

Resolution 24-35 Testimony



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR
MULTICULTURAL COOPERATION

March 03, 2024

Honolulu City Council
Executive Matters & Legal Affairs
530 S King St.
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813
Via email to ekiaaina@honolulu.gov

Letter of Recommendation for Cynthia E. Lynch:
Honolulu Ethics Commission

Aloha Honolulu City Council Chair Tommy Waters, Vice Chair Esther Kia'āina, Floor Leader Radiant Cordero, and City Council Members Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Andria Tupola, Matt Weyer, Calvin Say, Val Aquino Okimoto, and Augie Tulba:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Cynthia E. Lynch to become a member of the City and County of Honolulu Ethics Commission. I know Cynthia through our work with the Interfaith 'Ohana of Hawai'i. I have been a participating member since 2020. Cynthia and her husband, Thomas, were instrumental in helping to create this 'ohana, and cultivating its growth.

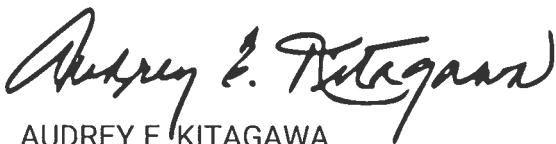
Cynthia's impressive 36-page *curriculum vitae* sets forth her wide-ranging experiences and qualifications to sit as a member of the Ethics Commission. In my interactions with Cynthia, and observations of her interactions with others, she is at all times, respectful, inclusive, patient and composed. She is meticulous about details and is a tireless worker to help with logistics, planning, and implementing the many moving parts of various initiatives.

She is supportive and encouraging of the efforts of others to maximize their success. She is generous with her time, suggestions and help. She is a broad thinker and effective networker, bringing people from different walks of life and faiths to cooperatively work together to create harmonious interactions.

Her intellectual rigor, and excellent analytical skill sets are grounded in a strong ethical and moral compass that has been an inspiration to others to keep taking the high road to experience deeper meaning and purpose in life through our individual and collective efforts to make this world a better place.

I give my full support to Cynthia Lynch, who will be an outstanding member of the Ethics Commission.

Warmest regards,



AUDREY E. KITAGAWA

President/Founder International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation

www.multiculturalcooperation.net

President, Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family

www.lightofawareness.org

Chair, Anti-Racism Initiative; Chair, Gender Equality Working Group, Member, Advisory Council of the G20 Interfaith Forum

www.g20interfaith.org/

TADIA RICE

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February 25, 2024

Honolulu City Council
Executive Matters & Legal Affairs
530 S King St.
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter of support of Agenda Item: Resolution 24-35 related to the appointment of Dr. Cynthia Lynch to the Ethics Commission

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kia'aina, Floor Leader Radiant Cordero, and Members Dos Santos-Tam, Andria Tupola, Matt Weyer, Calvin Say, Val Aquino Okimoto, and Augie Tulba:

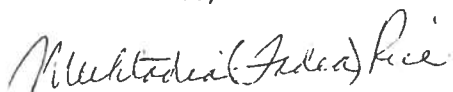
As the Vice-Chair for the Ethics Commission for the City and County of Honolulu, it is my honor to recommend Dr. Cynthia Lynch for consideration as a member of this esteemed body.

I have been privileged to work with Dr. Lynch in her capacity at Hawai'i Pacific University where she serves as Associate Professor in the College of Professional Studies. We have participated in the Interfaith Ohana of Hawai'i where I have witnessed her organizational skills and leadership capabilities. I am continuously impressed by her knowledge of public administration and behavioral science. As a peer reviewer and prolific academic author, Dr. Lynch is an expert in ethics and integrity in governance. Her understanding of moral principles is strongly reflected in the research and a publication on virtue ethics she edited for more than a decade, Global Virtue Ethics Review.

Dr. Lynch has demonstrated extraordinary service to professional, community, and ecumenical organizations where she consistently models her capacity for upright conduct and authenticity. As a servant leader, Dr. Lynch reflects great character, devotion to truth, and commitment to equality – all with impeccable integrity.

I welcome such a distinguished individual such as Dr. Lynch to the Commission. Undoubtedly, she will be an asset due to her exceptional qualifications. I fully support the appointment of Dr. Cynthia Lynch to the Ethics Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

Mahalo nui loa,





COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Department of Public Service

March 12, 2024

Honolulu City Council
Executive Matters & Legal Affairs
530 S King St.
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Recommending Cynthia Lynch for Appointment as Commissioner on the
City and County of Honolulu Ethics Commission

Aloha Honolulu City Council Chair Tommy Waters, Vice Chair Esther Kia'aina, Floor Leader
Radiant Cordero, and City Council Members Dos Santos-Tam, Andria Tupola, Matt Weyer,
Calvin Say, Val Aquino Okimoto, and Augie Tulba:

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Cynthia Lynch for the position of Commissioner on the City and County of Honolulu Ethics Commission. As a highly respected educator in the field of public administration and a published advocate for ethical public administration, Cynthia possesses the qualifications, experience, and dedication necessary to serve with integrity and to enrich the community. I can think of no one more appropriate to fill this critical role as we face a crisis of faith in our governmental institutions in part due to the corruption that has been found to exist within them.

