

**Testimony for Confirmation  
Attorney Donald S. Guzman, Director  
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney  
County of Maui, Wailuku, HI  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019**

**Honorable Mayor Michael Victorino, Council Chair Kelly King  
and Esteemed Members of the Maui County Council**

**Good morning! My name is Elizabeth Ayson. Today I come before you to share my reasons for recommending the confirmation of Attorney Don Guzman to head Maui County's Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. In my view, this position extends a circle of responsibility that we all have---to care for the safety, well-being and protection of all who share our community. At home, we were taught as children that we are expected to take care of each other. The words "It takes a village" are clearly understood by all of us who grew up together in the early camps across the island. My siblings and I were literally raised by the residents of Camp 13, Alabama Village, Spanish B and Happy Valley. When one of us fell off our bicycle, friends would stop to help the fallen to stand up, to ask "Are you okay?" and depending on the response, either get help or keep riding. With this upbringing, the lessons of respect were natural to learn as the foundation for all relationships, whether person to person, person to pet, or person to animals and plants that nourished us. The idea of community was learned easily by youngsters because everyone shared that responsibility at the most basic level. We were all expected to be our best self. Simple questions guided correct behavior. How did that make you feel? Where do you hurt? What do you need? How can I help?**

**As a an educator, mother, grandmother, sister and auntie, I can definitely say that the great majority of our citizens learned these lessons well, and are ambassadors of aloha each day in their own way. The saying "Lucky we live Maui" is the envy of most visitors and the strongest draw that brings thousands to our shores. In the earliest days as a teacher, I learned immediately who would need my attention. A most enlightening lesson came the first time a child snatched someone else's sleeping bag. The children explained to me that it was because his father was in jail, his mother was on drugs, and grandma had no money. Yes, the causes for wrong behavior are well-understood at a young age. Forgiveness comes quickly when understanding, awareness and caring rule young hearts, and attitudes of sharing lead even 5-year olds to offer what they have to friends who have less. We have all heard the stories of how the first immigrants learned quickly to get along with each other because they shared what was in their kaukau tin, that resulted in more delicacies to taste the next day.**

**In our world, the prosecuting attorney's office is the legal version of correcting the wrong actions of the few who did not learn the early lessons of respect that come from being loved---for self first, which enables respect for others, and gradually includes respect for all life. Based on a foundation of rules, regulations and laws, prosecutors need compassion, understanding, and genuine caring to more effectively exercise the enforcement of correct behavior, so we can all take full responsibility and exercise wisdom and appreciation for freedom of choice, the most precious gift of true democracy. In Attorney Don Guzman are found these qualities and more, as demonstrated with grace in his love for family, community, profession, and citizenship.**

RECEIVED AT GET MEETING ON MAR 12 2019