

**RES22-229**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 448**

HOUSING AND THE ECONOMY

## **HOUSING AND THE ECONOMY Meeting**

Meeting Date: Oct 18, 2022 @ 10:30 AM

Support: 8

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Doug Chin	Email: dchin@starnlaw.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 14, 2022 @ 05:05 PM

Name: Jon Ma	Email: jonma01@yahoo.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 17, 2022 @ 11:14 AM

Testimony:  
Aloha Members of the Committee,

My name is Jon Ma and I'm a Lt Col in the Hawaii Air National Guard and pilot with Alaska Airlines.

I write today as a private citizen in strong support of Mr. Jeffrey Hong to serve on the Honolulu Liquor Commission.

I have known Jeff for the past two decades as a friend, neighbor, and mentor. His commitment to public service both locally and nationally has been inspiring and uplifting. Whether providing opportunities within the tech community or through championing for equality and civil rights, Jeff is a proven leader in his professional field and beyond. He is a trustworthy ally with a brilliant mind and character above reproach.

I have no doubt that Jeff will be a value-added member to the Liquor Commission and will serve the City and County of Honolulu well.

Mahalo,  
Jon Ma

Name: Edward Richardson	Email: rick.richardson550@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 17, 2022 @ 07:28 PM

Name: Will Yeh	Email: will.yeh@cbrealty.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 17, 2022 @ 07:31 PM

Testimony:  
RES22-229

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. JEFFREY HONG TO SERVE ON THE LIQUOR COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Date Introduced: Sep. 20, 2022

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Council,

My name is Will Yeh. I am a realtor-associate at Coldwell Banker Realty and a former Pastor at Hawaii Ocean Church. I am in full support of Jeff Hong serving on the liquor commission. I've known Jeff for 7 years now and have seen Jeff passionately support and serve his community. His involvement with the ACLU and the local LGBTQ+ community as well as his professional accomplishments speak to his values of fairness and equality and a commitment to excellence. I am confident that Jeff understands the intricacies of how things currently work and has the kind of integrity and creative insight we need to help make things even better. Jeff Hong would be an invaluable team player to the liquor commission.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
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Ann Botticelli	annbotticelli@me.com	96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 17, 2022 @ 08:07 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Councilmembers,</p> <p>I am writing in support of Jeff Hong's appointment to the Honolulu Liquor Commission.</p> <p>I met Jeff several years ago through his contracting relationship with Hawaiian Airlines. In every interaction we had, I was impressed by his professional demeanor and calm approach to issues. As I got to know him better, I was further impressed by his engagement with and commitment to nonprofit endeavors that make our community better.</p> <p>I believe Jeff possesses both the temperament and personal integrity to serve on the Liquor Commission even handedly, with integrity and a commitment to fairness. He would be a terrific asset to this volunteer commission.</p> <p>Please act favorably on his nomination.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p> <p>Ann Botticelli</p>		
Name: Cinthia Miller	Email: thao.miller@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 17, 2022 @ 09:13 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Members of the Housing and Economy Committee, My name is Cinthia Miller. I am the founder of O&amp;A Consulting, a technology consulting firm. I am presently working with Jeff on the next generation of web systems at Hawaiian Airlines as a software architect. Jeff has a deep devotion to public service in Hawaii. I met Jeff as a student when he was teaching a Software Engineering class at the University of Hawaii. After graduation our paths would cross again when I worked with him at Microsoft. Jeff is a great mentor and has helped many young engineers through his internship programs. I am amazed that with his busy professional schedule he is constantly engaged with various issues in the community. I was a beneficiary of one of his projects to pass legislation that would limit the use of non-competes in Hawaii. Microsoft and other technology employers were heavy users of these non-competes. They are currently unenforceable in Hawaii and since the legislation has passed, Microsoft has followed Jeff's lead and removed these employment conditions for their engineering staff. I fully support Jeff for the liquor commission.</p>		
Name: Brian Hoole	Email: brianjhoole@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 17, 2022 @ 09:22 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha my name is Brian Hoole, an infrastructure engineer at Punahou Schools.</p> <p>I met Jeff through the cybersecurity internship of his company, Techmana, while completing my bachelors degree in Computer Science at UH Manoa. I appreciated his mentorship and support for fellow veterans starting a new career path. Entrusting me in his company helped open new opportunities my family and I enjoy today.</p> <p>During my time with Techmana, I worked with Jeff in rejuvenating the infrastructure of the ISC2 Hawaii Chapter. ISC2 is an international nonprofit organization of cybersecurity professionals. Not only is this organization the developer of one of the most prestigious cybersecurity certifications, the CISSP, it provides support and training in local communities. Jeff volunteered his technical and professional leadership as one of the early officers of the chapter.</p> <p>I am confident Jeff has the skills and dedication to make a positive impact on our community as a Liquor Commissioner.</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Ha'aheo Zablan	haaheo@kaimana.com	96815
Representing: Kaimana Beach Hotel	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 18, 2022 @ 09:31 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>Jeff Hong is a pillar of the LGBTQ+ community and an avid supporter of businesses through the island. He is exactly what the Liquor Commission needs to create and sustain fair and equitable practices within hybrid organization. Mahalo</p>		

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A LAW CORPORATION

October 14, 2022

The Honorable Esther Kia'aina, Chair,  
And Members of the Committee on Housing and the Economy  
Honolulu City Council  
Honolulu Hale, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813

Re: Resolution No. 22-155 Testimony in Support of Jeffrey Hong

Dear Chair Kiaaina and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully recommend Jeffrey Hong to you as an outstanding choice to consider for appointment to serve on the Liquor Commission of the City and County of Honolulu. I first met Jeff 7 years ago through his affiliation with the American Civil Liberties Union and later got to know him as a friend. In all of my interactions with Jeff, I have observed him to be insightful, compassionate, thoughtful and fair. He has the ethics, sharpness and bandwidth to serve in this important capacity, and he is the right individual to serve on the Liquor Commission during a challenging and important time as liquor establishments re-open for business and welcome back their customers.

As you get to know him, I hope and believe you will agree with my assessment. I was very happy to hear of his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive testimony. I wish you well and thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,



Doug Chin

Madam Chair Ester Kia'aina and Members of the Committee on Housing and Economy.


Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Dear Madam Chair Kia'aina and Members of the Committee on Housing and Economy,

I am submitting testimony in support of Mr. Jeffrey Hong and his selection to serve as a member of the Liquor Commission of Honolulu. Our (my wife and I) relationship with Jeff is lifelong. We are very close friends with his parents and therefore have good insight into his character and integrity. He and his siblings are not only good citizens but have thrived and are very successful in their careers.

Jeff Hong attended Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California and earned a bachelor's degree in Electronic and Computer Science. He went to work for the Microsoft Consulting Group and later established their presence in Hawaii. He was also an officer and member of the Hawaii Army National Guard and commuted between California and Hawaii by commercial airlines for five years to meet his drill attendance requirements. He paid for his airfare with his own funds – an example of commitment and integrity. During that time, he also provided the Hawaii Army Guard and State Civil Defense with key advice and expertise which greatly improved their computer systems.

Jeff Hong has since moved on to become the Chief Technology Officer for Techmana, LLC, a Hawaii based software development company. He is also a board member of American Civil Liberties of Hawaii and was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the National ACLU. He is an excellent choice to serve as a member of the Liquor Commission of Honolulu. I know him to be honest and fearless. He has been unwavering in his commitment to be an advocate for people's rights. He will do a good job for the city.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed V. Richardson".

MGen Edward V. Richardson USAF (Ret)  
Retired State Adjutant General