 08-01-24

Strong Support - letter attached

Larry Hail

Location:

Submitted At: 8:22am 08-01-24

I am writing to express my support for Ms. Gina M. Young as the Director of the East Maui Water Authority. I know Gina both professionally and personally and feel the Water Authority Board has made an excellent choice in appointing her to this important position. Please see my attached reference letter. Mahalo for your time!!. Best wishes to the Council and Ms. Young.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:39pm 07-31-24

Aloha GREAT Committee. I'm testifying as an individual in support of Resolution No 24-129 approving the appointment of Gina Young as Executive Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority. I know Gina personally and have worked with her professionally and find her to be a solution-oriented consensus builder and effective negotiator. She can navigate complex water resource issues and understands the need to balance the community's diverse interests.

Mahalo

Eva Blumenstein

Makawao

Toni Eaton
159 Mo'olu Circle
Wailuku, HI 96793
Toni7041@yahoo.com
808-269-7337
August 5, 2024

Council Chamber
GREAT Committee
200 South High Street, 8th Floor
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Members of the GREAT Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Gina M. Young as the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority, as outlined in Resolution No. 24-129. Gina's contributions to the establishment of the Water Authority, her exceptional leadership qualities, and her dedication to inclusive stakeholder engagement make her an ideal candidate for this critical role.

While it is true that Gina has not previously led a department, her achievements in spearheading the initiative to establish the East Maui Regional Water Authority demonstrate her capability to excel in this leadership position. Gina was instrumental in drafting and refining the language for the initiative, showcasing her deep understanding of water management issues and her ability to navigate complex regulatory and policy frameworks. Her meticulous attention to detail and strategic vision were crucial to the initiative's success.

Furthermore, Gina's commitment to inclusive and collaborative processes has been exemplary. She actively ensured that a diverse range of stakeholders were involved throughout the development of the Water Authority. By engaging local residents, farmers, environmental groups, and government officials, Gina fostered a sense of shared ownership and collective responsibility. Her ability to build consensus among diverse groups speaks volumes about her leadership skills and her dedication to serving the community's best interests.

Gina's leadership is characterized by her strong communication skills, her ability to listen and incorporate feedback, and her unwavering commitment to transparency. These qualities have earned her the trust and respect of those she has worked with, and they will be invaluable as she leads the East Maui Regional Water Authority.

In addition to her collaborative approach, Gina possesses a profound technical knowledge of water management and sustainability practices. Her expertise will be essential in addressing the challenges the Water Authority will face in ensuring a reliable and sustainable water supply for the region.

I firmly believe that Gina M. Young's vision, leadership, and expertise make her the best candidate for the Director position. Her proven track record of success, her dedication to the community, and her inclusive approach will be tremendous assets to the East Maui Regional Water Authority.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. I am confident that under Gina's leadership, the East Maui Regional Water Authority will thrive and achieve its goals for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Toni Eaton



Hana Architecture and Interior Design

P.O. Box 125 Hana, HI 96713 Phone: 808-248-4950 E-mail: notes4robin2@hanahawaii.net

August 4, 2024

Committee Chair Nohealani U'u Hodgins
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council

Re: Resolution 24-129, Appointment of Gina M. Young as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority

Dear Chair Hodgins, and GREAT Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for Gina M. Young as the Director for the East Maui Community Water Authority.

I first worked with Ms. Young in 2011, while navigating some Hana architectural projects through the Maui Planning Department. I had the good fortune to be paired off with Ms. Young, a Senior Planner in the department at that time. She never hesitated to make the trip to Hana to help guide my clients in the planning policies. She brought a deep understanding of the regulations and provided clear guidance through the process. Over time, she developed a reputation in Hana as a person who could get things done successfully. When I would mention to a client that Gina Young would be on the team, there was always a sense of relief and an implication that the job would get done efficiently and timely.

When Ms. Young shifted positions to work with Councilman Shane Sinenci, I felt confident Hana would benefit. I watched her work, side by side with Councilman Sinenci, researching the minute details necessary to succeed in their various endeavors, dedicating herself to the Hana community and the goals established. In Hana, Ms. Young is known as a hard worker, and provides diligent review and recommendations through difficult challenges and issues. Her background, experience, and legal skills has prepared her to be an excellent manager and director.

I believe Ms. Young has the necessary wisdom, insight, and dedication to be an engaging and diligent Director. Her experience with the Maui County and the State of Hawaii government make her an excellent candidate for the position and will provide the community of Maui with the necessary expertise and guidance required for the position.

I strongly support her appointment and would ask that you honor the unanimous decision by the East Maui Regional Community Water Authority Board to appoint her as the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority and confirm Resolution 24-129

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Rayner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robin" and last name "Rayner" clearly distinguishable.

