RES26-102
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 197

*ZONING & PLANNING (ZON)

***ZONING & PLANNING (ZON) Meeting**

Meeting Date: May 21, 2026 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 17

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Rick Tsujimura	kozagawa@msn.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 16, 2026 @ 01:16 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sidney Hamada	s808373@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 17, 2026 @ 01:49 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Richard Oshiro	oshirorh@hawaii.rr.com	96797
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 17, 2026 @ 06:18 PM

Testimony:

My name is Richard Oshiro and I am writing in support of the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura (Resolution 26-102) to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I have known Ryan since his days working at the State Legislature. He is a dedicated public servant, and I am sure he will continue to do an outstanding job on the Zoning Board.

I urge your favorable consideration of this appointment. Thank you.

Richard Oshiro

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jason Ito	jason.ito@kyo-yaco.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 18, 2026 @ 10:49 AM

Testimony:

May 18,2026

Jason Y. Ito
2026 Bachelot Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning & Planning

Honolulu Hale

530 South King Street #202

Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Resolution 26-102; Confirming the Reppointment of Ryan Toyomura to Serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals - (IN SUPPORT)

Aloha Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I have known Ryan for at least 17 years and have a deep respect for his respectfulness, honesty, and warm-hearted nature. Ryan behaves with the utmost credibility and personal integrity. You will find his demeanor patient and thorough. I trust that Ryan will use that same approach, as well as his experience as the Zoning Board of Appeals Chair, and his background as a practicing attorney to provide the necessary skills and experience as a contributing member of this committee.

I respectfully request the passing of Resolution 24-209 confirming the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mahalo!

Respectfully,

Jason Y. Ito

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Terrence Aratani	Taratani22@hotmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 18, 2026 @ 11:16 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Benjamin Kudo	bkudo@awlaw.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 19, 2026 @ 09:22 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tiffany Yajima	tyajima@awlaw.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 19, 2026 @ 09:28 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Bruce Coppa	brucopp@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 20, 2026 @ 08:57 AM

Testimony:

My name is Bruce Coppa, and I am writing to express my strong support for the reappointment of Ryan M. Toyomura to the City and County of Honolulu Zoning Board of Appeals.

I have known Ryan for a considerable period and have always been impressed by his professionalism, thorough understanding of land use law, and dedication to public service. His service on the Zoning Board of Appeals has been marked by a commitment to fairness and a balanced perspective, ensuring that decisions are well-reasoned and grounded in the relevant ordinances.

Ryan possesses the necessary temperament and legal acumen to effectively evaluate the complex issues that come before the board. His continued participation is a significant asset to the City and County of Honolulu, and he is highly deserving of this reappointment.

I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm his reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Bruce Coppa

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sam Kim	skim@hrcc-hawaii.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Support	May 20, 2026 @ 09:23 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lance Inouye	lance@rsinouye.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 20, 2026 @ 10:31 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Gordon Arakaki	gordonarakaki@hawaiiantel.net	96797
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 20, 2026 @ 10:59 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Myoung Oh	moh@wik.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 20, 2026 @ 11:02 AM

Testimony:

Honolulu City Council

Committee on Zoning & Planning

Honolulu Hale

530 South King Street #202

Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Resolution 26-102; Confirming the Reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to Serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals - (IN SUPPORT)

Dear Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of Resolution 24-209, which reappoints Ryan M. Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Toyomura brings a valuable combination of legal training, government experience, and practical understanding of zoning and land-use matters. His thoughtful approach, professionalism, and commitment to public service have contributed to a balanced and effective Board.

His continued service will help ensure that appeals are reviewed with fairness, clarity, and respect for both statutory requirements and community impacts. I respectfully urge the Council to confirm his reappointment.

I request your favorable consideration.

Mahalo, Myoung

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mihoko Ito	mito@awlaw.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 20, 2026 @ 12:44 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Hawaii LECET	info@hawaiilecet.org	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaii LECET	Support	May 20, 2026 @ 03:11 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Ryan Toyomura	rtoyomura@awlaw.com	96813
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 20, 2026 @ 10:28 PM
Testimony: .		

