

GM 633

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Report Title: State Board of Public Accountancy

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
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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

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

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 633

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. 633, regarding the appointment of Craig K. Hirai to the State Board of Public Accountancy ("Board"). The Department supports Mr. Hirai'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. Hirai regarding his candidacy for appointment to the Board, and based on my discussion with Mr. Hirai, 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. Hirai has been involved in both accounting and law professions for nearly 40 years, specializing in the areas of federal and State of Hawaii taxation. He has been a licensed certified public accountant in Hawaii since 1974 and a member of the Hawaii State Bar since 1978. Mr. Hirai also holds a real estate broker's license since 1982.

Mr. Hirai has worked as a staff accountant for Arthur Young & Company, a supervising tax specialist with Coopers & Lybrand, and as a tax attorney for a number of law firms in Honolulu. He currently serves as a Director and shareholder of Bowen Hunsaker Hirai Consulting, Inc. and Bowen Hunsaker Hirai, CPA's specializing in the areas of federal and State income taxation, gift and estate taxation, tax and financial planning for businesses and individuals, business valuations, and litigation support services for law firms.

Mr. Hirai finds the time to contribute to his profession in numerous ways, beginning with his membership with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), where he received the organization's accreditation in Business Valuation and certification in Financial Forensics. In addition, he is a member of the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants and has served as the Chair of its Professional Ethics Committee since 2003. Furthermore, Mr. Hirai served as the Chair of the State Tax Review Commission from 2001 to 2003.

In the area of real estate, Mr. Hirai has been actively involved with the Hawaii Association of Realtors for the last 25 years, and currently serves as the Chair of its Affordable Housing Subcommittee. He also served as the Chair of the State Rental Housing Trust Fund Commission and the State Rental Housing Trust Fund Advisory

Commission, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH).

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



The REALTOR® Building
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April 7, 2011

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: G.M. 633, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

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

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee.

I am Berton Hamamoto, 2011 President, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,500 members. HAR **strongly supports** G.M. 633, which considers and confirms Mr. Craig Hirai to serve on the State Board of Public Accountancy ("Board.")

As a well-versed, community oriented, and energetic individual, Mr. Craig Hirai will be an asset to the Board.

Mr. Craig Hirai's diverse educational experience, which includes receiving his Masters of Laws in Taxation at the New York University, Juris Doctorate at the University of California, Hastings College, Masters of Science in Accounting and Masters of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, will provide a balanced and reasoned approach to the Board.

Through his professional experience, as Chair of the State Tax Review Commission, Chair of the State Rental Housing Trust Fund Advisory Commission, and Ex-Officio Board of Director of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii, he has shown an ability to work with and through multiple organizational levels without losing focus.

Furthermore, as a REALTOR® member, Mr. Craig Hirai has served for numerous years on the HAR Government Affairs Committee, and serves as a role model to our members and the community.

For the above reasons, HAR requests the Committee's favorable consideration and approval of Mr. Craig Hirai to serve on the State Board of Public Accountancy.

Sincerely,

HAWAI'I ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Berton Hamamoto".

Berton Hamamoto, ABR, CRB, CRS
2011 HAR President

REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.





Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates, LLC

Certified Public Accountants & Consultants
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 139
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4260

Before the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

**Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229**

Re: Support for GM 633

Relating to Consideration and Confirmation of Craig K. Hirai, CPA to the State Board of
Public Accountancy

Testimony of Gregg M. Taketa

Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Taniguchi and committee members:

I am a certified public accountant (CPA) and the immediate past State President of the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants (HAPA). I am also a member of the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants (HSCPA) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

I strongly support the nomination of Craig K. Hirai, CPA, to the State Board of Public Accountancy. Mr. Hirai has been a leader in the public accounting community of Hawaii for many years. As a shareholder of the Honolulu CPA firm of Bowen Hunsaker Hirai Consulting, Inc., he has an extensive knowledge of the practice of public accounting in Hawaii. He is currently the chair of the Professional Ethics Committee of the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants and is also the past chair of the State Tax Review Commission.

I have known Mr. Hirai for over ten years and I have found him to be an articulate professional that is fair and objective in dealing with issues. He is a person of high integrity and his leadership skills are unsurpassed. I believe Mr. Hirai will be an excellent addition to the Board of Public Accountancy. I urge you to confirm his nomination to the State Board of Public Accountancy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregg M. Taketa, CPA



HSCPA

Hawaii Society of
Certified Public Accountants

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection

GM 633

In Support of the Confirmation of Craig K. Hirai
Board of Public Accountancy

Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

900 Fort Street

Suite 850

P.O. Box 1754

Honolulu, Hawaii 96806

Tel: (808) 537-9475

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E-mail: info@hscpa.org

Website: www.hscpa.org

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

My name is Kathy Castillo, Executive Director of the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants (HSCPA), submitting testimony in support of the confirmation of Craig K. Hirai to the Board of Public Accountancy.

