



GOV. MSG. NO. 184

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2010

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS, and LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, Board of Professional:**

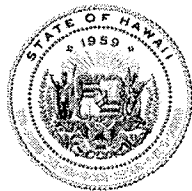
Howard K.C. Lau

Term to Expire: 6/30/2014

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE



LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
JAMES R. AIONA, JR.  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
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LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH  
DIRECTOR  
RONALD BOYER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

Wednesday, February 24, 2010  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 184.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is James Kobashigawa and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 184, regarding the **reappointment** of Howard K.C. Lau to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Lau's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Lau is being reappointed as a professional engineer member. He has been licensed since July 13, 1978 and his license is current, active, and in good standing.

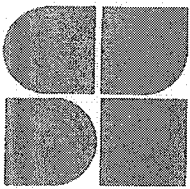
Mr. Lau is an extremely valuable member and has attended 38 of 44 meetings. His active participation during the meeting discussions demonstrates that he has prepared for the matters on the Board's agenda. In addition, by sharing valuable insights that he has gained over his many years of experience as a professional engineer in the discipline of structural engineering, Mr. Lau contributes to the breadth of information that the Board has found useful when making its decisions. Further, on many occasions, the Board has called upon Mr. Lau to assess an issue, articulate the finer points, and make recommendations.

Moreover, Mr. Lau has contributed additional hours as the Board's delegate to western zone and national meetings of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

The Department believes that Mr. Lau's interest in serving on the Board, experience in the profession, and desire to contribute to the community will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

Therefore, the Department supports the confirmation of Howard K.C. Lau to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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SHIGEMURA, LAU, SAKANASHI, HIGUCHI AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

February 18, 2010

Office of Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Howard K. C. Lau  
Craig H. Sakanashi  
Wayne K. Higuchi  
Beverly Ishii-Nakayama

**SUBJECT: Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects,  
Surveyors and Landscape Architects**

Dear Chair Baker,

I am writing this testimony on behalf of and in support of the re-nomination of **Howard K.C. Lau** to the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

I have known Mr. Howard Lau for 22 years as an outstanding structural engineer who is well respected in the structural engineering community and as his partner at Shigemura, Lau, Sakanashi, Higuchi and Associates (SLSH). Howard has been employed at SLSH for over 35 years having started with the firm in 1974 as a junior engineer, rising to a principal and Assistant Vice President of the firm in 1981, Vice President in 1987, and on to becoming President of the firm in 1998. I have first hand knowledge of Howard's decision-making and managerial skills as CEO of our firm. He has the ability to take on a difficult task or problem, analyze it, and quickly come to a resolution that makes good sense. I believe his analytical and resourceful managerial skills provides the necessary tools for him to successfully serve on the Board of Registration.

Howard Lau is a dedicated, unselfish individual committed to advancing the arts and science of structural engineering. Because of his knowledge and expertise, he is often times consulted and asked to serve on committees, advisory boards or as a Director, and he willingly accepts. He has been President of the Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii and Light Gage Steel Engineers Association of Hawaii, and has also served as National Director on the Light Gage Steel Engineers Association Board.

What has impressed me is his excellent communications skills, his high moral and ethical standards, which he will not compromise at any cost, and the energy that he brings to any task that he pursues.

If re-appointed, Howard Lau will be committed to serving on the Board as he has shown the past 4 years.

Sincerely,

Beverly Ishii-Nakayama, S.E.  
Principal  
Shigemura, Lau, Sakanashi, Higuchi and Associates, Inc.

February 17, 2010

Chairperson, Rosalyn Baker  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hawaii State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Howard K.C. Lau, S.E.  
Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors,  
and Landscape Architects

Dear Senator Baker:

I strongly recommend Howard K.C. Lau to be a member of the above-named Board because of his many good professional and personal qualities, but mainly because he is a "CARING and SHARING" individual.

I have known Howard Lau for more than 35 years, both professionally and personally. I have worked with him over the years on many financial and tax matters, and have always been very impressed by his integrity and professionalism. He has, as President of Shigemura, Lau, Sakanashi, Higuchi & Associates, Inc., led and developed the the consulting engineering company into a well-respected, strong, well-organized and financially sound organization.

