

March 6, 2019

Re: *Nomination of Don Guzman for Prosecuting Attorney*

To: Councilmembers Tasha Kama, Yuki Lei Sugimura, Tamara Paltin, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Riki Hokama, Mike Molina, Alice Lee, Kelly King, Shane Sinenci

Dear Councilmembers:

The nomination of former councilmember Don Guzman for the position of Maui County's prosecuting attorney is a grave mistake.

Don Guzman has little to no actual substantive career legal experience. Guzman's position with the prosecutor's office more than two decades ago is most marked by his ineptitude as a criminal trial lawyer. Guzman later quickly failed at the private law firm Takitani, Agaran & Jorgensen because he was also an inept civil litigator. Guzman was also unsuccessful in the establishment of his own private practice for both of these reasons. Ask Guzman at his confirmation hearing whether he has ever tried a jury case. The answer will be "NO." If his answer is "YES," then ask him how many cases he has tried, and what the cases were about.

A female deputy prosecutor filed a formal violence in the workplace complaint against Don Guzman when he was at the prosecutor's office. The female complainant still works for the prosecutor's office, and has worked there for at least twenty (20) years. It is your responsibility to Maui citizens to learn about this specific complaint, and at least ask Mr. Guzman to explain the circumstances surrounding this complaint at his confirmation hearing.

Don Guzman is a hothead, immensely insecure, bullies, and tries to intimidate those he sees are not in a position to stand up to him. Guzman personalizes reasonable disagreements, and often verbally attacks those who do not agree with him. Some of you already know this, based on the belligerent and uncivil manner in which he often conducted himself as a former councilmember. Those of you who have served with him undoubtedly witnessed on more than one occasion Guzman impulsively yelling and swearing at other members and subordinates.

Giving Don Guzman the immense power and responsibility of Maui County's head prosecuting attorney will be irresponsible, and tragic for Maui's citizens. Maui deserves and needs much better than this.

Earnestly,

*Jane Doe*

Jane Doe

cc The Maui News c/o Melissa Tanji

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