Mr. Hirai has chaired the Professional Ethics Committee (PEC) of the HSCPA for the past 15 years which provides guidance to its members on ethical behavior and standards, and ensures members' adherence thereto by investigating complaints and disciplining those who violate the Code of Professional Conduct. The PEC works in conjunction with the Joint Ethics Enforcement Program of the American Institute of CPAs.

Through his volunteer service on the HSCPA PEC and his professional experience as an attorney, Mr. Hirai understands the importance of regulatory issues and will provide that same leadership and professionalism in helping the Board of Public Accountancy assume its role as the regulator of Certified Public Accountants in Hawaii.

The HSCPA is the one and only organization in Hawaii comprised entirely of CPAs and CPA candidates. It is our mission to promote high professional standards with the responsibility of preserving a legacy of honor and integrity for future generations of CPAs.

Thank you for your consideration in confirming Craig K. Hirai to the Board of Public Accountancy.

Sincerely,

Kathy Castillo
Executive Director

**Bowen
Hunsaker
Hirai**

*Certified Public Accountants
A Professional Corporation*

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection

GM 633

In Support of the Confirmation of Craig K. Hirai
State Board of Public Accountancy

Thursday, April 7, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229

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

My name is Mark D. Hunsaker, President of Bowen Hunsaker Hirai, Certified Public Accountants, P.C. and current Board Member of the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy. I am submitting testimony in support of the confirmation of Craig K. Hirai to the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy.

I have known Craig for over 30 years, both personally and professionally. In both these capacities, Craig has always exhibited the highest ideals in both character and integrity. I believe him to be well respected in the financial, business and legal community and also among those friends who we have in common.

I believe Craig would be an excellent member of the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy, and I wholeheartedly support his confirmation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
BOWEN HUNSAKER HIRAI, CPAs, P.C.



MARK D. HUNSAKER
Certified Public Accountant
Accredited in Business Valuation
Certified in Financial Forensics
Certified Business Appraiser

Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: April 7, 2011
Time: 9:00 am

RE: GM 633 -- State Board of Public Accountancy
Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am pleased to **support** the Governor's nomination of Mr. Craig Hirai to the State Board of Public Accountancy.

I have known Mr. Hirai for about 15 years more as an attorney than a CPA. We worked together outside of his accounting career for our respective clients for a few years and his knowledge always impressed me. I can attest to his diligence and thoroughness in his work on various tax and policy issues that I had the opportunity to work with him.

He is also a great teacher sharing his knowledge and patience to get me, a non-lawyer "up to speed" on the intricacies of tax laws and understanding laws in our client's industry.

The skills Mr. Hirai brings to the table will serve the State Board on Public Accountancy well. I am confident that he will serve with the same diligence and superior work ethic.

He has also served on the 2001 -2003 Tax Review Commission as its chair and served on other state boards.

Mahalo for this opportunity to express my support for the confirmation of Mr. Hirai.

Cynthia Takenaka
516 Kawaihae Street #E
Honolulu, HI 96825

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

NOTICE OF HEARING – COMMITTEE OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

DATE: Thursday, April 7, 2011
TIME: 9:00a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Testimony in support for the appointment of Craig K. Hirai to the Hawaii State Board of Accountancy – Agenda Item GM 633

Chairperson Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

My name is Kent Tsukamoto and I am the Managing Partner of Accuity LLP, a Hawaii based CPA firm. I also currently serve as the Vice Chairman of the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy. I am writing to strongly support the appointment of Craig K. Hirai as a CPA Member to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy.

I have known Craig personally and professionally for more than 25 years. He has always demonstrated the utmost integrity and independence as well as strong technical skills as both a CPA and as an attorney. I am confident that his experience and expertise will be a positive addition to the Board.

I respect Craig's intellect and experience and strongly support his appointment. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Best regards and aloha,

Kent K. Tsukamoto

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

GARY M. SLOVIN

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April 6, 2011

Via Email: CPNTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230

Re: GM⁰³³ - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.
Hearing: Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

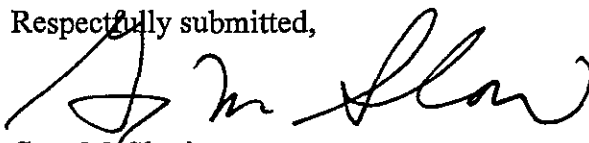
I am Gary Slovin testifying on behalf the nomination of Craig K. Hirai to the Board of Public Accountancy. I have known and worked with Craig for many years. Craig is an attorney, real estate licensee and a CPA. He has broad experience in all areas. Therefore, his familiarity with the manner in which accountancy works in the real would be of tremendous benefit to the State and to the Board.

