

**GM 384**



GOV. MSG. NO. 384

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

March 30, 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 **State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i**:

Bruce T. Kawano

Term to Expire: 6/30/2014

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda 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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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
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RONALD BOYER  
ACTING DIRECTOR  
RODNEY A. MAILE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2010

Tuesday, April 13, 2010  
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 384.**

**WRITTEN ONLY**

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

My name is Rodney Maile and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 384, regarding the appointment of Bruce Kawano to the State Boxing Commission ("Commission"). The Department supports Mr. Kawano's appointment and respectfully requests that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to his appointment to the Commission.

I am familiar with Mr. Kawano and his candidacy for appointment to the Commission in that I have spoken with him about the Commission and his interest in serving there. Based on my discussion with Mr. Kawano, I believe that he possesses

the qualifications, background, and experience to contribute in a positive and constructive manner on matters that will come before the Commission.

Mr. Kawano has been active in boxing for over 20 years, both as a boxer and as a coach. As a boxer, Mr. Kawano has won three Hawaii Golden Gloves titles and three Aloha State Games titles. He has competed at the National Golden Gloves and the USA-National Championships at the Olympic Training Center. Mr. Kawano also boxed professionally.

In addition to being an amateur and professional boxer, Mr. Kawano has selflessly given his limited free time as a volunteer boxing coach. He has taken the Hawaii State Champions to the National Championships since 1997. Mr. Kawano has coached four USA National Champions and three Junior Olympic National Champions.

Of greater importance than the national champions that he has coached, Mr. Kawano is helping to shape Hawaii's future leaders. In addition to physical conditioning, boxing also instills discipline, and many of the boxers that Mr. Kawano coached have grown up to become leaders and contributing members of our community. Mr. Kawano has helped to create opportunities for young boxers realize their full potentials, in and out of the boxing ring. Three of Mr. Kawano's boxers have received full scholarships for boxing at Northern Michigan University, home of the U.S. Olympic Education Center and the only school that provides boxing scholarships.

Considering his extensive experience, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Mr. Kawano will prove to be an asset to the State through his service on the

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Commission. I respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Mr. Kawano's appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Mr. Kawano's behalf.



April 9, 2010

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chair  
Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
5th Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

David Y. Ige  
Vice Chair  
Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
16th Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators:

Bruce Kawano has been a member of USA Boxing since 1989. He began as an amateur athlete and took the next step to become an official as well as a coach and mentor to thousands of young boxers.

USA Boxing has tapped Bruce to participate in national camps, international events and world championship events for both men and women. Bruce has an excellent rapport with the athletes and has the innate ability to get them to stretch themselves to attain higher levels of achievement and success.

His leadership skills have been tested throughout his tenure with the amateur boxing organization in Hawaii and Bruce has proven himself to be able to admit mistakes and work hard to make things better even when faced with difficult issues and situations.

Bruce Kawano is an excellent choice to sit on the Hawaii Boxing Commission, he is tenacious in his efforts to improve the status and reputation of boxing, and would be a wonderful ambassador for the Commission.

Respectfully,

*Michael J. Martino*

Michael Martino  
Interim Executive Director  
USA Boxing

## **baker4 - Cathy**

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**From:** Bill Meartz [BMeartz@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 07, 2010 3:32 PM  
**To:** baker4 - Cathy  
**Cc:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Nomination to the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii

04-07-2010

To whom this may concern,

Bruce Kawano because of his years of experience working with Boxers, managers, trainers and administrators from all over the world make him the perfect candidate to work with any state boxing commission. His years of hands on experience at all level's amateur and professional have certainly prepared him for such position.

Mr. Kawano has a history of quietly making great things happen. As a boxing coach he quietly positioned himself as one of our nations most qualified, achieving a level four certification. He has served USA Boxing on numerous occasions as one of our International coaches. Mr. Kawano is always a great ambassador for our country and our sport.

Mr. Kawano is one of the most humble individuals that I have ever had the privilege of knowing. However, behind that humble appearance lay a highly competent, confident and motivated individual who gets the job done with excellence. He is organized, attentive to detail, loyal, dependable and a good leader. All who have had a chance to work with Bruce, whether as their leader or as a co-worker quickly come to respect him.

Bruce Kawano knows boxing, he knows how to teach boxing, and he has the organizational skills to develop and/or implement quality boxing programs. I highly recommend Mr. Kawano for your position vacancy.

Sincerely

Bill Meartz,  
Immediate Past President, USA Boxing, Inc.



## HOUSE OF FINANCE, INC.

1810 N. KING ST., SUITE-A  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819

4/7/10

Telephone (808) 847-8493  
Fax (808) 847-8747

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Bruce Kawano to the Boxing Commission

Dear Senator Baker and committee members:

I am writing this letter in support of Bruce Kawano's appointment as a member of the Boxing Commission.

