# RES23-159
# Testimony

**MISC. COMM. 355**

COUNCIL

**COUNCIL  Meeting**
Meeting Date: Jul 12, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
Support: 16
Oppose: 0
I wish to comment: 0

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| charles chaloeicheep | charles.chaloeicheep@wsp.com | 96813 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 7, 2023 @ 07:47 AM |

Testimony:
I support and recommend the appointment of Gene Albano to serve as the chief engineer of the department of facility maintenance.  Gene is a great engineer and leader.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Samantha Nakamura | samantha.nakamura@wsp.com | 96826 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 7, 2023 @ 08:23 AM |

Testimony:
Gene is a wonderful candidate for the position of Chief Engineer of the Dept of Facility Maintenance for Honolulu. He has proven his leadership and engineering abilities at his previous role as the Property and Buildings Business Line Leader at WSP for the Honolulu office. His desire to serve the local community in this role is commendable, and I fully support his appointment to this position.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Rev Mr Kurt Meyer | kurt.meyer@sptsu.edu | 96818 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 7, 2023 @ 08:39 AM |

Testimony:
I have known Mr Albano for over 40 years, as we grew up in the same neighborhood.  However over the last 25 years I have seen him be a dedicated and honorable father, husband, and leader of the community.

I have worked with him on several projects at our church to help the youth and also the underprivileged.  He is leader and uses his education as experience to better those around him.

Without any hesitation I recommend Mr Albano for the position.

Regards

Rev Mr Kurt Meyer

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Brennon Morioka | bmorioka@hawaii.edu | 96822 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 8, 2023 @ 09:25 PM |

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Dean Sugiyama | deansugiyama@gmail.com | 96782 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 9, 2023 @ 06:56 PM |

Testimony:
I am Dean Sugiyama, an elementary school teacher of 25 years for the Department of Education. I am also a soccer coach for AYSO, HYSA, and high school.
Initially, I met Gene Albano through one of my team moms for AYSO about eight years ago. Whenever we were short on volunteers to referee soccer games, this mom could regularly turn to Gene for help. Gene has always been there for our kids as he is so generous and giving with his time.
Through the years, I have gotten to know him more as we have increasingly crossed paths on the soccer fields during HYSA and high school games. During our interactions, he has exemplified high ethical and principled values. In addition, although he held a prestigious position as Senior Vice President at WSP USA, he always came across modest and humble.
In my opinion, it is without reservation that I support Gene Albano for the position of Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility

Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Andrew Godefroy | angod_77@yahoo.com | 96818 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 10, 2023 @ 08:30 AM |

Testimony:
Gene Albano is passionate about making Honolulu a better place for everyone and as THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU he will be able to impact so many peoples lives. In addition his experience in the field is extensive which means he will be ready for any challenge and use that experience to find the best solutions.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Bryson Leong | bryson.leong@wsp.com | 96813 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 10, 2023 @ 11:07 AM |

Testimony:
To whom it may concern,

I fully support Gene Albano to serve as the chief engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu.
During his time at WSP, Gene has been an exceptional supervisor, role model, and mentor. He is very knowledgeable and always strives to be the best as well as lift those around him to be their best.
He has provided a cohesive and synergetic atmosphere for us to grow and collaborate fully as a group.

I cannot think of a better candidate for this role.

Thank you,
Bryson

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Shane Lau | SHANEL@APBCONSTRUCTIONGROUP.COM | 96707 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 10, 2023 @ 12:32 PM |

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Richard Vasconcellos | mrsvhi@yahoo.com | 96782 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 10, 2023 @ 04:47 PM |

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Kevin Luoma | kluoma99@yahoo.com | 96817 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Jul 10, 2023 @ 05:21 PM |

Testimony:
I would like to support the nomination of Gene Albano to serve as the Chief Engineer of the department of facility maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu.

