

GM 588

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
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 586, 587, AND 588, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEES, ROGER BABCOCK, AUDREY K. UYEMA PAK, AND LOREN S. TANIGAWA, FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 30, 2011
3:00 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 three
4 nominees to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants (Board).
5 Confirming the three nominees, Mr. Roger Babcock, Ms. Audrey J. Uyema Pak, and
6 Mr. Loren S. Tanigawa, will allow the Board to continue to operate and perform its duties as required
7 under Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 61, "Mandatory Certification of Wastewater
8 Treatment Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants."

9 Mr. Roger Babcock is an associate professor in the College of Engineering at the University of
10 Hawaii and is an associate researcher at the Water Resources Research Center. He has a Ph.D. in Civil
11 and Environmental Engineering from UCLA and has been on the faculty of the University of Hawaii for
12 the past 15 years. Dr. Babcock has previously served on the Board eight years ago and brings much
13 experience and knowledge to serve in the capacity of the engineering faculty member on the Board.

1 Ms. Audrey J. Uyema Pak is currently a member of the Board whose term will expire on
2 June 30, 2011. She has a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Hawaii and
3 currently works in the Wastewater Branch of the Department of Health as an Environmental Engineer.
4 She conducts operation and maintenance inspections of wastewater treatment plants statewide and has
5 good working relationships with treatment plant operators. Ms. Uyema Pak has over 15 years of
6 experience in the wastewater and environmental engineering field and will represent the Department of
7 Health on the Board.

8 Mr. Loren S. Tanigawa is presently a Grade 3 certified wastewater treatment plant operator
9 employed by the County of Kauai. He has over six years of operations experience at the Wailua
10 Wastewater Treatment Plant on Kauai and will represent the operators on his island well. He will serve
11 in the capacity of Kauai's representative on the Board.

12 Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify before your committee.

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Larry Dill, P.E.
County Engineer

Gary K. Heu
Managing Director

Lyle Tabata
Deputy County Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i

4444 Rice Street, Suite 275, Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766

TEL (808) 241-4992 FAX (808) 241-6604

March 29, 2011

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Hon. Josh Green, M.D.
Chair, Senate Committee on Health

Hon. Clarence K. Nishihara
Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Health

SUBJECT: GM 588 – Submitting For Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Certification of Operation Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants, Gubernatorial Nominee, LOREN S. TANIGAWA, For a Term to Expire 6-30-2015

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Honorable Committee Members:

This letter is to express support for the nomination of Mr. LOREN S. TANIGAWA to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants (Board). My name is Valentino P. Reyna, I am a Civil Engineer with the County of Kaua'i, Department of Public Works, Division of Wastewater Management.

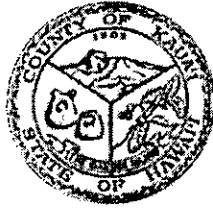
Mr. Tanigawa started with the Division of Wastewater Management as a Plant Helper at the Wailua Wastewater Treatment Plant and through a combination of training, experience, and passing the licensure examinations, became a Grade III licensed wastewater treatment plant operator. Mr. Tanigawa currently holds a temporary Grade IV license. Mr. Tanigawa's hands-on experience in wastewater treatment plant operations and maintenance will benefit the Board and the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter. Should you have questions, please call me at (808) 241-4083.

Very truly yours,

VALENTINO P. REYNA
Division of Wastewater Management

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Larry Dill, P.E.
County Engineer

Gary K. Heu
Managing Director

Lyle Tabata
Deputy County Engineer

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March 29, 2011

VIA EMAIL

TO: Hon. Josh Green, M.D.
Chair, Senate Committee on Health

Hon. Clarence K. Nishihara
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Health

SUBJECT: **GM 588 - Submitting For Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Certification of Operation Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants, Gubernatorial Nominee, LOREN S. TANIGAWA, For a Term to Expire 6-30-2015**

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Honorable Committee Members:

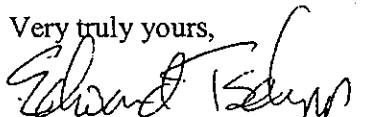
My name is Edward Tschupp, and I am the Chief of the Wastewater Management Division of the County of Kaua'i, Department of Public Works. This letter is to express my support for the nomination of Mr. LOREN S. TANIGAWA to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants ("Board").

Mr. Tanigawa is employed by the County of Kaua'i as a Wastewater Operator at the County's Wailua Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Mr. Tanigawa started with the County at the Wailua WWTP in May 2005, and through a combination of training and experience was became licensed as a Wastewater Operator under the procedures and requirements of the Board. Mr. Tanigawa currently holds a Grade III license and a temporary license as a Grade IV Operator.

Mr. Tanigawa's training and direct experience as wastewater treatment plant employee will benefit the Board and the people of Hawai'i. He understands and appreciates the important role of proper operation of wastewater facilities in order to protect water quality and the environment. I believe that confirmation of Mr. Tanigawa to serve on the Board is in the best interest of the State.

