Law Office of CLAYTON C. IKE

May 30, 2006



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## VIA U.S. MAIL & FACSIMILE: (521-7245)

Clayton C. Ikei, Esq. Pacific Guardian Tower 1440 Kapi'olani Blvd., Suite 1203 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: King C. Lum's October 15, 2004 Employment Agreement with the Kaua'i Police Department

Dear Mr. Ikei:

This is to inform you of Director of Finance Michael H. Tresler's decision to cancel King C. Lum's ("Lum") October 15, 2004 Employment Agreement ("Employment Agreement") with the Kaua'i Police Department pursuant to Sections 3-1.11(a) and (b) of the Kaua'i County Code. Director Tresler bases his decision to cancel Lum's Employment Agreement on the Honorable E. John McConnell's (Ret.) Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law ("Findings of Fact") dated February 23, 2006 in Case 04-001, Judge McConnell's Hearing Officer's Report dated February 23, and the Kaua'i County Council's acceptance and ratification of the recommendation of the County of Kaua'i Board of Ethics for cancellation of Lum's Employment Agreement.

Director Tresler notes that Judge McConnell found that Michael Ching ("Ching") used his position as Police Commissioner to secure an unwarranted advantage and treatment for Lum over the other candidates in following manner:

- In meeting with the SHOPO Chapter Chair and requesting SHOPO's endorsement of Lum for Chief of Police and by misrepresenting his (Ching's) actions to the other Police Commissioners, Ching used his position to secure an unwarranted advantage and treatment for Lum over the other candidates for Chief of Police. In so doing, Ching violated the Kaua'i County Code of Ethics under the Kaua'i County Charter, Article XX, Section 20.02E and the Kaua'i County Code, Chapter 3, Article I, Sec. 3-1.6.
- Ching nominated and voted for Lum for Interim Chief who was then a current applicant for the Chief of Police position, thereby conferring an unfair advantage to Lum

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to the detriment of the other candidates for Chief of Police. The advantages conferred to Lum, but not to the other candidates, included gaining administrative experience and visibility. Thus, in nominating, advocating for and voting for Lum as Interim Chief, Ching used his official position for the benefit of Lum and thereby violated the Kauai County Code of Ethics under the Kaua'i County Charter, Article XX, Section 20.02E and the Kaua'i County Code, Chapter 3, Article I. Sec. 3-1.6.

• In the Hearing Officer's Report, Judge McConnell determined that Ching's conduct in actively soliciting support from SHOPO for Lum was concealed from one or more of his co-commissioners. Thus, Judge McConnell determined that the openness and transparency of the selection process was compromised.

It is clear to Director Tresler that Judge McConnell concluded that the selection of Lum as Chief of Police was the result of a tainted and/or compromised selection process. As such, Lum's Employment Agreement is voidable under Sections 3-1.11(a) and (b) of the Kaua'i County Code.

In arriving at his decision to cancel Lum's Employment Agreement, Director Tresler has fully considered Lum's interests and acknowledges that there was no finding of misconduct on the part of Lum by Judge McConnell. Director Tresler also notes that the cancellation of Lum's Employment Agreement was not in any way based on Lum's performance of his duties and responsibilities as Chief of Police for the Kaua'i Police Department. That said, Director Tresler must also consider the County of Kaua'i's ("County") interest in maintaining a fair, open and transparent process for the selection of a key County official such as the Chief of Police. In considering the overall picture, Director Tresler has an obligation to the County to see to it that the integrity of the selection process for the Chief of Police is maintained and observed. Since Lum's selection was the result of a tainted and/or compromised process, and thus is in direct contravention of the County's interest in maintaining the integrity of the selection process, Director Tresler has decided to cancel Lum's employment agreement.

Director Tresler will refer his decision to cancel Lum's Employment Agreement to the Kaua'i County Police Commission ("Commission") so that the Commission can initiate the selection process again for the Chief of Police position.

Very truly yours,

WATANABE ING & KOMEIJI LLP

JOHN T. KOMEIJI

cc: Director Michael Tresler Mr. Gary Heu