In my experience working with Gene he has been a very knowledgeable engineer in the construction industry and was able to lead a good size local engineering firm.  He would be a great asset to the City and County of Honolulu by providing his expertise in the operations and maintenance of buildings.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Dawn Szewczyk | dawn.b.szewczyk@gmail.com | 96797 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Self | Support | Jul 11, 2023 @ 12:29 AM |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name:<br>John Baraquio | Email:<br>jbaraquio@ablepestex.com | Zip:<br>96701 |
| Representing:<br>Self | Position:<br>Support | Submitted:<br>Jul 11, 2023 @ 10:48 AM |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name:<br>Christopher Blake | Email:<br>christopher.blake@wsp.com | Zip:<br>96814 |
| Representing:<br>Self | Position:<br>Support | Submitted:<br>Jul 11, 2023 @ 08:23 PM |

Testimony:
I am writing this testimony to express my unwavering support for the confirmation of Gene C. Albano, P.E., as the Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance for the City and County of Honolulu, as outlined in RES23-159.

As an engineer myself, I have had the privilege of working closely with Gene for several years, and I wholeheartedly endorse his nomination based on his exceptional professional qualifications, unparalleled dedication, and proven leadership skills.

His ability to navigate complex projects, manage diverse teams, and deliver exceptional results has made a lasting impact on our organization.

As a mentor, he has been instrumental in shaping my career and inspiring not only myself but those around me to strive for excellence.

Gene possesses a rare combination of technical expertise and interpersonal skills, which enables him to effectively communicate complex concepts and inspire those around him to reach their full potential.

Gene’s decision to transition from the private sector to public service is a testament to his selflessness and commitment to making a positive impact on the community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Gene C. Albano, P.E., as the Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance for the City and County of Honolulu. I firmly believe that Gene will contribute significantly to the advancement and betterment of the City and County of Honolulu, and I urge the Authority/Committee to support his confirmation as well.

Very Respectfully.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name:<br>Sawinna Huang | Email:<br>sawinna.huang@wsp.com | Zip:<br>96814 |
| Representing:<br>Self | Position:<br>Support | Submitted:<br>Jul 11, 2023 @ 10:17 PM |

Testimony:
I highly support Gene C. Albano, P.E., for the position of Chief Engineer at the Department of Facility Maintenance , City and County of Honolulu. Gene is an excellent communicator who has fostered strong working relationships with colleagues, subordinates, and stakeholders a various levels.

As my day 1 mentor at WSP, he has been instrumental in my professional growth. Gene possesses exceptional technical knowledge, leadership capabilities, and a genuine passion for serving the community. His transition to this role is the opportune moment to leverage his skills for meaningful change. Gene has consistently supported me throughout my 6 years at WSP, providing guidance and assistance.

I am confident that Gene C. Albano will excel as the Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance for the City and County of Honolulu and make a positive impact on the department and the community.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Name:<br>Huy Lam | Email:<br>Huy.Lam@wsp.com | Zip:<br>96814 |

| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
|---|---|---|
| Self | Support | Jul 11, 2023 @ 11:42 PM |

Testimony:
I have had the privilege of working with Gene C. Albano, P.E., during his tenure as the Hawaii P&B Business Line Leader at WSP. Throughout his time at WSP, Gene has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, collaborative nature, technical expertise, and dedication to employee benefits, making him an excellent fit for the Chief Engineer position at the Department of Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu. I have no doubt that he will prioritize the needs of the community and work tirelessly to improve the quality of life for all residents of Honolulu.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Jeoffrey Cudiamat | jeoffreycudiamat@gmail.com | 96701 |
| **Representing:** | **Position:** | **Submitted:** |
| Self | Support | Jul 12, 2023 @ 08:25 AM |

