

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

March 10, 2023

**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 February 21, 2023, and reconvened on February 22, 2023, makes reference to Resolution 23-36, entitled "APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF VICTORIA J. TAKAYESU AS THE CORPORATION COUNSEL."

Resolution 23-36's purpose is to approve the appointment of Victoria J. Takayesu as Corporation Counsel, in accordance with Sections 6-2(5) and 8-2.2 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended ("Charter").

Your Committee notes Charter Section 8-2.2 provides that the Corporation Counsel 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 Ms. Takayesu as Corporation Counsel is March 13, 2023.

By correspondence dated January 12, 2023, the Mayor transmitted the County of Maui job description for the Corporation Counsel and a resume for the appointee.

Your Committee notes Section 2.14.100, Maui County Code, lists minimum qualifications for the position, including a Hawaii bar license; five years of legal practice, including three years in civil litigation; and three years of managerial and budgetary experience.

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Your Committee received comments from the Mayor and Ms. Takayesu regarding the appointment before interviewing Ms. Takayesu.

The Mayor said Ms. Takayesu not only excels in her achievements, which includes 32 years practicing law and 20 years as a supervisor, but she is also a leader among women through her volunteer work, including with Maui Search and Rescue. The Mayor said her legal expertise, steady leadership, and well-rounded views will benefit the County.

Ms. Takayesu said her County experience first started with the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney in 1990, then with the Department of the Corporation Counsel as Deputy Corporation Counsel beginning in 1999. She said she then served as a Deputy Attorney General and Maui Branch Manager with the Child Support Enforcement Agency before returning to the County in her current role. Ms. Takayesu said her interest in serving as Corporation Counsel stems from helping her community and managing the Department in a fair and respectful manner, which also provides opportunity for her staff to grow.

Your Committee expressed support for Ms. Takayesu's appointment.

Your Committee voted 8-0 to recommend adoption of Resolution 23-36. Committee Chair U'u-Hodgins and members Cook, Johnson, Kama, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura voted "aye." Committee Vice-Chair Paltin was excused.

Your Committee notes the resolution required renumbering from Resolution 23-36 to Resolution 23-69.

Your Committee is in receipt of Resolution 23-69, CD1, approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel, incorporating your Committee's nonsubstantive revisions.

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Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution 23-69, CD1, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled "APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF VICTORIA J. TAKAYESU AS THE CORPORATION COUNSEL," 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. 23-69, CD1

APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF
VICTORIA J. TAKAYESU AS THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

WHEREAS, by letter dated January 12, 2023, Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. notified the Council that he appointed Victoria J. Takayesu as the Corporation Counsel; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 8-2.2 states that, "The corporation counsel shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council and may be removed by the mayor with the approval of the council."; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 6-2(5) requires that the Council 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 approves the appointment of Victoria J. Takayesu as the Corporation Counsel; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and Managing Director.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY



KEOLA R. WHITTAKER
Deputy Corporation Counsel
County of Maui
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INTRODUCED BY:

Justin Kame

Upon the request of the Mayor.