Name: Koo Baker	Email: koo.baker@yahoo.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 21, 2026 @ 12:25 AM

Testimony:

May 21, 2026

Koo Baker
1755 Waiola Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning & Planning
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street #202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Resolution 26-102; Confirming the Reappointment of Ryan M. Toyomura to Serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals – (IN SUPPORT)

Dear Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Koo Baker. I am writing in SUPPORT of Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Ryan M. Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Honor is a word that I live by and Ryan is the most honorable person that I met while I attended the Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, I learned to live by the Cadet Honor Code of "A Cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do." I internalized the same Cadet Honor Code throughout my 21 years of active duty service in the U.S. Army. I never tolerated who was not honorable. I believe that the service to the nation – at any level from the local neighborhood level up to the national level – is the highest calling for a citizen. Honor eliminates the dangers of corruption, scandals, and other hazards in public service. In that spirit, I certainly know that Ryan's public service to the City and County of Honolulu as a member of the Zoning Board

of Appeals was honorable and will continue to be honorable.

Ryan's background as a practicing attorney and previous work in government will provide the necessary skills and experience to serve as an effective member of the Zoning Board of Appeals where he currently serves as its Chair.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Committee to pass Resolution 26-102 and to confirm the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Sincerely,
Koo Baker
Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army Retired)

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Koo Baker	koo.baker@yahoo.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 21, 2026 @ 12:38 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Henderson Huihui	hkhuihui@hawaii.edu	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	May 21, 2026 @ 09:52 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,
I am writing in SUPPORT of Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Ryan's background as a practicing attorney and previous work in government will provide the necessary skills and experience to serve as an effective member of the Zoning Board of Appeals where he currently serves as it Chair.
Therefore, I respectfully request the Committee to pass Resolution 26-102 and to confirm the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
Me ka ha'aha'a,
Henderson Huihui

Rick Tsujimura
190 Niuiki Circle, Honolulu, HI 96821

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning & Planning
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street #202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Resolution 26-102; Confirming the Reppointment of Ryan Toyomura to

Serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals - (IN SUPPORT)

Dear Chair Kiaāina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rick Tsujimura, nd I am m writing in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals [ZBA]

Ryan's background as a practicing attorney and previous work in government will provide the necessary skills and experience to serve as an effective member of the Zoning Board of Appeals where he currently serves as its Chair. I have served as chair of the ZBA and can vouch for Ryan's ability to serve in that capacity. I strongly support his nomination.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Committee to pass Resolution 26-102 and to confirm the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Sincerely,

Rick Tsujimura:

FLORA-DEC

Wholesale Specialist to the Florist, Craft and Decorative Trade
760 Halekauwila Street, Suite #101, Honolulu, HI 96813
P. O. Box 52, Honolulu, HI 96810-0052

Phone: (808) 537-6194
Fax: (808) 528-1854

May 17, 2026

Sidney Hamada
President
760 Halekauwila Street, Suite #101
Honolulu, HI 96813

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning & Planning
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street #202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Resolution 26-102; Confirming the Reppointment of Ryan Toyomura to Serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals - (IN SUPPORT)

Dear Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sidney Hamada, and I am the president of Flora-Dec Sales, Inc. I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ryan's background as a practicing attorney and previous work in government will provide the necessary skills and experience to serve as an effective member of the Zoning Board of Appeals where he currently serves as it Chair.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Committee to pass Resolution 26-102 and to confirm the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Sincerely,

S Hamada

Name: Sidney Hamada

May 18, 2026

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning & Planning
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street #202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Resolution 26-102; Confirming the Reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to Serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals - (IN SUPPORT)

Dear Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Terrence Aratani, and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I have known Ryan for approximately 12 years, dating back to our time working at the Hawai'i State Legislature. During that time, I worked with Ryan on various legislative matters and always appreciated his thoughtful input and sound judgment on complex issues. I hold him in high regard for his intelligence, professionalism, and dedication to public service.

