

GET Committee

From: Kyle Shimizu <Kyle.Shimizu@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 1:50 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Letter for Acting Director of Finance
Attachments: scandocs@co.maui.hi.us_20190118_125609_2.pdf

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to submit this letter in support of the new acting Director of Finance, Scott Teruya.
Is there any other steps that I need to take for this letter to be considered?

Thank you so much,

Kyle Shimizu, *Appraisal Supervisor*

Real Property Assessment/Department of Finance
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January 10, 2019

Kelly T. King, Council Chair
Maui County Council
Kalana O Maui Building, 8th floor
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Aloha Chairwoman King,

I am writing to support Mayor Michael Victorino's appointment of Scott Teruya to the position of Director of Finance. For the past twelve years, I have worked at the Real Property Tax Division as an Appraiser and Appraisal Supervisor under Scott's management. During this time, the RPT Division accomplished the following:

- Completely eliminated its backlog of property tax appeals
- Increased its attention to training and education
- Renewed its focus on policing undeserving agricultural assessments and illegal vacation rentals

These goals would not have been met without Scott's work-ethic and knowledge. I understand the rigorous demands and financial responsibility of being The Director of Finance and I can assure you Scott is willing to seek the knowledge in situations he is unsure of. After seeing Scott's ability first-hand, I know that he would make a great Director of Finance.

That said, the past twelve years have not been a walk in the park. To be frank, the Department of Finance's previously-appointed management did not communicate effectively, misplaced its priorities, and generally lacked the Aloha Spirit required to effectively lead such a diverse group of employees. Fairness and equality to the fellow employees took a back seat and many employees felt that the previous administration created a hostile work environment. Yet, even under ineffective Department leadership, the RPT Division thrived with Scott's guidance. Under the leadership of Scott I feel that he will be able to mend some of the fences that were broken by instilling fairness and security to his fellow employees

Finally, I must admit that Scott and I have not always seen eye-to-eye on every issue. These differences were exaggerated and compounded by the divisive culture fostered by the previous administration. Despite this, Scott and I have worked through our differences. I would even venture to say that our occasional disagreements have positively impacted the RPA Division as a whole. The ability to disagree, find common ground, and move on is something that has been lacking in the Department of Finance for a very long time. With Scott as the Director of Finance, I am looking forward to the return of constructive debate and conversation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone at 808-298-6476, or through email at kyle.shimizu@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Kyle Shimizu

