

Aloha Incoming Council Members,

November 13, 2018

Congratulations on your recent election victories. As you prepare for your impending inauguration, there are no doubt many considerations, not the least of which, who will be the new County Council Chair. As a member of the Kauai community, I ask that you accept the following offered with a genuine interest in achieving what is best for Kauai and our community.

There are many who believe that the candidate with the greatest number of votes is automatically elected as Chair of the Council. I appreciate that that is not the case. In attending County Council meetings this past year, it was evident to me that of all the members on the Council, Mason Chock consistently addressed issues from an unbiased perspective trying always to achieve compromise where possible and working for the greater good of Kauai. The next highest vote getter, Arryl Kaneshiro, on more than one occasion openly spoke on behalf of Grove Farm while acting in his capacity as a Council member. A recent example of that can be viewed on the following link:

[http://kauai.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=2029](http://kauai.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=2029) (1:24:00 mark).

The Kauai Charter prohibits a Council member from acting on behalf of someone they represent.

Sec. 3-1.7 Conflicts of Interest.

(A) No employee shall take any official action directly affecting:

- (1) A business or other undertaking in which he or she has a substantial financial interest; or
- (2) A private undertaking in which he or she is engaged as legal counsel, advisor, consultant, representative, or other agency capacity.

If elected to Chair the Council, Mr. Kaneshiro will have great difficulty avoiding conflicts of interest because of so many island wide Grove Farm projects. Those projects include public/private partnerships involving a surface water treatment plant, Grove Farm maintained waterways which transports surface water to their treatment plant, numerous acres of ag land and housing developments which include a large Lihue master development plan. Grove Farm owns and/or controls more than 35,000 acres on Kauai. Mr. Kaneshiro is the project manager for Grove Farm. He is the only Grove Farm representative listed online as Grove Farm's contact person:

"Anyone with questions regarding commercial leasing opportunities in Puhi Industrial Park and/or Hanamaulu Shops should contact Arryl Kaneshiro for additional information at (808) 245-3678, ext. 2532." <https://www.grovefarm.com/leases>

"Entities interested in leasing land from Grove Farm for the purpose of actively farming are encouraged to fill out a leasing inquiry form and to contact Arryl Kaneshiro for additional information at (808) 245-3678, ext. 2532." <https://www.grovefarm.com/leases>

In addition to Grove Farm's website, within a week of the election, our local paper described Mr. Kaneshiro as Grove Farm's project manager which is significant.

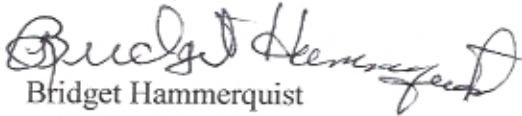
"Kaneshiro, who grew up in Koloa and resides in Lihue, is employed as a project manager at Grove Farm." <http://www.thegardenisland.com/2018/11/01/hawaii-news/county-council-candidate-arryl-kaneshiro/>

If elected Chair, Mr. Kaneshiro would control the agenda, including and/or omitting items as he alone deems appropriate. He would also control the rules that the Council will follow.

The County Council of Kauai should be governed by a Chair that is not also a key representative and project manager for one of the islands largest land owners with land development, water, power and sewer operations dependent on decisions of the County Council.

Avoiding this conflict will promote public trust in government.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bridget Hammerquist". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Bridget Hammerquist  
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