

GET Committee

From: Maliko Estate <malikoestate@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 6:35 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Maui County Prosecutor testimony

March 12, 2019 - DON GUZMAN - MAUI COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Aloha Chair Molina and Council members.

My name is Sydney Smith. My husband and I own Maliko Estate Coffee. I'm on the board of the Maui Coffee Association and a member of the Ag Working Group.

I'm writing to endorse Don Guzman as Maui County Prosecutor. He is imminently qualified.

Mr. Guzman has the perspective, experience and qualifications as a former Councilman and lawmaker, as a former general practice attorney and as a former prosecutor here in Maui County.

When first elected to Council and assigned the Agriculture Committee he freely admitted he knew nothing about Agriculture. He worked with real farmers and ranchers and formed the Ag Working Group to be an independent voice for the Agriculture community and an advisory resource for his committee.

He came to our meetings with an open mind and listened to us explain both sides of an issue from our perspectives. He learned from us and we learned from him. He made us the group we are today. He stressed at every meeting that we were independent and should always remain so and to speak our minds. He encouraged us to remain neutral.

His staff was fiercely loyal to him as he was loyal to them. He was loyal to us and we worked hard to wrap our tired-from-the-fields minds around code language and vague administrative rules. In two years we had all become legislative analysts.

After working closely with him for over six years I'm confident he will be the best person for the job and will look out for and protect victims and prosecute offenders fairly and effectively.

I have no doubt he could lead the Prosecutor's Office with diplomacy when needed and steely determination and resolve when that's necessary. He has a wonderfully supportive family in his parents, his wife, Dr. Rose Guzman and his three children.

I can't think of anyone better to hold this important position for Maui County.

Mahalo!

Sydney Smith
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