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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2011

Wednesday, March 30, 2011  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 533**

**WRITTEN ONLY**

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

My name is Keali'i Lopez, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA" or the "Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 533, regarding the appointment of Peter L. Akamu to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers ("Board"). The Department supports Mr. Akamu's appointment and respectfully requests that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to his appointment to the Board.

The Department has been in contact with Mr. Akamu regarding his candidacy for appointment to the Board, and based on our discussion, I believe that he possesses the

qualifications, background, and experiences to serve on the Board, and to contribute in a positive and constructive manner on matters that will come before the Board.

Mr. Akamu began his career in the construction industry over 30 years ago, working as a licensed electrician for numerous electrical contractors. After working as an estimator, foreman, lead mechanic, and journeyman, he currently serves as the President and Business Manager of Local Union 1186, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) where his responsibilities include providing assistance to union members regarding their benefits, organizing new workers and contractors into the union, and acting as both lead and support negotiator for collective bargaining agreements between the union and contractors.

Mr. Akamu is extremely familiar with the workings of the Board, after regularly attending their meetings for the last seven years. He participates in discussions in order to gain clarity on rules and regulations that impact his union's membership and contractors and works tirelessly to promote electrical safety statewide.

In addition to his professional duties, Mr. Akamu is actively involved in community service as a member of the Board of Trustees for Palama Settlement, and as a member of the Electricians and Plumbers Advisory Committee. He also serves as an instructor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) teaching classes in electrical, trenching, and ladder safety.

Considering his extensive experience, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Mr. Akamu will prove to be an asset to the State through his service on the Board. I respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Mr. Akamu's appointment.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.