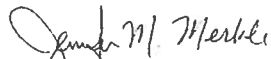
Cynthia's dedication to ethical practices in public administration for more than three decades, combined with a sharp analytical mind, and a compassionate approach to problem-solving, makes her an ideal candidate for this honorable position. Throughout her career, Cynthia has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of ethical principles and a commitment to upholding them. Her work in public administration and non-profit management has not only shown her ability to navigate complex ethical dilemmas but also her willingness to take a stand for what is right, even when faced with opposition.

Moreover, Cynthia's collaborative spirit and ability to engage with diverse perspectives would be invaluable assets to the Commission. She has a proven track record of fostering dialogue and building consensus among stakeholders with varying viewpoints, which is crucial in the nuanced field of ethics. I have known Cynthia for over a decade, but only in the last three years have we had the opportunity to work closely together. As I transitioned from a federal law enforcement officer to a full-time instructor, Cynthia took me under her wing and guided me. We have worked closely to find meaningful ways to enrich the communities in which we live and work. In that vein, Cynthia encouraged and contributed to a Roundtable looking into the state of Chinatown and mentored me in presenting a paper about the educational strategies employed to enlist students in civic engagement.

For over 30 years, Cynthia has published about ethics in public administration, trained future public administrators, and most importantly modeled the very behaviors she teaches. She has been an invaluable mentor for those around her in offering guidance and support on how to make tough ethical decisions. I believe that Cynthia's expertise, integrity, and dedication to ethical excellence will greatly contribute to the mission of the Ethics Commission. I wholeheartedly recommend her for this role and am confident she will serve with distinction.

Please feel free to contact me at JMerkle@hpu.edu or 808-777-8162, if you require any additional information or would like to discuss Cynthia's qualifications in further detail. Thank you for considering my recommendation, and I trust that you will make the best decision for our community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer M. Merkle".

Jennifer M. Merkle
Assistant Professor

February 27, 2024

Honolulu City Council
Executive Matters & Legal Affairs
530 S King St.
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Honolulu City Council Chair Tommy Waters, Vice Chair Esther Kia'aina, Floor Leader Radiant Cordero, and City Council Members Dos Santos-Tam, Andria Tupola, Matt Weyer, Calvin Say, Val Aquino Okimoto, and Augie Tulba:

I am submitting this testimony in favor of the appointment of Reverend Dr. Cynthia Lynch to the Honolulu Ethics Commission.

As a retired US government civil servant, I have actively worked for the past six years with Reverend Dr. Cynthia Lynch and her husband Reverend Dr. Thomas Lynch, in developing, promoting, and expanding the annual UN World Interfaith Harmony Week/Month commemorations held every February in Hawai'i. Cynthia's vision since arriving in Honolulu seven years ago has been to work together to bring harmony among our many faith traditions in Hawai'i, building trusting and productive relationships that allows for sharing knowledge and building and growing Hawai'i's diversity.

I worked with Reverend Dr. Cynthia Lynch and members of the Interfaith 'Ohana of Hawai'i that brought the 20 foot 'Āina Aloha doubled-sided Hawaiian mural which was displayed at the 2023 Parliament of the World's Religions, held in Chicago, Illinois, August 14-18, 2024, in front of more than 8,000 people from around the world. The Parliament began six days after the devastating fires occurred on Māui island, and the mural's visual display of Hawai'i culture helped attendees to connect with the pain and shock from what the people of Hawai'i were experiencing. It was my pleasure to serve as a docent for the 'Āina Aloha mural, and helping to fulfill Dr. Cynthia Lynch's vision of having an indigenous Pacific Island religious and cultural representation at the 2023 Parliament.

I most recently worked with Reverend Dr. Cynthia Lynch as one of the organizers of the 1st Interfaith Harmony Retreat, held earlier this month in Princeville, Kaua'i, where nearly 40 people from 12 different faith traditions gathered February 5-8, 2024, to come together to learn how people of different faith traditions can work together to better understand how interfaith

collaboration can transform ourselves and our communities. It was hugely successful.

I can say without a doubt, that Reverend Dr, Cynthia Lynch, being an academician involved with professional development and ethics, and an interfaith leader involved with bringing harmony and understanding among different faith traditions, that she has the knowledge, vast experience, and passion to assist the Honolulu Ethics Commission carry out its responsibilities to educate and advise Honolulu City & County employees and officers to embrace professional and ethical conduct.

Warmest regards,

Edward H. Young, Jr.
Edward H. Young, Jr. & Associates LLC
(808) 223-6343