Ryan's background as a practicing attorney, combined with his previous government experience, provides him with the skills, knowledge, and perspective necessary to effectively serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. His current service as Chair further demonstrates his capability and commitment in this important role.

I respectfully request that the Council pass Resolution 26-102 and confirm the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Sincerely,

Terrence H. Aratani
223 Hao Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

ASHFORD + WRISTON
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

BENJAMIN A. KUDO
Telephone: (808) 539-0400
Fax: (808) 533-4945
bkudo@awlaw.com

May 19, 2026

To: Honolulu City Council
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street, #202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: Benjamin A. Kudo
Ashford & Wriston
999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: **Resolution 26-102; Confirming the Reappointment of Ryan M. Toyomura to Serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals – IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and the support of your Committee members on the reappointment of Mr. Ryan Toyomura to the City and County of Honolulu Zoning Board of Appeals.

I have known Mr. Toyomura for over (3) years. He is a partner at Ashford & Wriston and has done many assignments for me. I have supervised his work and can affirm that he has demonstrated intelligence and competence on matters he has worked on. This is especially true for assignments he has performed in the areas of land use, planning and zoning, environmental law and administrative law. His past engagement in civic and political areas has added a positive dimension to his perspective and competence.

In my opinion, Mr. Toyomura is a person of high integrity, compassion and intelligence and has the capability to meet the challenges of this position. Mr. Toyomura will faithfully carry out his responsibilities as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. I urge you to reappoint him.

Based on the foregoing, I strongly recommend with no reservation your favorable consideration of Mr. Ryan Toyomura for the aforementioned position. He is a person who will prove to be worthy of your support and the public trust.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully urge your Committee's support to confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON

Benjamin A. Kudo

BAK:st

DATE: May 19, 2026

TO: Honorable Esther Kiaʻāina, Chair
Committee on Zoning & Planning
Honolulu City Council

FROM: Tiffany Yajima

RE: **Resolution 26-102; Reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals**

Hearing Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Dear Chair Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee on Zoning & Planning:

I write in support of Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Mr. Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I have worked alongside Ryan for many years and can attest to his legal expertise, measured judgment, and professionalism. His law practice in land use, government affairs, and litigation has exposed him to the many types of issues that come before the Zoning Board of Appeals. In addition, he approaches each question with integrity and a genuine commitment to fairness. These characteristics will continue to serve him well on the Board.

For these reasons, I respectfully request the Committee to pass Resolution 26-102 for the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support.

HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

May 21, 2026

TO: The Honorable Esther Kiaʻāina, Chair
The Honorable Tommy Waters, Vice Chair
Members of the Honolulu City Council Zoning & Planning Committee

RE: CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF RYAN TOYOMURA TO SERVE ON THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU (RES 26-102)

Aloha Chair Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters (HRCC), representing over 6,000 union carpenters and skilled tradespeople across the islands, submits this testimony in support of the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ryan Toyomura's background as a practicing attorney in land use, zoning, environmental law, and administrative law gives him the legal grounding to navigate the complex, often technical matters that come before the Board. Beyond the credentials, those who have worked alongside him consistently speak to his integrity, measured judgment, and genuine commitment to fairness. These are not small things. They are the foundation of public trust in a body like the Zoning Board of Appeals.

That trust is further reflected in the fact that Mr. Toyomura currently serves as Chair of the Board. His colleagues chose him for that role, and his continued service in it speaks to the quality of his leadership and the respect he has earned through his work.

For these reasons, the HRCC kindly requests this Committee to confirm the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura. Honolulu's construction and development community is well served by his presence on this Board, and we look forward to his continued contributions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

STATE HEADQUARTERS & BUSINESS OFFICES
OAHU: 1311 Houghtailing Street, Honolulu Hawaii 96817-2712 • Ph. (808) 847-5761 Fax (808) 440-9188
HILO OFFICE: 525 Kilauea Avenue, Room 205, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3050 • Ph. (808) 935-8575 Fax (808) 935-8576
KONA OFFICE: 75-126 Lunapule Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740-2106 • Ph. (808) 329-7355 Fax (808) 326-9376
MAUI OFFICE: 330 Hookahi Street, Wailuku, Maui 96793-1449 • Ph. (808) 242-6891 Fax (808) 242-5961
KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg., 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911