Mahalo for your consideration and the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (808) 241-4084.

Very truly yours,



EDWARD TSCHUPP, Chief

Division of Wastewater Management

An Equal Opportunity Employer

March 26, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Testimony In Behalf of Loren Tanigawa
(Kauai County's Representative to the Board of Certification of Operating
Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants)

I have known Loren Tanigawa for approximately 6 years, the length of his employment with the County of Kauai. From the onset of his employment in the County of Kauai's Wastewater Division he was one of few new employees' who truly understood the responsibilities working in this field. Although his starting position as a WWTP Operator Assistant does not require a license, he showed much interest in someday becoming a WWTP Operator. He personally requested assistance to learn the basics of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations which led to training sessions taking place after working hours, in my personal opinion is extraordinary because over my 30 years experience in Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations no other has requested such assistance especially attending such training session on their own time. All this commitment has paid off as he now has elevated himself above more senior personnel and possesses a WWTP Operator III along with a temporary WWTP Operator IV license.

Because of the shortage of Operator IV's at two of the Kauai County facilities Loren is one of two who has accepted the position of temporary WWTP Operator IV and has performed his duties "More than Satisfactory", per the Kauai Counties job performance rating (JPR). He continues to increase his knowledge and skills through continuing education courses and other available resources.

Loren is very conscientious with his duties as a professional wastewater operator. He has skillfully performed his professional duties to protect the health and welfare of the public, protected public property and the environment, properly and accurately completed the required records, followed and complied with State and Federal rules and regulations. Is very aware of the safe operating policies whereby ensures the best possible service and the safety of his fellow workers are always considered.

Outside of employment with the Kauai County, Loren is a good friend. One of great character, he is very conscious of his employment and the image he portrays outside of work. He is a loyal and friendly person who is always conscious of others, good natured, polite, which makes him liked by all and a model employee of the County of Kauai.

As the Kauai County Wastewater Treatment Plant Field Operation Supervisor and the outgoing Kauai County's representative on the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants respectfully request consideration of Loren Tanigawa as my replacement as he possesses` all the qualities of this position.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bert S. Uyeno
County of Kauai
Wastewater Division
Field Supervisor

March 29, 2011

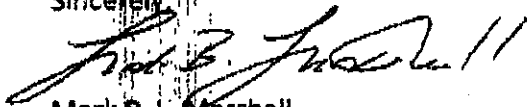
To: Hon. Josh Green, MD
Chair, Senate Committee on Health

Re: GM 588 - Submitting for Confirmation to the Board of Certification of Operation Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants, LOREN S. TANIGAWA for a Term to Expire 6/30/2015.

This letter is written in great support for Loren Tanigawa whom I have known and worked with for over a decade. He has always displayed a professional work demeanor and has all the skills and training in his field of work to be an asset to the "Board" in question. You would be lucky to gain such a person on your "Board". He will participate by bringing his vast experience in wastewater treatment to the duties of this "Board" and as such will enrich the outcome of the "Board". His long sult is his love of Kaua'i and his home State's environment which he will work diligently to preserve and safeguard!

Please give him full consideration and appoint him to the "Board of Certification of Operation Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants". If you require any further information please contact me.

Sincerely,



Mark B. L. Marshall
Kaua'i Emergency Management Officer, Civil defense Agency
2400 A Hulemalu Road
Lihue, HI 96766
(808) 651-2484 Cell

Faxed 1-808-586-6659 (one Page)

3/29/11 @ 3:PM

green2 - Kealaonalehua

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 9:31 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: RichardK.Minatoya@alumni.usc.edu
Subject: Testimony for GM588 on 3/30/2011 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 3/30/2011 3:00:00 PM GM588

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard K. Minatoya
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: RichardK.Minatoya@alumni.usc.edu Submitted on: 3/28/2011

Comments:

I have known Mr. Tanigawa for several years. I also that the opportunity as a former deputy corporation counsel on Maui to appear before the Board of Certification of Operation Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants. I know that Mr. Tanigawa will serve as an excellent board member. I support his nomination without reservation and ask that he be approved. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Jodie E. Yasuda
P. O. Box 112
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

March 26, 2011

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health

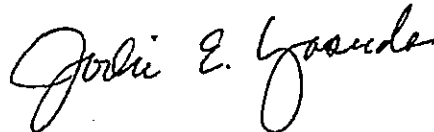
Re: GM588; Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Gubernatorial
Nominee, Loren S. Tanigawa for Board of Certification of Operation
Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants; March 30, 2011 at 9:00
a.m., Conference Room: 229

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Tanigawa for more than ten years. He is smart, ethical, hard working and very capable. Most of all, he has a "can do" attitude and is always thinking of ways to improve the efficiency of his work place and avails himself to continuing education in his field. Mr. Tanigawa is also is very knowledgeable and has "hands-on" experience with respect to the operation of wastewater treatment plants which would make him a valuable addition to the Board. For these reasons, I whole heartedly support his nomination without hesitation.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodie E. Yasuda". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jodie E. Yasuda

To: Certification Board of Wastewater Personnel

From: Mansfield Dacay, Former Board Member

Subject: Mr. Loren Tanigawa

Loren is the perfect candidate to sit on the Certification Board. I have followed his progression since being hired by the County of Kauai Public Works as an Assistance Wastewater Operator to an Operator Grade 4 position.

