

GET Committee

From: Matthew Kohm <mkohm@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 3:27 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony on Don S. Guzman, Tuesday March 12, 2019 at 9:00 am
Attachments: Prosecutor Letter of Support Guzman.pdf

Please see the attached PDF submitted for the Hearing on Don Guzman, in support of his appointment.

Matthew Kohm

--

Matthew S. Kohm
Attorney at Law

808-249-8968 Office
888-641-7083 Toll Free Fax
1335 Hiahia Street
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

<http://www.kohmlaw.com>

matthewkohm@gmail.com

mkohm@hawaii.rr.com

Telephone: (808) 249-8968
Toll Free Fax: (888) 641-7083
Email: mkohm@hawaii.rr.com

MATTHEW S. KOHM
ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

1335 Hiahia Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii
96793-9738

March 11, 2019

get.committee@mauicounty.us
Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee
Maui County Council

Confirmation Hearing March 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

**RE: Nomination of Don S. Guzman
Prosecutor for Maui County
Letter of Support**

Dear Committee:

I encourage this Committee to Approve the appointment of Don S. Guzman, Esq. for the position of Prosecutor for the County of Maui. I have known Mr. Guzman as an attorney and former councilman in our county. He is a smart, conscientious, and caring person, that shows the necessary dedication and principles needed of our county prosecutor. Additionally, Mr. Guzman has exceptional people skills that are necessary for running such a large office, and interacting with the multiple departments and public. The safety and well being of our community relies on having a capable person in charge of criminal prosecutions, which can involve very personal, tragic, sad and disturbing matters. It is essential for the Prosecutor's office to liaison with MPD, at times federal law enforcement, and numerous county and state offices, in addition to the State and Federal Courts. In its essence the head prosecutor is a high profile position that requires the communication, leadership and political skills Mr. Guzman has shown. Because of Mr. Guzman's background, I am confident that matters will be handled competently, ethically, and diligently, and that he will provide the necessary leadership and protect the rights of victims, the release of public information (*when permissible*), and the timely handling of criminal prosecution matters. He will also leverage the high degree of skill and experience of the seasoned deputy prosecutors of his office.

Should this Committee have any questions I would be willing and available to provide further information and submit testimony. I am a private attorney admitted in 1993. I have previously served as a deputy prosecutor. I have handled a number of criminal cases before the Hawaii Supreme Court and the Intermediate Court of Appeals. I have served as Maui County Grand Jury Counsel three times to include June 1997 to May 1998; June 1999 to May 2000; and June 2015 to May 2016.

YOURS TRULY,



MATTHEW S. KOHM

cc:
Enc: