

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

January 12, 2024

**Committee
Report No. _____**

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, having met on December 12, 2023, makes reference to Resolution 23-238, entitled “APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSIAH NISHITA AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR.”

Resolution 23-238’s purpose is to approve the appointment of Josiah Nishita as Managing Director, in accordance with Sections 6-2(5) and 8-1.2 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended (“Charter”).

Your Committee notes Charter Section 8-1.2 provides that the Managing Director be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Council. In addition, Charter Section 6-2(5) provides that the Council confirm or deny the confirmation within 60 days after receiving notice of the appointment by the Mayor, or the appointment will be deemed confirmed. Accordingly, the deadline for the Council to confirm or deny the appointment of Mr. Nishita as Managing Director is January 24, 2024.

By correspondence dated December 11, 2023, the Mayor transmitted the County of Maui job description for the Managing Director and a resume for Mr. Nishita.

Your Committee notes Section 2.14.120, Maui County Code, lists minimum qualifications for the position, including five years of administrative experience and three years of managerial and budgetary experience.

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Your Committee received comments from the Mayor and Mr. Nishita regarding the appointment before interviewing Mr. Nishita.

The Mayor said Mr. Nishita is a proven leader with an even temperament who, in his capacity as Deputy Managing Director, leads by example, has the respect of his colleagues, and has a good understanding of County operations.

The Mayor explained Mr. Nishita gained institutional knowledge from his previous work experience in both the Legislative branch of County government as a Legislative Analyst and County Clerk, and Executive branch of County government as Deputy Managing Director for the prior and current Administrations.

As Deputy Managing Director, he has worked through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and is now tasked with handling response and recovery resulting from the August 2023 Maui wildfires.

The Mayor clarified Mr. Nishita's request to take on the role of Managing Director, while also keeping his responsibilities leading the Office of Recovery.

When asked about his priorities for the Department of Management, Mr. Nishita said that while he may not be able to immediately solve every problem thrown his way, he is committed to serving his community, restoring relationships and trust in government, improving communication, encouraging community-led mentalities, and using a solution-driven approach. He also attributed his motivation and ability to take on such responsibilities to his supportive family and staff.

Mr. Nishita was born and raised on Maui and was taught from a young age the value of perseverance with a commitment to learning. Further, he does not view his work as a career but rather an opportunity to give back and surround himself with individuals who are as passionate about community service as he is.

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Your Committee thanked Mr. Nishita for his willingness to serve and expressed support for his appointment.

Your Committee voted 9-0 to recommend adoption of Resolution 23-238. Committee Chair U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and members Cook, Johnson, Kama, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura voted “aye.”

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution 23-238, attached hereto, entitled “APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSIAH NISHITA AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR,” be ADOPTED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



NOHELANI U‘U-HODGINS, Chair

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Resolution

No. 23-238

APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOSIAH NISHITA AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

WHEREAS, by letter dated November 24, 2023, Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. notified the Council that he is appointing Josiah Nishita as the Managing Director effective January 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 8-1.2 states that, "The managing director shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council and may be removed by the mayor."; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 6-2.5 provides that the Council shall confirm or deny the appointment within 60 days after receiving notice of the appointment by the Mayor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it hereby approves the appointment of Josiah Nishita as the Managing Director as of January 1, 2024; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor.


APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY



VICTORIA J. TAKAYESU
Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

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Reso Appointing Managing Director.docx

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Lee", is written over a horizontal line.

Upon the request of the Mayor.