Mr. Kawano's involvement in the sport of boxing is several pages long, which is attached and made a part hereof. He exemplifies what a commissioner should be. He has gone from a fighter, a trainer, a coach, and now he wants to be a commissioner.

I became a member of the boxing commission 2 years ago. His contribution to the commission during the two years that I've been in has been immeasurable. I met him many years before that. I found him to be a team player, a team builder, and he knows the sport of boxing. He will be an excellent addition to the commission.

Sincerely,

Roland C. Casamina  
Boxing Commission Member



## **baker4 - Cathy**

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**From:** Brian Viloría [bviloria818@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 07, 2010 7:46 PM  
**To:** Sen. Roz Baker; CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** Bruce Kawano for Hawaii State Athletic Commission

Aloha Senator Baker -

My name is Brian "Hawaiian Punch" Viloría. I was a former Olympian and represented the 2000 US Olympic Team in Sydney Australia. As an amateur boxer, I have won numerous awards including USA Boxer of the Year, Golden Gloves National Title and World Amateur Gold Medals. I had over 280 fights as an amateur boxer and was one of the most decorated boxer in a US Amateur Boxing history that includes Sugar Ray Leonard, and Oscar De La Hoya. I am currently a professional and garnered 2 World Championships (WBC and IBF) and fought over 30 professional fights all over the world.

I am writing this letter in hopes that it will help my long time friend, Mr. Bruce Kawano, in fulfilling a position on the Hawaii State Athletic Commission. I have known Bruce since I was a teenager, and have had the opportunity to see first hand his excellent work ethics, and knowledge of the sport. His love in helping people (including myself) as a trainer/coach and mentor in the sport of boxing is second to none. I am sure that the experience Bruce has acquired through past years would be a huge asset for the athletic commission. I can assure you there is no one else more suitable than Bruce is for the commission. From an athlete who had to deal with countless athletic commissions all over the world, I strongly believe Bruce has the understanding and ability to uphold all standards the organization have set for it's athletes and members involved. Please take into consideration my plea in having Mr. Bruce Kawano as a member of the Hawaii State Athletic Commission.

I thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope this will help in the decision making process in the future. If there is any more questions regarding Mr. Bruce Kawano, please do not hesitate to email me back at [bviloria818@hotmail.com](mailto:bviloria818@hotmail.com).

Mahalo  
Brian Viloría

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# KAUAI POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

3990 KAANA ST. #200  
LIHUE, HI. 96766  
TELEPHONE (808) 652-6999  
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April 7, 2010

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**Rob Russell**

**Wallace Rezentes Jr.**

**Crystal Kaya**

**Re: Character letter for Mr. Bruce Kawano**

To whom it may concern:

I have been informed that Mr. Bruce Kawano is being considered as a possible candidate to a vacant position on the Hawaii State Boxing Commission. I believe Mr. Kawano would be an excellent choice for this position.

As a former Amateur Boxer, I have known and participated alongside Mr. Kawano in many Amateur Boxing Competitions from 1987 to 1997. Mr. Kawano always displayed good sportsmanship and class.

As the current Treasurer and Program Coordinator of the Kaua'i Police Activities League (K-PAL), as well as the head K-PAL Boxing Coach, I have worked with Mr. Kawano for the last two (2) years at various Hawaii State Boxing Shows. Mr. Kawano always treated me and my team with fairness and respect.

Mr. Kawano is a humble but well spoken man of great integrity and leadership, is extremely dedicated to sport of Boxing, works hard, always gives 100% effort, works well with others, is a team player, works great with juveniles as well as adults, takes initiative, is a leader, is an asset to the community, and has been a positive role model for many children, as well as their parents, in the State of Hawaii.

I am honored to give Mr. Kawano a positive recommendation and feel that he will be a great asset to the Boxing Commission if selected. I'm happy to provide further information if required and can be contacted at (808) 652-6999.

Sincerely,

**Mark T. Ozaki**

Officer Mark Ozaki  
Treasurer, K-PAL Board  
Program Coordinator, K-PAL  
Head Coach, Kauai PAL Boxing Club

April 8, 2010

Aloha Chair: Senator Baker, Vice Chair: Senator Ige and Members of the Committee,

I am Lorin Carmichael, President of the Yeshua Boxing Club here on the Big Island of Hawaii. This letter is written on behalf of Bruce Kawano, who is the LBC Interim Manager and Head Coach of Kawano Boxing Club. I have had the privilege of working with Bruce in local Boxing Shows and have found him to be very easy to work with, very informative, quick to respond to any questions or concerns, and is always open for suggestions and new ways to improve things to better serve the boxing community.

