

TESTIMONY

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LATE

TESTIMONY RE: ROLAND THOM

for Chair, Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Chair Dwight Takamine and members of the Senate labor Committee.

I had only heard in passing this week that Mr. Thom had been nominated for a full-term as the Chair for the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Having spoken on behalf of his first, though shortened, term appointment as Chair several years ago, I again ask this committee and this legislative body to confirm him for a full term as Chair.

Although I no longer practice before the Board, I have known Mr. Thom for over two decades and in terms of the field of Workers Compensation we have been adversaries. He was always honorable and competent. Indeed, his expertise in this area has been so well regarded by many practitioners, that he must be considered as one of the few "kupunus" in this field. I certainly hold him as a sage.

As I said earlier, I no longer practice in the field but I do from time to time converse with those who still do. As far as I can determine practitioners on both sides have been satisfied with his chairmanship and in such a controversial field that is workers compensation, that is high praise.

I hope that this committee will agree and recommend his confirmation. Thank you for the time.

for submission to the Senate Labor Committee

David Hagino

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Hagino", written over a yellow highlight on the printed name.

THE LAW OFFICES OF DOUGLAS THOMAS MOORE

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March 18, 2010

TO: Senate Labor Committee
Hon. Sen. Dwight Takamine, Chair

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF REAPPOINTMENT OF ROLAND Q.F. THOM
TO LAB; HEARD 3/18/10 @ 3:00 p.m**

Dear Sen. Takamine and Committee Members:

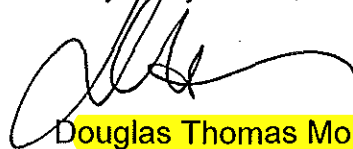
Per your request, the following is essentially my oral testimony before your honorable committee today in support of the reappointment of Roland Q.F. Thom to the Labor Appeals Board:

I am a workers' compensation claimants' attorney. Four years ago I supported the appointment of Roland Q.F. Thom to the Labor Appeals Board. Today, I support his reappointment. Chair Thom has done a fine job at the LAB particularly considering the financial restraints in these tight economic times. Chair Thom is fair and impartial. I admire his dedication to public service. I have spoken with numerous other claimants' attorneys and they support the reappointment of Chair Thom as well.

Please approve the reappointment. Thank you.

Should you have any questions or need further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,



Douglas Thomas Moore

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March 19, 2010

Via E-Mail

Honorable Dwight Takamine,
Senate Labor Committee Chairman
1st Senatorial District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF REAPPOINTMENT OF ROLAND Q.F. THOM
TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD**

Dear Mr. Takamine:

This follows our recent appearance at the senate labor committee hearing of Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 2:45 p.m. and supplements our testimony in support of the reappointment of Roland Q.F. Thom as chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, State of Hawai'i.

We testified on behalf of the reappointment of Mr. Thom and I represented myself as a workers' compensation attorney and as the principal attorney of our law firm, Choy & Tashima.

In support of Mr. Thom, it has been my experience to have known him for well over 23 years since I was employed with the Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawai'i representing the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, State of Hawai'i. Thereafter, I transitioned to private practice and have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Thom and the Appeals Board in various workers' compensation matters over the past four years. As you know, Mr. Thom had assumed responsibility for finishing the balance of prior chairman Randall Iwase's term as the Appeals Board chairman.

I have found Mr. Thom to be very fair, impartial and very analytical with respect to the issuance of well-reasoned and comprehensive Appeals Board decisions. These decisions provide a "guiding light" with regard to cases with similar factual backgrounds and allow me to initiate appropriate settlement recommendations and dispute resolution alternatives to my clients.

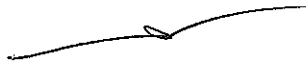
Dwight Takamine, Senate Labor Committee Chairman
March 19, 2010
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I am also of the firm belief that Mr. Thom sincerely looks out for the interests of injured workers and engages in a daily and constant balancing process in order to arrive at the fairest outcome for all concerned parties. While some of our appellate cases have not reflected the position taken on behalf of my clients, I have found that the Appeals Board's decisions, under Mr. Thom's guidance, to be balanced, fair, and accurately recognizes the differences of opinions of the party litigants.

In this regard, I again reiterate my strong support of Roland Q.F. Thom to be reappointed as the Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, State of Hawai'i. If there are any further questions you have in this regard, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

CHOY & TASHIMA
Attorneys At Law,
A Law Corporation



BRIAN G.S. CHOY

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