

# TESTIMONY

GM 359

GM 360

**Via Electronic Delivery**

The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204  
415 South Beretania St  
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Re: Nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council (WDC)

Dear Mr. Chairman

Thank you for this opportunity to present background about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Workforce Development Council.

I moved to Hawaii 30 years ago from Taiwan. I attended Kapiolani Community Colleges, received an AA degree in Liberal Arts and moved on to attend the University of Hawaii at Moana, received a BA and a MA degree in Communication.

For the past 20 years, I have been working in the field of Human Resources. Currently, I am working at Outrigger Hotels & Resorts as the Corporate Director of Human Resources as such I have had 20 years experience in all phases of Human Resources including employment, recruitment, training and development, employee/labor relations, etc.

I also was appointed by both Mayor Harris in 2003 and again by Mayor Hannemann in 2005 as a member of the Oahu Workforce Investment Board (OWIB). And was the chair person for the OWIB's Quality Assurance Committee during my second term with the OWIB Board.

A position on the Workforce Development Council would give the opportunity to work on a board range of workforce issues statewide. Have experience in both private sector and as a board member at OWIB, I felt it is a tremendous importance that we coordinate our workforce development effort at state level specifically in terms of resource allocation and distribution, program development and implementation as well as synchronize all workforce development related initiatives to engage the community as a whole.

As an immigrant who moved to Hawaii spoken no English at that time and a worker who has worked my way up in the field of Human Resource for the past 20 years, I believe my background, education and experience afford me a unique voice for WDC. I asked for you to support my nomination to the Workforce Development Council and a copy of my resume is attached for your review and consideration.

Sincerely,  
LiLi Hallett

The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Lili Hallett has been nominated to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. **The State of Hawaii could not have a better representative on the Council.** She has worked tirelessly for the employees of Outrigger Hotels and Resorts during her career with the hotel chain. She has devoted much volunteer time to community work in support of developing immigrant peoples' work opportunities in Honolulu.

Her success as a business person is a testimony to her devotion to lifelong learning and her gift for insight concerning people's needs and interests.

Lili Hallett is a great citizen of Hawaii and a **wonderful choice** for the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Sincerely,

William W.H. Brown  
Director, Human Resources  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
711 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 500  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha kakou,

I would like to submit a testimonial for Lili Hallett to support her nomination to the Workforce Development Council.

I have been associated with Ms. Hallett for approximately 8 years as an OWIB Board member, former OWIB chairman for two years and industry associate. Ms. Hallett was very active in board meetings and committees and positively contributed to our efforts to develop workforce initiatives that were practical and productive. Having worked her way up through the ranks gives her a perspective that is very valuable when making decisions that affect the spectrum of the workforce.

Her experience in the visitor industry, especially during the economic times that we are experiencing, will make her a critical addition to the Workforce Development Council. She is well aware of the creativity and "out of the box" thinking that we need to address the workforce development issues we are now facing.

**I strongly recommend that you approve her nomination.** Should you have any further questions you may email me at [rchun@miramarwaikiki.com](mailto:rchun@miramarwaikiki.com) or call me at 926-8503.

Aloha and mahalo,  
Russell Chun  
General Manager  
Miramar At Waikiki  
OWIB board member/former chairman

Workforce Development Council - former member



**OUTRIGGER<sup>®</sup>**  
**ENTERPRISES GROUP**  
*Hospitality • Retail • Development*

THE SENATE  
25<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION of 2009

COMMITTEE ON LABOR  
Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair

4/9/09

GM 359 & 360  
Hawaii Workforce Development Council (HWDC) Nominee  
LILI HALLETT

Chair Takamine and Members of this Committee, my name is Max Sword, here to offer my **support** for Lili Hallett's appointment to the HWDC.

For the past 20 years, I have enjoyed her enthusiasm and energy in the various issues that we have both worked on.

With her work on the Oahu Workforce Investment Board and with her wide experience in the human resources field, she will make a great addition to the HWDC.

I give her my full support and urge your confirmation of her for this position.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

Aloha,

It has been my privilege to have worked with LiLi Hallett for nearly three years. LiLi is the rare H.R. leader who balances and understands the need of operations with a fair handed and compassionate approach to employee relations. My first dealings with LiLi occurred as a subsidiary company of Outrigger took over the management of the Pacific Beach Hotel. This transition was complicated by a difficult labor situation. LiLi worked day and night to ensure a smooth transition. When we were asked to leave as the managing company I watched as LiLi told the employees with tears in her eyes. I can honestly say that my last day at that hotel was one of the hardest days in my hotel career and LiLi was by my side. She once told me that the reason it was such a difficult day was that our work there was not complete. We both felt as if we had deserted the employees. In my current position as G.M. of the Outrigger Reef on the Beach LiLi has served as trusted advisor on all things dealing with H.R. and more. Her understanding of hotel operations makes her advice invaluable. Recently, our company, like many others was faced with the possibility of lay offs. LiLi developed a plan to provide options for employees to take leaves of absence or early retirement with generous benefits. LiLi even drove to associates homes to explain the plan. As a result of her efforts layoffs were avoided. LiLi's favorite phrase is "work opportunity" she strives to keep our workforce receiving full hours. LiLi is the "go to person" in our company and any organization would be lucky to have her expertise and energy.

Bill Comstock  
General Manager  
Outrigger Reef on the Beach

**Best Western The Plaza Hotel  
OHANA Honolulu Airport Hotel**

**VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

April 8, 2009

The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine  
Hawaii State Capital, Room 204  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I'm writing this testimony in support of the nomination of Lili Hallet to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. I've been employed by Outrigger Hotels Hawaii a total of 22 years and have worked with Lili Hallet for approximately 20 of these years, primarily in her capacity as a Human Resource Professional.

Lili Hallet has gained much respect by co-workers and peers for the years of service and professionalism she has provided to the unique and diverse group of individuals in our company. Lili is admired by the thousands of employees that she has personally assisted over the years while at Outrigger.

Lili Hallet's diverse knowledge, wealth of experience & knowledge, and ever positive and professional nature would further enhance the current team of professionals at the Workforce Development Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and in positively supporting Lili Hallet.

Respectfully,



Robert L. McConnell, CHA

Hotel General Manager, Outrigger Hotels Hawaii  
Chairman, Outrigger Hotels Hawaii Political Action Committee  
Governor, Best Western International, State of Hawaii District VI.

I understand that LiLi Hallett is being considered for confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council. I would like to recommend her to you for inclusion on the council.

I was Chief Operating Officer for Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, and worked with LiLi for over 15 years. I have only the highest of regard for her as an individual, and her work in the Human Resources Department there. LiLi was adept in handling difficult relationships between employees, or between employees and supervisors, by working toward a solution that was fair, and that met the needs of both the employees and the company.

She has the ability to look for unconventional solutions that can not only solve the immediate problem, but improve the operation of the department or company as well. She is pragmatic, but caring, and thoughtful, but not afraid to act boldly when necessary.

I would think she could add greatly to the the Council's goals of improving our Hawaii workforce.  
Sincerely,

Perry Sorenson

New Perspectives  
Perry Sorenson