

# GM 602

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Examiners in Optometry, Gubernatorial Nominee, REID K. SAITO, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

**Report Title:** Board of Examiners in Optometry

**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** CPN



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
www.hawaii.gov/dcca

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ  
DIRECTOR

EVERETT KANESHIGE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2011

Thursday, April 7, 2011  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 602**

**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. 602, regarding the appointment of Reid K. Saito to the Board of Examiners in Optometry ("Board"). The Department supports Dr. Saito'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 Dr. Saito regarding his candidacy for appointment to the Board, and based on my discussion with Dr. Saito, 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.

Dr. Saito has been in private practice as licensed optometrist in the State of Hawaii for the last ten years. In addition to his own practice, Dr. Saito has worked part-time in both a commercial setting and at the Tripler VA Medical Clinic where he gained valuable experience and understanding of the various issues facing all optometrists and their patients in the State.

Dr. Saito has been actively involved in a number of activities involving his profession, most notably as the President of the Hawaii Optometric Association. He also finds the time to contribute to his community as a member of East Honolulu Rotary Club where he leads the Keiki Vision Project at the Palolo School every year.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

April 2, 2011

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection

RE: Testimony in favor of Governor's Message 602 the nomination of Dr. Reid Saito to the Board of Examiners in Optometry

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Hawaii Optometric Association it is my pleasure to submit testimony in favor of the confirmation of Dr. Reid Saito to the Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Dr. Saito is a community minded person who has the best interest of the people in the State of Hawaii as his highest priority. A past president of the Hawaii Optometric Association, he fully understands the democratic policies of collaboration and compromise. Dr. Saito has been a doctor of Optometry in Hawaii since 1998 and is highly qualified to make fair and intelligent decisions on the practice and treatment of diseases of the eye.

Again thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in favor of the appointment of Dr. Reid Saito to the Board of Examiners in Optometry.

Charlotte Nekota  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Optometric Association

March 29, 2011

To the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I would like to thank you for considering me as a candidate for the Hawaii Board of Examiners in Optometry. I would consider it an honor to serve on this committee as it would allow me to both serve my fellow optometrists as well as the general public.

I understand that this board is expected to ensure that the optometric community is conducting itself in a safe and appropriate manner based on state laws, licensing requirements as well as on an ethical basis. As my resume will indicate, I have a broad perspective of optometry having worked part time in a commercial setting and at the Tripler VA Medical Clinic, while maintaining a private practice for the past 10 years. I believe this range of experience equips me with the understanding of the varying issues facing all optometrists and their patients regardless of their mode of practice.

Besides my professional career, I have also been involved in the community as a member of the Rotary Club of East Honolulu. As a Rotarian I have had the opportunity to lead our club's Keiki Vision project at Palolo School each year. I am currently the Immediate Past-President of the Hawaii Optometric Association. During my time in HOA's board structure I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the many national issues facing optometrists as well as some of the local concerns affecting specific parts of the country.

While there may be difficult decisions to be made as a member of this board, I believe that patient welfare is always the primary concern. I intend to serve this Board honorably and to the best of my ability and humbly ask for your approval.

Mahalo,

Dr. Reid Saito