

October 18, 2021

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair	(repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov)
The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair	(repichiyama@capitol.hawaii.gov)
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Member	(rephashem@capitol.hawaii.gov)
The Honorable Dale T. Kobayashi, Member	(repdkobayashi@capitol.hawaii.gov)
The Honorable Val Okimoto, Member	(repokimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov)
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Member	(repperruso@capitol.hawaii.gov)
The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Member	(reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov)
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Member	(repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov)

House Investigative Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: October 15, 2021 Letter Inviting Submission of Proposed Questions for Witnesses Appearing in House Investigative Committee Hearings on 10/20/2021 and 10/21/2021

Dear Members:

We acknowledge receipt of the letter from Chair Belatti, which was emailed to me and the office's General Counsel at 6:33 p.m. on Friday, October 15, 2021. The letter invites us to submit proposed questions for witnesses who are scheduled to testify before the House Investigative Committee (Mr. Ronald Shiigi, Chair Suzanne Case, Mr. Keith Chun, Mr. James Nakatani, and Ms. Myra Kaichi) forty-eight hours in advance of their scheduled appearance. The proposed questions for Mr. Shiigi and Chair Case were due on Monday, October 18, at 9:30 a.m.

It is unclear the reason for your invitation to submit proposed questions; specifically, whether on behalf of the Committee, you are requesting our assistance to develop questions to assist the Committee's assessment of actions taken or planned by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to address the respective audit findings or if you are simply reiterating the Committee's rules concerning the submission of proposed questions to be asked of witnesses.

As I have stated, we are confident about the audit findings reported in Report No. 19-12 and Report No. 21-01. We did good work, and our quality control review process provides us with reasonable assurance that the findings are supported by sufficient and appropriate audit evidence. We are not currently performing additional audit work with respect to either DLNR or ADC, and we do not have any enforcement powers to compel either DLNR or ADC to address the significant issues that we reported.

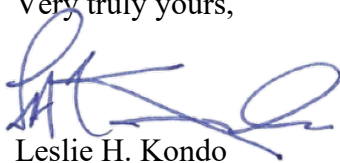
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During my public testimony before the Committee, I have described our audit process, including the risk assessment that we used to develop audit objectives, discussed the findings from both audits, and answered the members' questions about those findings. However, if my testimony has been unclear, I can discuss and explain the audit findings again with the Committee which may allow members to determine where they may need additional clarification from these agencies or have further questions for them. I invite the Committee or individual members to contact me if I can be of assistance in the Committee's follow up on the audits of DLNR and ADC.

Very truly yours,



Leslie H. Kondo
State Auditor