RALPH S. INOUYE CO LTD
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F: 808.833.5971
License No. ABC-457
Founded in 1962

May 20, 2026

To: The Honorable Chair Esther Ka'aina, Vice Chair Tommy Waters and Members of the Committee on Zoning & Planning

Subject: Resolution 26-102: **Strong Support** of Confirming the Reappointment of **RYAN M TOYOMURA** to the Zoning Board of Appeals of the City and County of Honolulu

HEARING

DATE: MAY 21, 2026
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

The Honorable Chair Esther Ka'aina, Vice Chair Tommy Waters and Members of the Committee on Zoning & Planning,

My name is Lance M Inouye, CHB of Ralph S. Inouye Co., Ltd. (RSI), a local general contractor. I am writing in **strong support** of the reappointment of **Ryan M Toyomura**, to the Zoning Board of Appeals of the City and Council of Honolulu. **Ryan**'s credentials as a practicing attorney and previous government work along with other testimony before the Committee on Zoning & Planning already speaks loudly and well of his qualifications for reappointment. I think it's best for me to continue to speak of his character as a person.

Ryan is the go-to person for advice on maneuvering through government laws, rules and regulations if there is a problem that needs to be solved. In spite of the demands on this time, he always takes the time to help individuals such as me through the process. And that's not all. He has used his skills in helping industry associations such as the GCA and others through the governmental affairs process in our City and State so willingly. Don't let his youthfulness fool you. He has spent a lot of his years serving in the public sector with distinction. What is refreshing to me is that he always approaches any task with the overall good of our City and State in mind. The City and County of Honolulu and indeed the State of Hawaii will be the beneficiary of **Ryan**'s experience and collaborative skills as well as his legal training as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Hence RSI and I personally **strongly support** the reappointment of **Ryan M Toyomura** to the Zoning Board of Appeals of the City and Council of Honolulu and urge continuing his service on the Board. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion of **Ryan**.

GORDON M. ARAKAKI
Attorney at Law, LLLC
94-1176 Polinahe Place
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
Cell: (808) 542-1542
E-mail: gordonarakaki@hawaiantel.net

May 20, 2026

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street #202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Resolution 26-102; Testimony in SUPPORT of the Reappointment of **Ryan M. Toyomura** to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Dear Chair Kia‘āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Committee-Members:

I **strongly and whole-heartedly SUPPORT** Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Ryan M. Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Over the past 20 years, I have gotten to know Ryan both professionally and personally, particularly though his work at the Honolulu City Council and Hawaii State Legislature, working together on political campaigns, and socializing. I have also followed Ryan’s career as an attorney—from his judicial clerkships to his current position at Ashford & Wriston. We’ve talked in depth about many matters before the Honolulu City Council and the Legislature (e.g., the budget, public safety, housing, social issues, condominium law, and much more), legislative processes, and personnel issues. With his years of service at the City Council and Legislature, coupled with his judicial clerkships and private practice work, Ryan brings a depth and breadth of experience that will continue to provide valuable context and perspective for his public service on the Zoning Board of Appeals, where he currently serves as its Chair.

In my career, I have worked as an attorney in both private and public practice, served on the staff of two members of the Honolulu City Council (Randy Iwase and Audrey Hidano), served as the Chief of Staff/Committee Clerk of the Hawaii State Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and been one of the primary architects/drafters of Hawaii’s condominium law (among other things). Given that, there is no doubt in my mind that Ryan Toyomura will continue to be an excellent member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. I respectfully urge you to confirm his reappointment to that position.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly by phone at (808) 542-1542 or by e-mail at gordonarakaki@hawaiiantel.net.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gordon M. Arakaki

GMA:ga

SanHi
GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: May 20, 2026

TO: Honorable Esther Kiaʻāina, Chair
Committee on Zoning & Planning
Honolulu City Council

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **Resolution 26-102; Reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals**
Hearing Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Dear Chair Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee on Zoning & Planning:

I write in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Mr. Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I have known Ryan from his early years as a senior legislative advisor in a Hawaii State Senate office. I have observed Ryan's career as he went to law school, clerked for the state courts and then joined Ashford & Wriston. As a partner at Ashford & Wriston, Ryan is engaged in a wide variety of legal work including litigation, appeals, land use, real property, corporate law, and energy infrastructure financing, and also works with our government affairs team.

