

**GM437**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

In reply, please refer to:  
File.

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**GM 437, GM 438, GM 439, AND GM 440, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEES RONALD G. HAY, LEE A. MANSFIELD, AUDREY K. UYEMA PAK, AND VIRGILIO A. VIERNES, FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012, 6-30-2014, 6-30-2011, AND 6-30-2013 RESPECTIVELY**

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

**April 13, 2010  
2:00 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** Strongly Support

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department supports these messages on the Governor's four  
4 appointees to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Facilities  
5 (Board). Confirming the four appointees, Mr. Ronald G. Hay, Mr. Lee A. Mansfield,  
6 Ms. Audrey K. Uyema Pak, and Mr. Virgilio A. Viernes will allow the Board to continue to operate and  
7 perform its duties as required under Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 61, "Mandatory  
8 Certification of Wastewater Treatment Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants."

9 Mr. Ronald G. Hay is the Manager of Wastewater Systems for Hawaii Water Service  
10 Corporation on the island of Hawaii. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from  
11 New Mexico State University and holds Grade 4 wastewater treatment plant operator certifications in  
12 Hawaii and New Mexico. Mr. Hay has over 29 years of supervisory and operations experience in the  
13 wastewater industry and will serve in the capacity of the member from the private sector on the Board.

1 Mr. Lee A. Mansfield is presently the Manager of Hawaii American Water Company and  
2 oversees the operations of the East Honolulu Community wastewater system in Hawaii Kai. He is a  
3 licensed professional engineer who was formerly the Senior Vice President of the local engineering  
4 company, GMP and Associates. Mr. Mansfield will serve in the capacity of the professional engineer in  
5 private practice on the Board.

6 Ms. Audrey K. Uyema Pak has a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of  
7 Hawaii and currently works in the Wastewater Branch of the Department of Health as an Environmental  
8 Engineer. As part of her duties in the branch, she conducts operation and maintenance inspections of  
9 wastewater treatment plants and has developed good working relationships with treatment plant  
10 operators. She has over 14 years of experience in the wastewater and environmental engineering field  
11 and will represent the Department of Health on the Board.

12 Mr. Virgilio A. Viernes has a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and Leisure Science from the  
13 University of Hawaii. He has over seven years of supervisory and operations experience in the  
14 wastewater industry. Mr. Viernes is a Grade 4 certified operator and is currently a Wastewater  
15 Treatment Plant Superintendent in the County of Maui. He will serve in the capacity of Maui's  
16 representative on the Board.

17 Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify before your committee.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHARLES DAWRS  
MYRON NOMURA  
Chairs

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Board of Certification of Operating Personnel**  
**In Wastewater Treatment Plants**  
1350 Sand Island Parkway, Bldg. 3A  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

April 7, 2010

The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Chair, Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants  
Testimony for Nominees Ron Hay, Lee Mansfield, Audrey Uyema Pak, and,  
Virgilio Viernes

Dear Chair Ige:

On April 13, 2010 the Senate Committee on Health is scheduled to hold a confirmation hearing for nominees, Ronald Hay, Lee Mansfield, Virgilio Viernes, and Audrey Uyema Pak, to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Facilities "Board"). We ask for your committee's support of the nominees to the Board.

Mr. Ronald Hay is the Manager of Wastewater Systems for Hawaii Water Service Corporation which operates and maintains wastewater treatment plants on the island of Hawaii. He is currently responsible for design, compliance, and training for six (6) wastewater treatment systems owned and/or operated by Hawaii Water Service Corporation. Mr. Hay is also a Civil Engineer and has Grade 4 (highest level) wastewater operator certifications in Hawaii and New Mexico. His operator certifications are in good standing in both states and he will be a welcome addition to fill the private operator's position on the Board effective, July 1, 2010.

Mr. Lee Mansfield is currently the Manager of Hawaii American Water Company who oversees the East Honolulu Community Systems wastewater system which includes the East Honolulu Community Services Wastewater Treatment Plant, wastewater pump stations, and the sewer collection system serving Hawaii Kai. He is a licensed professional engineer in Hawaii who has broad experience as a trainer of wastewater treatment plant operators, a project engineer, and as the former Senior Vice-President of the engineering firm, GMP and Associates. Mr. Mansfield is a good candidate to fill the professional engineer's position on the Board in July.

Mr. Virgilio Viernes started his career as an Assistant Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator in May 2002 and in five short years attained the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant

Superintendent for the County of Maui. His responsibilities include overseeing the activities of five major wastewater treatment plants on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. He is certified as a Grade 4 wastewater treatment plant operator and is well qualified to serve as Maui's representative on the Board.

Ms. Audrey Uyema Pak is an Environmental Engineer in the Department of Health's Wastewater Branch who conducts Operation and Maintenance inspections of wastewater treatment plants and interacts with wastewater treatment plant operators during the course of her work. She is aware of operator concerns and the need to have having highly skilled and certified operators at these plants in order to safeguard our environment. Ms. Uyema Pak has also worked at the City and County of Honolulu's Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant as an engineer in the City's Department of Environmental Services. Ms. Uyema Pak is a good candidate to represent the Department of Health on the Board.

If confirmed, the nominees will bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and insight to Board meetings that will enable the Board to deal with the many issues and aspects involved in administering the mandatory certification program for operators of wastewater treatment plants. We are confident that Mr. Hay, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Viernes, and Ms. Uyema Pak will carry out their appointed tasks well.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the nominees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Dawrs", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles Dawrs

Chair, Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Facilities

ml: