

GET Committee

From: Henry, John M <john.m.henry@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 12:30 PM
To: GET Committee
Cc: Kanaka'ole, Ryan KP
Subject: Re: Sep 11, 2019 Correspondence
Attachments: Ltr to GET Committe Chair dtd 9-13-19.pdf

Dear Chair Molina,

On behalf of Deputy Attorney General Ryan K. Kanakaole, please find attached to this email a reply letter dated 9-13-19 to your correspondence dated 9-11-19.

John M. Henry
Legal Clerk
Public Safety Hawaiian Home Lands and Housing Division
Department of the Attorney General

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CLARE E. CONNORS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DANA O. VIOLA
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
PUBLIC SAFETY, HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS AND HOUSING
DIVISION
425 QUEEN STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 587-2978

September 13, 2019

Honorable Michael J. Molina, Chair
Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee
County Council, County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Sent via email to GET.Committee@mauicounty.us

Re: September 11, 2019 Correspondence

Dear Chair Molina:

This responds to your September 11, 2019 letter requesting me or a representative from the Department of the Attorney General to attend the upcoming September 17, 2019 meeting of your committee. The purpose is to discuss committee agenda item GET-19 regarding "Bank of America's Commitment to Provide Mortgages for Native Hawaiians on Hawaiian Home Lands."

Based on your letter, I understand that you are requesting the Department of the Attorney General to opine on matters presented before your committee. By statute, the authority of the Department of the Attorney General is limited and the Department may only administer and render legal services, including providing advice and counsel, to "the governor, legislature, and such state departments and officers as the governor may direct." See, Haw. Rev. Stat. § 26-7. I therefore regret that we (the Attorney General and the Department) must respectfully decline your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole".

Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole
Deputy Attorney General