Craig is a person of very high character. I have worked with him on many matters and have always been impressed with the integrity with which he approaches issues. He is a diligent person who does his homework and comes to meetings prepared to address what is before whatever group he is working with. He is also considerate of other views and a good listener and willing to put in place the ideas of others and not just his own. My experience in working with Craig is that the groups that he is a part of end up with a better product than would have otherwise been the case if Craig had not participated.

He is a person with a fine temperament, who possesses a sense of humor and is able to work well with people with a wide range of views.

For those reasons, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Craig Hirai to the Board of Public Accountancy.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary M. Slovin

N I W A O
&
R O B E R T S

Certified Public Accountants, A Professional Corporation

Before the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

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

Conference Room 229

Re: Support for GM 633

Relating to Consideration and Confirmation of
Craig K. Hirai, CPA/ABV, MBA, LL.M. to the State Board of Public Accountancy

Marilyn M. Niwao, J.D., CPA

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and committee members:

I am a certified public accountant (CPA) and an attorney licensed in Hawaii, a past member of the Tax Review Commission, and president of the Maui CPA firm Niwao & Roberts, CPAs, a P.C.

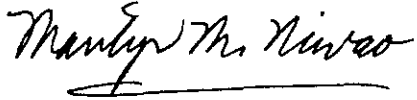
I strongly support the nomination of Craig K. Hirai, CPA/ABV, MBA, LL.M. to the State Board of Public Accountancy. I have known Mr. Hirai professionally and personally for over 30 years. In those years, I have been impressed by his knowledge, experience, integrity, and commitment to public service. While serving together on the Tax Review Commission, Mr. Hirai, as Chair of the Tax Review Commission, displayed intelligence, analytical thought, sound judgment, and the willingness to get the job done right. These qualities, including the fact that he can assist the Board with writing Administrative Rules, will make him a highly valuable member of the State Board of Public Accountancy.

Mr. Hirai is both an attorney and a CPA, and is a principal of the CPA firm of Bowen Hunsaker Hirai. During his professional career as both an attorney and a CPA, he has developed a broad base of professional experience serving businesses and individuals. He is familiar with various aspects of the CPA profession.

Based on the above, I urge you to confirm his nomination to the State Board of Public Accountancy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marilyn M. Niwao". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal line underlining the name.

Marilyn M. Niwao, J.D., CPA

R. Brian Tsujimura
745 Fort Street, 17th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
rtsujimura@imanakakudo.com

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of GM 633: Consideration and Confirmation to the State Board of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire June 30, 2015

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I support the nomination of Craig Hirai to the Board of Public Accountancy. Craig has been both a personal friend and a professional colleague and I strongly support his nomination to the Board.

He has displayed throughout his career an unflinching dedication to doing what is right and I know he will bring these qualities to the Board. I heartily and unequivocally support Craig Hirai's nomination.

Sincerely,



R. Brian Tsujimura

RBT:ay

CRAIG K. HIRAI, CPA, ABV, CFF
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2020
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 526-2020
Facsimile: (808) 526-2021
E-Mail: craig@bhhepa.net

March 31, 2011

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol, Room 230
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: G.M. 633, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

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

I am Craig K. Hirai, Gubernatorial Nominee to the State Board of Public Accountancy for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

I would like to be a member of the State Board of Public Accountancy inasmuch as I have been a CPA with a permit to practice in the State of Hawaii since 1974 and would like to make a contribution to the profession and the State of Hawaii before the end of my professional career.

I believe that members of the board should be responsible for enforcing the provisions of HRS Chapter 436B (Uniform Professional and Vocational Licensing Act) as it applies to and in conjunction with HRS Chapter 466 (Public Accountancy) and the Hawaii Administrative Rules promulgated thereunder. I also believe that the members of the board should protect the public and promote the development of the accounting profession in the State of Hawaii.

As a result of my: (a) public accounting, legal and tax experience; (b) service as the Chair of the Professional Ethics Committee of the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants; and (c) knowledge of State Government gained by service on other State Boards and Commissions, I believe that I am qualified to serve on the State Board of Public Accountancy.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination.

Sincerely yours,


CRAIG K. HIRAI, CPA, ABV, CFF