

GET Committee

From: richelle.thomson@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2019 9:08 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: GET-1(2) - Support for appointment of Moana M. Lutey

Dear Chair Molina and Members of the Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Moana M. Lutey as Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui. I have served as a deputy in this department since 2011 in the Counseling and Drafting Division.

As supervisor of the Litigation Division, Moana assigns cases, manages the workloads and mentors the attorneys in the division, mediates organizational issues, and has an open-door policy - all while carrying a heavy workload of complex cases. The C&D Division mission is to provide sound legal advice to the County's departments, volunteer boards and commissions, administration, and the Council's committees. Litigation is where the rubber meets the road, in terms of managing risk and response in a timely, effective, and compassionate manner. I witness both C&D and Litigation attorneys seeking and relying on Moana's sound advice, and working together under her leadership to ensure that the department as a whole functions cohesively and exhibits professionalism and courtesy.

As Acting Corporation Counsel, Moana stepped in, and up, at a time when our department was going through a difficult period. Consistently, she brings our team together, both because she is a smart and skilled attorney and leader, and also that she never forgets that human kindness and camaraderie bring structure and meaning to our work lives. Although it may be prescribed in state law, Moana naturally embodies the aloha spirit, being the coordination of mind and heart within each person (Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 5-7.5). I echo what others have pointed out: If confirmed, she will be the first woman to be Corporation Counsel in the County of Maui. I understand that she will also be the first Hawaiian woman to hold this leadership position statewide. Moana Lutey, and Maui County, deserve this honor.

Please affirm Moana's commitment to Maui County by confirming her to the position of Corporation Counsel.

Respectfully,

Richelle M. Thomson