

GET Committee

From: Troy Hashimoto <troyhashimoto@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2019 11:27 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of Scott Teruya - GET-1(5)

Dear Chair Molina and Committee Members,

I would like to express my support of Mr. Scott Teruya and urge you to confirm him to the position of Director of Finance.

I have interacted primarily as a Council staff member with Mr. Teruya in his role as the Real Property Tax Administrator from 2011 to 2018 and as an elected official from 2018 to the present.

During this time, he has always been extremely responsive, practical, and always helpful.

Many do not realize that the Real Property Tax division is the most important division in the County. It is the biggest generator of revenue for the County, and Mr. Teruya has taken this role very seriously.

As the Administrator, he introduced measures to help better our tax collection efforts, one of them, using aerial imagery called Pictometry along with assisting the Council to tighten tax laws to ensure all tax payers were paying their fair share of taxes. He also advised the Council on how additional resources and changes to practices would result in additional tax generation.

I always appreciated his creative ideas and the professional development that he and his staff went through to ensure the County of Maui was always on top of the newest ways to value properties and enforce tax laws.

I believe all these skills will be valuable in running the entire Department of Finance. The reality is that change is needed in this Department. In recent years, the Department as a whole has generally been reactive. I believe with Mr. Teruya's track record, he can share his success and change all parts of the Department to be more proactive.

As we face a potential economic downturn within the next year, prudent financial collections, investments, and tightening of payment controls are critical more than ever. Someone familiar with County operations and specifically, the Department of Finance, is needed now more than ever to ensure the County can maintain its financial stability.

I support Mr. Teruya's nomination and urge you to confirm him to the Director of Finance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,
Troy Hashimoto