Testimony:
I support this resolution for the nomination of Gene Albano, Jr for the position of Chief Engineer and Director for the Department of Facility Maintenance. As former Director of this department, I know the responsibilities, dedication and effort to manage such a large operation. Mr. Albano, who has experience in the private section managing engineering teams and multiple projects, has the aptitude and character to oversee the workforce, resources, and budget of one of the largest and most important operations of the City that affects the quality of life for the City employees and the people of Honolulu. As a colleague who has served on several community organizations with Mr. Albano, I have seen firsthand his passion to give of himself for the greater good. DFM is a department that is under-appreciated such that if it does its job properly, no one notices their collective work for maintaining the streets streams, City buildings, street lights, and City's automotive fleet. Mr. Albano's professional experience as a consulting engineer, specifically electrical engineering, for buildings will bode well for the department. For these reasons, I support this resolution to nominate Gene Albano for DFM Director.

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I® MĀNOA

College of Engineering

**BRENNON T. MORIOKA**
**DEAN**

July 3, 2023

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair
Members of the Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Subject:** **Testimony in Support of Resolution 23-159**
**Appointment of Mr. GENE C. ALBANO to serve as**
**The Chief Engineer of the City and County of Honolulu**

Dear Chair and Councilmembers:

I would like to offer my support for Mr. Gene Albano for the position of Director of the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) and Chief Engineer of the City and County of Honolulu and ask for your favorable consideration for his nomination.

I have known Gene for more than 40 years growing up as children and through our professional careers. Gene has developed into a fine engineer as well as a leader in our industry and our community. I have always known him to be of the highest morals and has always done what was right.

I believe Gene will serve the City and its residents with the kind of energy, integrity, and transparency that we all hope for. For these reasons, Mr. Gene Albano has my full support and I again respectfully ask for your favorable consideration as well.

Sincerely Yours,

Brennon T. Morioka, PhD, PE
Dean

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APB CONSTRUCTION CORP.
LIC. ABC-36951 PH. 808-682-2085

July 7, 2023

Dear City Council,

It is my pleasure to strongly recommend Gene Albano for the position of Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance for the City and County of Honolulu.

I am Shane Lau, P.E., President of APB Construction Corp. I have 28+ years of experience in the construction industry working as an engineer, vice president, and president of an industrial general contractor in Hawaii.

I have known Gene personally and professionally over the past 35+ years. We both went to college in the mainland and are professional engineers in our respected fields.

In college, Gene's work ethic and pride in his studies to be an electrical engineer has always been the backbone of his success. I am not surprised of his success throughout the years as husband, father, engineer, and president of a company.

You will not only get an individual with strong technical aptitude, engineering background, management skills, but you will getting his strong leadership experience along with good ethics as a person.

I believe that Gene has the qualities and background which is required for this position of Chief Engineer. I highly recommend Gene Albano for the position of Chief Engineer.

Should you have any questions about Gene, feel free to reach me at (808)864-1754

Regards,
APB Construction Corp.

Shane Lau, P.E.
President

**TESTIMONY**
**For**
**GENE C. ALBANO, P.E.**
**Appointment as**
**Chief Engineer, Department of Facility Maintenance, City & County of Honolulu**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is RICHARD VASCONCELLOS. I am currently a Temporarily Assigned (TA) Trades Unit Supervisor and Heavy Bridge Construction Carpenter Supervisor for the Road Division of the Department of Facility Maintenance and have been working for the City & County of Honolulu since 1976.

I hereby support the appointment of GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., as Chief Engineer for the Department of Facility Maintenance in the City & County of Honolulu.

My relationship with Gene for the past six (6) years has been primarily soccer-related. As a Regional Emeritus Referee and former Regional Assessor, I had the pleasure of working with Gene not only on the pitch but also served as his referee mentor. Together with my wife, Lila, we are currently the State Referee Administrator (SRA) since July 2020 and served as the State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA) from 2005 to 2013.

Gene certified as a U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) Grade 8 Referee on November 10, 2017. One might have described him as a "diamond in the rough" who needed a lot of work, but he was always receptive to feedback. In fact, Gene would always note "things to work on" in his "little black book" that he kept in his referee bag.