Knowledgeable, experienced, proven leadership, "CARING and SHARING", these attributes should make Howard K.C. Lau a valuable contributing asset to the "Board of Registration for Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects".

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroshi Tsuzaki, CPA  
President, Hiroshi Tsuzaki, CPA, Inc  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**Personal Testimony Statement for Presentation Before the Senate Committee on  
Commerce and Consumer Protection**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2010**

**For the Re-Nomination of Howard Lau to the Board of Professional Engineers,  
Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects**

Chair Baker, members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Housing, thank you for this opportunity to present a brief background on myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

I was born and raised in Hawaii and grew up in the lower Nuuanu, Mayor Wright, and Kauluwela housing areas. I attended and graduated with honors from Saint Louis High School and went on to graduate with honors with both my Bachelors and Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Hawaii, majoring in Structural Engineering.

I have been with the same structural engineering consulting firm of Shigemura, Lau, Sakanashi, Higuchi and Associates for 36 years now having started out first as a junior engineer in 1974, licensed as a structural engineer by this same Board in 1978, promoted to a partner of the firm in 1981, promoted to Senior Vice President in 1987 and finally moving up to assume my current position as President and CEO of the firm in 1998.

I am currently licensed to practice Structural Engineering in Hawaii, California and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

During the course of my career I have also served in various capacities for the Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii (SEAOH), on committees, as chairman on various committees, as a Director, as a Secretary, Vice President and finally as President in 1992. I have likewise done the same for the Light Gauge Steel Engineers Association (LGSEA) having served as President of the local chapter in 1999 and on the National Board from 2000-2005 and as National Vice President in 2004. I have also served on a number of committees that have helped developed the engineering technology to use light gauge steel efficiently and safely. I also belong to the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE).

Other professional volunteering duties that I have served on include the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF) Advisory Board, the Hurricane Advisory Committee to Hawaii State Civil Defense and the Hurricane Shelter Standards Advisory Committee to Hawaii State Civil Defense.


As to why I would seek this Board position re-appointment, I feel it would, again, be a tremendous honor and privilege to serve my community of architects and engineers in this capacity. I feel I have been trained my whole life and career for this position. It

continues to be one of the highest honors for an engineer to be able to uphold the standards that would allow other engineers the privilege of designing structures in a manner that protects and safeguards the public's safety and welfare above all else. For me, personally, serving on this Board is like coming around full circle in my career having first applied for registration status as an up and coming young engineer in 1978, having served on committees to help prepare and also grade exam problems in the 1980's, having served on the tri-state exam committee for the licensing of structural engineers that first allowed reciprocity of SE's in the states of California, Washington, Oregon and Hawaii, having served on the SEA/OH board that endorsed the use of the NCEES 16 hour exam for the licensure of structural engineers in 1992 and now to serve at its highest level, as a Board member. So you can see how this would be such an honor to me having served in all the other capacities already.

One of the critical discussion issues that that have surfaced nationally in my first four year term on the Board has been in the area of whether our engineering graduates are sufficiently educated to receive licensure as professional engineers. The education requirement from when I graduated from college to now has reduced from 145-150 credit hours to a low of only 120 credit hours. On the docket for adoption nationally for professional licensure is a Bachelors + 30 or Masters degree or equivalent agenda. The consensus nationally among engineers is that the schools are doing a disservice to our community by reducing the education requirements and shifting the burden of their education to the firms they are ultimately working for. We are finding that prospective licensees probably need one more year of working experience to get qualified to pass the exams. I am hoping that I can play my part in either getting this additional education requirement passed or getting the schools to re-strengthen their programs to get our graduates back on a par with our older generation of engineers.

Additionally, because of all the recent technological advances in the field of structural engineering (especially in the areas of advanced seismicity developments and wind amplification from terrain features along with anti-terrorism force protection and the need to design for progressive collapse requirements), it will be increasingly important to ensure that our new crop of engineers are sufficiently qualified to serve our community equally as well as the previous generations of engineers. As I learned from my first class in structural engineering some 38 years ago, the public's safety should always come first and foremost above and beyond anything else. And as this first lesson guides me, I will certainly look forward to this tremendous challenge if you support my nomination.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Howard K.C. Lau, SE

President

Shigemura, Lau, Sakanashi, Higuchi and Associates, Inc.  
Consulting Structural Engineers