Loren has the ability to "LISTEN" before rendering a decision. I feel this is what is needed in a board member.

I highly recommend Loren Tanigawa as the next board representative for County of Kauai.

Lorna A. Nishimitsu
4604 Lehua Street
Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii 96746

March 28, 2011

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Committee on Health
Senate, State of Hawaii
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

VIA EMAIL ONLY

RE: Loren S. Tanigawa, Gubernatorial Nominee to the
Board of Certification of Operation Personnel in
Wastewater Treatment Plants

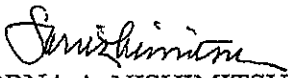
Dear Chair Green and Members of the Committee:

It is with unreserved support that I urge the Committee on Health to confirm the appointment of Loren S. Tanigawa as a member of the Board of Certification of Operation Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants. I knew Mr. Tanigawa before he came an employee of the County of Kauai's Wastewater Division, and following his hiring, he appeared to move quickly through the various levels of plant operator. From the day he began his new job with the County, he enthusiastically tackled all of the tasks that fell under his jurisdiction, and rapidly learned the ins and outs of plant operations.

I was quite proud of his accomplishments, even though I had nothing to do with his success. He takes his job very seriously, as he is all too familiar with and cognizant of the health and safety issues that are ever-present in wastewater treatment. Despite the emergencies and shift changes, and never grudgingly, he diligently applies himself to safe plant operations. His cheerful approach to his job appears also to have "infected" his co-workers, who also respect his skills and tenacity.

Having a person of this caliber conducting some measure of oversight on certifying personnel who treat wastewater throughout the State of Hawaii will be of great benefit to the people who never think about how our waste is treated, except when there is a wastewater spill. Please confirm him to a seat on this Board. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,


LORNA A. NISHIMITSU

LOREN S. TANIGAWA
359 Molo Street
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746
Telephone: (808) 823-6593
(808) 651-4671 (cellular)

March 25, 2011

VIA FAX TRANSMISSION TO: 1-800-586-6659 (Two Pages)

TO: Hon. Josh Green, M.D.
Chair, Senate Committee on Health

Hon. Clarence K. Nishihara
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Health

RE: GM 588 - Submitting For Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Certification of Operation Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants, Gubernatorial Nominee, LOREN S. TANIGAWA, For a Term to Expire 6-30-2015

Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

I wish to thank the Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Health for the opportunity to appear before you and to ask for your favorable consideration of my nomination to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants (hereinafter "Board"). I am a novice at the legislative confirmation process and humbly ask for your patience and understanding if my presentation appears a bit nervous or jittery.

I am currently employed by the County of Kauai as a Wastewater Operator Grade 3, but temporarily assigned as a Grade 4 operator, at the Wailua Wastewater Treatment Plant. I started as a plant worker in May 2005, became an assistant operator in January 2006 and have since taken certification exams for the next three operator grades. My current duties primarily include:

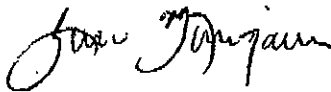
- monitoring of the waste intake volume;
- insuring operation of all equipment, including computerized systems, for the treatment of waste;
- process control;
- sludge handling;
- monitoring chlorination levels of discharge volume;
- communication liaison with division chemist;
- inspection and maintenance of plant equipment;
- supervision of assistant plant operators;
- inventory control.

As the entity responsible for administering Chapter 340B of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Board adopts rules and regulations dealing with the classification of wastewater treatment plants and also establishes criteria for the qualifications of persons who apply for operator certification. The Board is also responsible for establishing procedures for the examination of operator candidates as well as the renewal or revocation of operator certificates.

I believe my work "in the trenches" as a wastewater treatment plant line employee will allow me to serve as a Board member with a common sense, experience-based and efficient approach. I truly understand the importance of consistent plant operations in order to protect water quality and the environment in general. Given the large responsibility of plant operators, I believe strongly in requiring operators to be well trained and qualified. I also believe that serving on this Board would permit me to perform a public service for the residents of my community and the State.

If I am confirmed, I pledge that I will perform diligently and to the best of my abilities to serve the people of this State with integrity. I humbly ask for your favorable consideration. Thank you.

Respectfull Submitted;



Loren Tanigawa