Gene will always give you 100%, nothing less. He works hard, is very dependable and is always willing to help. More importantly, Gene carries himself in a very professional manner on or off the pitch and is very personable, easy to work with and an exceptionally good listener. But what impressed me the most was his attitude, in general, towards refereeing. For Gene, it was never about the money or glory but, instead, a way of "giving back to the soccer community" and making every effort to apply the laws of soccer "in the spirit of the game." That is why he is now regarded as one of the most respected referees in the State of Hawaii for being open-minded and always trying to make it "right" for the good of the game.

Based on my personal relationship with GENE C. ALBANO, I strongly support his appointment as Chief Engineer for the Department of Facility Maintenance in the City & County of Honolulu and look forward to working with him soon.

Sincerely,

*Richard Vasconcellos*

Richard Vasconcellos
(808) 364-5752 (cell)
mrsvhi@yahoo.com

July 6, 2023

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Subject: Nomination of Mr. Gene C. Albano, P.E. to serve as the Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu Resolution RES23-159**

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

It is with the greatest confidence that I submit my testimony in support of Mr. Gene Albano's nomination to the position of Director and Chief Engineer of the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Facility Maintenance.

I have been a practicing civil engineer for 25 years and have known Mr. Albano for over 10 years through our work within local engineering professional organizations. After serving as the Director and Chief Engineer myself, I have a keen understanding of the demands and requirements of the position and feel that Mr. Albano's technical expertise, professionalism and passion to serve others make him the right person to serve in this capacity.

Through his work in the private sector, Mr. Albano has participated in or have overseen numerous major projects that have made impactful changes throughout the world, and he has fervently expressed his desire to apply his knowledge and talents locally, toward improving our island communities for the people of O'ahu. Within the local engineering industry, Mr. Albano has established himself as a fair, trustworthy and accessible leader who embraces meeting new people and genuinely wants to be a part of improving the environments where we work, live and play. His professional experience, accomplishments and sound judgment help me to feel at ease leaving the department in his capable hands.

Mr. Albano's achievements, technical proficiency, and integrity are excellent qualifications that demonstrate his ability to serve as Director. I am grateful to Mr. Albano for being willing to take on such a great responsibility. I know that he will work hard and diligently to implement effective, impactful and lasting actions that will benefit the department, the City, and that will move O'ahu forward.

Mahalo piha for the opportunity to provide testimony. I strongly recommend Mr. Albano be confirmed as the Director and Chief Engineer, and humbly request for your favorable support of his confirmation.

Very respectfully,



Dawn B. Szewczyk, P.E.
Former Director and Chief Engineer
Department of Facility Maintenance
City and County of Honolulu

ABLE PEST
MANAGEMENT LLC
It's under control.

7.10.23
RE: Gene Albano Nomination

To Whom It May Concern:

I am John Baraquio, friend and business associate of Gene Albano, appointee of Director/Chief Engineer of building and maintenance for the C&C of Honolulu.

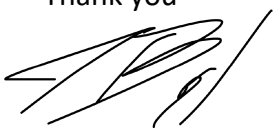
I have known Gene for years as our sons attended Maryknoll High school together. I have gotten to know him as a friend as we both served on the board of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce.

Gene also came highly recommended by colleagues in the mainland when my family wanted to build a house in the Philippines. My sister Lucy, (the licensed architect of the family) needed engineer and builder contacts in the PI and Gene's name came up as a professional with high stature and great reputation in Hawaii and in the PI. He recommended a team that successfully built the dream home for my parents.

Gene is a family man with great business savvy and insights. He is a man with many talents, a servant to the community, and a true leader. I am honored to be considered his friend.

I support his nomination for this position. He will be a great asset to our community.

Thank you



John Baraquio
Owner/Manager of Able Pest Management

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