Ryan has worked on a wide variety of subject matters from legislation to litigation to transactional work, which has provided him with a broad legal and life perspective. In the government affairs area, I work directly with Ryan and can attest that he contributes thoughtful, practical ideas and strategies for clients to help them accomplish their desired outcomes.

Ryan has served as an effective member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and his legal skills, balanced temperament and can-do attitude will continue to be an incredible asset to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

For these reasons, I strongly support Ryan's nomination and respectfully request that the Committee pass Resolution 26-102 for the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

First Hawaiian Center
999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813
T 808-539-0400
F 808-533-4945

HAWAII LABORERS-EMPLOYERS COOPERATION AND EDUCATION TRUST
650 Iwilei Road, Suite 285 · Honolulu, HI 96817 · Phone: 808-845-3238 · Fax: 808-845-8300

May 20, 2026

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Committee on Zoning and Planning
City Council Chamber
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
DATE: Thursday, May 21, 2026
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON RESOLUTION 26-102; REAPPOINTMENT OF RYAN TOYOMURA TO SERVE ON THE ZONING BOAD OF APPEALS

To Committee Chair Kia`aina, Vice Chair Waters and members of the Honolulu City Council Committee on Zoning and Planning:

Hawaii LECET is a labor-management partnership between the Hawaii Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368, its' 5000+ members and its' 250+ unionized contractors. The Laborers' International Union of North America is the largest international construction trade union in the United States and Canada.

Hawaii LECET strongly supports Resolution 26-102, Reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. As the current Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Mr. Toyomura has demonstrated his legal expertise, balanced judgement and understanding of complex land use ordinances, throughout his time on the ZBA.

Currently, Mr. Toyomura is a practicing partner at Ashford & Wriston, LLP, where he specializes in land use and real property disputes and appeals. His legal experience equips him with a deep understanding of Honolulu's technical zoning ordinances. As a member of the ZBA, Mr. Toyomura has demonstrated his ability to interpret county codes fairly, objectively and without bias. His recognition on legal platforms such as Super Lawyers Rising Stars 2025, and The Best Lawyers of America "Ones to Watch", shows his highly respected standing among his professional peers.

Mr. Toyomura's involvement with the Hawaii State Judiciary's Courts in the Community Program, as well as a number of community organizations, speaks to his commitment to public service. Hawaii LECET strongly supports Mr. Ryan Toyomura's reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Thank you for your consideration.

Hawaii Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust

May 21, 2026

Koo Baker
1755 Waiola Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning & Planning
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street #202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Resolution 26-102; Confirming the Reappointment of Ryan M. Toyomura to Serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals – (IN SUPPORT)

Dear Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Koo Baker. I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Resolution 26-102 and the reappointment of Ryan M. Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Honor is a word that I live by and Ryan is the most honorable person that I met while I attended the Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, I learned to live by the Cadet Honor Code of "A Cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do." I internalized the same Cadet Honor Code throughout my 21 years of active duty service in the U.S. Army. I never tolerated who was not honorable. I believe that the service to the nation – at any level from the local neighborhood level up to the national level – is the highest calling for a citizen. Honor eliminates the dangers of corruption, scandals, and other hazards in public service. In that spirit, I certainly know that Ryan's public service to the City and County of Honolulu as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals was honorable and will continue to be honorable.

Ryan's background as a practicing attorney and previous work in government will provide the necessary skills and experience to serve as an effective member of the Zoning Board of Appeals where he currently serves as its Chair.

Therefore, I respectfully request the Committee to pass Resolution 26-102 and to confirm the reappointment of Ryan Toyomura to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Sincerely,

Koo Baker
Lieutenant Colonel (U.S. Army Retired)