

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**GM 544, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM
OPERATORS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE ROBERT S. SPETICH FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

April 4, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination of
2 Mr. Robert S. Spetich to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** Mr. Spetich is currently general manager of the West Hawaii Water
5 Company where he has nine years experience in the management of water and wastewater facilities.
6 Prior to his current position, Mr. Spetich has more than 20 years of experience in design, planning,
7 operation and start-up of water and wastewater facilities with consulting firms both in Hawaii and on the
8 mainland. Mr. Spetich is a registered professional chemical engineer and holds a grade 4 wastewater
9 plant operator certification.

10 We strongly support the nomination of Mr. Robert S. Spetich to the Board of Certification of
11 Public Water System Operators.



3560 Koloa Road
Kalaheo, Hawaii 96741
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1 (800) 430-7381

April 2, 2008

Senator Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Nomination of Robert S. Spetich to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators

Dear Senator Kokubun,

I have known Robert Spetich for more than twenty-five years. Our relationship has been both professional as well as personal. Robert was an employee of Aqua Engineers approximately ten years ago before joining West Hawaii Utilities as its General Manager in 1999. Prior to that, I worked with him when he was employed by Brown and Caldwell as an engineering consultant.

I have been involved in the water industry for over thirty two years. I served two terms on the Board of Certification of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and two terms on the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.

Robert's professional training as an engineer and his years of experience in water system operation, maintenance and management, make him an excellent candidate to serve on this Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Kagimoto", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ian Kagimoto, PE
Chairman

Wells Street Professional Center
2145 Wells Street, Suite 302
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Tel: (808) 244-7005
Fax: (808) 244-9026
www.browncaldwell.com

April 2, 2008



Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 407
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: Governor's Message No. 544: Nomination of Robert S. Spetich to the
Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators

Dear Chair Kokubun:

I am writing in strong favor of the nomination of Robert S. Spetich to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators. I have known Bob for over 15 years, both professionally and personally. Bob and I were coworkers for about 4 years and collaborated on several projects before and after that time so my recommendation comes from substantial experience.

His background is relatively unique in that he possesses academic degrees in Chemical Engineering and is a registered professional engineer. More importantly though, he is a registered wastewater treatment plant operator and understands what it takes to successfully operate a public water system. That understanding includes the broad technical elements of water supply, treatment, and distribution. It also includes the sometimes more challenging elements of personnel training, development, and supervision. This comprehensive understanding is needed to successfully serve on the certification board for public water systems operators.

In closing, Bob is practical, competent, and fair, and exercises good judgment. He has spent virtually all of his professional life working on public water and wastewater systems as a consultant, operator, trainer, and utility manager. The State of Hawaii would be well served by having Bob on the Board of Certification.

Very truly yours,

BROWN AND CALDWELL

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond N. Matasci".

Raymond N. Matasci
Vice President

RNM:ic



CH2MHILL

CH2M HILL

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1100

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Tel 808.440.0269

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April 2, 2008

Senator Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Governor's Message No. 544 - Nomination of Robert S. Spetich to the Board of
Certification of Public Water System Operators

Dear Mr. Kokubun:

I am writing in support of Robert Spetich to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators. I first met Mr. Spetich while working with him at GMP Associates, Inc. in 1980. Since then, our professional paths have crossed many times over the years. I have worked with him at Brown and Caldwell, at CH2M HILL where I am currently employed, and as a consultant to West Hawaii Water Company.

Mr. Spetich is very knowledgeable in the construction and operation of public water systems. He has planned and designed these types of systems for many years, and is a certified plant operator. Mr. Spetich is hard working and dedicated to his profession.

For these reasons, I strongly urge your support in nominating him to the certification board.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL

Westley K.C. Chun, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, F.ASCE
Client Service Manager

*Lee A. Mansfield
839 Kaipii Street
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-2036*

Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capital, Rm. 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Governor's Message No. 544
Nomination of Robert S. Spetich to the Board of Certification
Public Water System Operators**

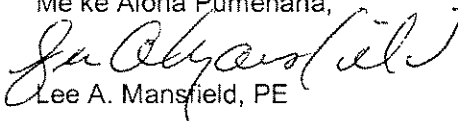
Dear Senator Kokubun:

I have known Robert Spetich since we participated in a summer research program at Case Western University in 1973. In addition, we worked together as engineers at the same consulting firm here in Hawaii from July 1978 through 1985.

Robert is a competent and capable Professional Engineer with broad experience in the design and operation of water treatment plants. He is also knowledgeable in the area of environmental regulations; particularly, our state rules. I have always known him to hold himself to the highest ethical standards and to treat others with respect and understanding. In his work, Robert has always been willing to share his knowledge and experience with other engineers and operators, and as a result he is well regarded in our profession.

I enthusiastically recommended the appointment of Robert S. Spetich to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators. I am confident that he will serve the State of Hawaii well.

Should there be any questions I can be reached at: 394-1285.

Me ke Aloha Pumehana,

Lee A. Mansfield, PE

WEST HAWAII UTILITY COMPANY

March 31, 2008

Senator Russell S. Kokubun
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Affordable Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 544: Nomination of Robert S. Spetich to the Board of Certification

The Following is a Letter of Recommendation from Stephen C. Green:

This is a letter of recommendation for Robert S. Spetich in support of his Nomination to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.

I have known Robert Spetich for nine years since he became General Manager of West Hawaii Utilities. With my position as Chief Field Engineer also with West Hawaii Utilities I have worked very closely with Robert Spetich and have come to know him as very knowledgeable, professional, reliable, and insightful in the water and engineering fields, as having excellent judgment and managerial skills, as being very thorough and detailed in his decision making and being very dedicated to the improvement of public water systems and safe drinking water. He would be an asset to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.

He is responsible for the operation and management of West Hawaii Utilities, which in part includes the responsibility of 12 water and wastewater operators. He is familiar with the requirements of certification with the experience of supervision of the licensed Public Water System Operators and in responsibility of the operation of West Hawaii Utilities. West Hawaii Utilities provides water to approximately 12,000 people in Waikoloa. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the field of Chemical Engineering and a Licensed Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator which has given him both the highly technical and practical backgrounds that will serve the needs of the Board.

I have served on the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators for nearly eight years and my term will end June 30, 2008. With my direct experience of being on the Board, I highly recommend that Robert Spetich be given favorable consideration in his nomination to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.

Sincerely Yours,



Stephen C. Green, P.E.
Chief Field Engineer