

## GET Committee

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**From:** Lisa Miura <lisapii1990@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 9:53 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in favor of Scott Teruya (GET-1(5))  
**Attachments:** Scott Teruya Testimony 01242019.pdf

Aloha,

Please find attached my testimony in favor of the appointment of Scott K. Teruya to Director of Finance.

If possible, please let me know this communication was received and will be shared with the committee.

Sincerely,  
Lisa K Miura

**LISA K. MIURA**  
**P.O. BOX 2997**  
**KAMUELA, HI 96743**

January 24, 2019

**To:** Honorable Committee Chair, Michael J. Molina  
Honorable Committee Vice Chair, Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Members of the Governance, Ethics and Transparency Committee

**Re: Testimony in favor of the Mayor's appointment of Scott K. Teruya as  
Director of Finance, (GET-1(5))**

Scott Teruya is able to network and build solid teams of individuals, he has worked during natural disasters and has built relationships with individuals at the Legislature and other counties. (including those beyond Hawaii). Good division heads/administrators/chiefs are important, however, if you have a Director who is unable to hold their own with their knowledge and work experience with the public, public officials and at community meetings then you are setting that person/position up for failure. Scott has already proven himself to be an effective communicator among a wide range of individuals with varying personalities, agendas and positions.

Real Property Tax plays a very pivotal role in each of the counties within Hawaii. Majority of each of the counties general fund revenues are derived from real property taxes. Whoever fills the role as Finance Director needs to understand the different aspects of managing unionized staff (often overlooked in Director positions but extremely important), legislative action and the impact to county funding, assessments, revenue collection, tax rates, how changing a program could adversely impact tax payers and be sensitive to not just what the Administration has to go through on the budgetary side but be able to clearly convey difficult discussions to Council and the public confidently.

I have been working with the County of Hawaii since 2002 in several different positions and I previously worked in the private industry. Both aspects deal with a certain level of politics and deadlines, however, when working in the public sector there is a whole new level of nuances and mandated deadlines that are not always prevalent in the private industry. This became the most apparent during my roles as the Deputy Director of Finance and the Real Property Tax Administrator with the County of Hawaii.

Each Mayor has a huge sense of commitment to be sure their team succeeds, however, I also believe your Mayor will not blink an eye at requesting a resignation from his appointed staff should he feel the individual is not fulfilling their duties and responsibilities to the office and the public. I realize there are a lot of different opinions and considerations that come into play when it comes to appointed positions. I respectfully ask that you consider Scott K. Teruya's appointment to Director of Finance as he has the leadership experience that includes and goes beyond the Real Property Tax office to lead your Finance team.

Sincerely,



Lisa Miura