Robin Riley Rayner, RA

August 2, 2024

Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins
Government, Relations, Ethics and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair U'u-Hodgins

Re: GREAT – 1(15) Resolution 24-129 Relating to the Appointment of Gina Young as Director of East Maui Regional Water Authority

Thank you for the opportunity to provide references for Ms. Young's nomination as the Director of East Maui Regional Water Authority.

I worked with Ms. Flammer during her tenure on the Board of the Maui Region of Hawaii Health Systems, which had oversight over Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital and Lanai Community Hospital Maui. She was an extremely conscientious advocate for the Healthcare system and was very active in the Governance of the Board, rising to the position of Vice Chair of the Board.

In her capacity as a Board member, she was involved in Hospital Finances, including operational and Capital Budgeting, was part of the Audit Committee, and was active in decision making and advocacy with the State Legislature and our work with the Government Unions.

In all my dealings with Ms. Young, I have found her to be conscientious, hardworking and professional.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Wesley Lo', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Wesley Lo

August 1, 2024

Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins
Government, Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii, 96793

Re: GREAT – 1(15) Reso 24-129 Relating to Appointment of Gina M. Young as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority – STONG SUPPORT

Dear Chair U'u-Hodgins and members of the Government, Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee of the Maui County Council:

My name is Peter Horovitz, and I am an attorney with the firm Horovitz Tilley based in Wailuku, Maui. This letter is written on behalf of me personally and not for any client or organization.

I write this letter to express my strong support for the appointment of Gina M. Young as the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority. I have known Gina for nearly two decades. Our children grew up together, we served together on the Kula Community Association, and I have had an opportunity to work with her when she was with the County's Planning Department as well as in her role as an aid to councilmember Sinenci.

Gina has always been organized, thoughtful, considerate, respectful, and professional. She has an ability to dive deep into serious issues and assist in the development of creative and appropriate solutions. Gina cares deeply about the Maui community and I have always valued her input and insights on any projects where our paths cross. She is exactly the type of person who is needed in this critical role and have no doubt our County will benefit from her service.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A. Horovitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter A. Horovitz

July 30, 2024

Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members
Maui Co. Council Government Relations, Ethics and Transparency Committee
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Re: Resolution 24-129 Approving the Appointment of Gina M. Young as the Director of the
East Maui Regional Water Authority

Dear Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin and Members,

I am writing to express my support for Ms. Gina M. Young as the Director of the East Maui Water Authority. I know Gina both professionally and personally and feel the Water Authority Board has made an excellent choice in appointing her to this important position.

As the Design Section Head for the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) Maui District, I am the person Gina and her office call for updates on local design projects, including Hana Highway. Gina has a great approach to problem solving and resolution. Her commitment to and familiarity with East Maui is commendable. Her personal skills and collaborative attitude will be an asset to the job. I have found her to be knowledgeable, polite, reasonable and understanding of the state's process, an attitude not all people exhibit.

I also know Gina personally from sailing as we crewed and raced on the same boat prior to the Lahaina fire. We both enjoy our public service work and have a great passion for sailing. We have spent many hours sailing and discussing the various aspects of our jobs and local issues. It is always a joy to learn about the inside workings of Maui County government from her. Gina's previous experience as the Planning Department Special Management Area (SMA) planner and understanding of SMA rules and regulations has also been useful. It is obvious that she loves working for Maui County government and takes pride in making our community a better place to live.

I find that the challenges of sailing can tell you a lot about a person. I know Gina to be a team player, a kind person, hardworking, humble, and most importantly she handles herself well under pressure. In one notable case, she volunteered for a difficult task and used her water skills to swim under our sailboat and dislodge a mooring ball line that had gotten wrapped around the bow and hull keel. It is not easy to impress a crew of salty lifelong sailors, but she did just that and shrugged it off casually (we were all very impressed).

In another race, she showed herself to be a valuable team member and hearty sailor. After the Lahaina fire, various yacht clubs on Oahu sponsored a sailing race fund raiser for the Lahaina Yacht Club (LYC) employees. Gina and I, along with a couple of other members represented the LYC and participated in the Waikiki to Kaneohe Bay race. For portions of the race, we experienced high winds (20+ knots) and large swells (15-20 feet). At one point, our captain was caught off guard tossing the entire crew all over the boat with one crew

member going overboard. We were able to retrieve the man overboard as he slid along the outside of the boat lifeline. Gina kept her composure while we got the boat back under control. She went down below to help some of the spooked crew members then returned to take her position and continue sailing. Fortunately, this experience did not phase Gina as she worked alongside with the more experienced crew to finish the race. This experience showed her grit, calm and collected personality, ability to process information in a tense situation and be of value to a team. I know these skills will be useful in her new appointment and that she will set a tone of working in a collaborative and professional manner that benefits everyone and the community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony regarding Ms. Young's character. I know she will do an amazing job for Maui County!!

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Hail", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Larry D. Hail, PE