I would like to recommend Bruce Kawano to be on the Hawaii Boxing Commission on behalf of supporting USA Amateur Boxing here in the State of Hawaii. I believe that Bruce would be an asset to the Hawaii Boxing Commission due to his experience, involvement, connections, communication skills, and his ability to be flexible and teachable while striving to bring excellence to the organization.

I highly recommend Bruce Kawano to be considered for the position.

Sincerely,  
Lorin Carmichael  
President , Yeshua Boxing Club

## **baker4 - Cathy**

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**From:** Myles Suehiro [msuehiromd@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 08, 2010 3:41 AM  
**To:** CPN Testimony  
**Subject:** bruce kawano

dear sirs,

I have worked with Bruce Kawano as a ringside physician for about 10 years.

He has demonstrated himself to be responsible and sincere in his management and care of boxers as athletes as well as individuals.

It is for this reason alone I choose to support Bruce and boxing.

He views boxing as more than a sport but as a vehicle for the development of recognition and self worth in the disadvantaged.

Bruce also is well recognized on the national level as I witnessed at the Olympic Training Center when we attended the nationals.

Bruce is the best individual to run the boxing commission due to his own boxing experience, networking on the national level, and professional relationships with the boxing community.

Bruce Kawano comes with my strongest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Myles Suehiro M.D.

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker  
Chair Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Hawaii State Legislator  
Honolulu, Hawaii

4/7/10

From: Mr Hubert P. Minn  
Deputy Director, Dept of Enterprise Services  
City & County of Honolulu  
Chairman of the World Boxing Council Ring Officials

Re: Nomination of Bruce Kawano to the Hawaii Boxing Commission

Dear Senator Baker,

I would like to whole heartedly support Mr Kawano's nomination to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission.

Mr Kawano's devotion and commitment to the youth , not only in Hawaii, but worldwide speaks for itself.

Having been selected by Boxing USA, he has coached and represented our country at the Women's World Championships in 2005, Russia, 2006 , India in 2002, USA under 19 yrs team, not to mention the many dual meets with Russia, Mexico, Ireland, etc.

Currently Boxing USA has appointed him as the "interim Mgr for Hawaii and although you may hear from some detractors, I find it amusing that these "discontented individuals, would question his credibility, but then as an experienced Legislator ,you, more than anyone, can understand these type of attacks.

Finally, having been a part of boxing in Hawaii as well as internationally, I believe that the commission really needs some "younger blood" and more important, someone who understands and is committed to the responsibility the Commission is charged with and that is to over see the Armature Boxing program in Hawaii.

No one has as much experience and has demonstrated the commitment to the amature boxers in the entire USA than Mr Kawano.

I respectfully hope you will confirm his nomination and also have a successful legislative session during these difficult times.

Mahalo for your time and I am available if you have any questions or concerns.

Aloha,  
Hubert P. Minn

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

To the Honorable Senators of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Bruce Kawano and I have been nominated for the Hawaii State Boxing Commission.

I'm a former 2X State Boxing Champion as well as 3X Aloha State Games Champion and 3X Hawaii Golden Gloves Champion. I had a 1-0 record as a Professional and the Pro boxing died here in Hawaii. I started coaching in 1994. I began as a assistant coach for Team Hawaii and worked my way up to coaching 3 USA National Team World Championships in Cuba, Russia, and India. Also, I was selected as administrator at the 2007 World Championship in Chicago, a 2008 Olympic Qualifier.

I'm currently the Interim Manager for Boxing here in Hawaii in charge of registrations and events for all islands. I took over in February 2010.

I've received many National USA-Boxing awards as Outstanding Coordinator, Award for Excellence and Outstanding Achievement Award. I've also received the Women's Boxing Accolade award in December 2008 for my visionary work with the Women's Amateur Boxing in the United States.

As a Commissioner I want to use the knowledge I have to help the Boxing Commission be successful and develop the sport of Boxing in Hawaii. The sport of Boxing changed my life 22 years ago for the better and this is my way of giving back. I know it is a volunteer position, but I will take it like my job and do the best I can. Safety is the most important in Boxing. I have been currently certified as a amateur coach, judge, and referee. I was also certified with the State Boxing Commission as a Coach and Judge. I have my CPR and did my First Aid Class on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

My current employment is at Red Lions Waikiki in the Hyatt as a Manager, and General Manager at the Red Lions University in the university area.

I'd like to thank you for your time and consideration and the opportunity to have a chance to serve on the commission.

Thank You for Your Time,  
Bruce Kawano