



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2011

Tuesday, April 5, 2011  
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 598

**WRITTEN ONLY**

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

My name is Keali'i S. Lopez, and I am the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA" or the "Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 598, regarding the appointment of Warren Higa to the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Board ("Board"). The Department supports Mr. Higa's appointment and respectfully requests the Committee to recommend that the Senate advise and consent to his appointment to the Board.

I have spoken with Mr. Higa regarding his candidacy for appointment to the Board, and based on my discussion with Mr. Higa, 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. Higa has over 40 years of experience in the retail gasoline and auto repair industries. Beginning as a mechanic, he became the Owner-Manager of Makiki Shell, a full-service gas station and supervised a crew of twenty employees. Over the years, Mr. Higa developed an enviable reputation and a loyal clientele through his integrity and exceptional service in repairing thousands of cars for thousands of customers. He currently works as the Assistant Manager of Manoa Chevron Station.

Mr. Higa holds professional certifications and licenses for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airframe and Power Plant Mechanic, and Mechanic for the State of Hawaii. He also served as a board member for the Hawaii Automotive and Retail Gasoline Dealers Association.

Mr. Higa attended the University of Denver and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Upon graduation, he served in the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program, currently known as AmeriCorps, for five years.

Considering his extensive experience, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Mr. Higa 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. Higa's appointment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.