

# **GM745**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, PETER YUKIMURA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY

Submitting for consideration and confirmation  
To the Advisory Board on Veterans Services,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
Peter Yukimura for a term to expire  
6-30-2015

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

April 19, 2011

BY

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Good afternoon, Chair Will Espero, Chair, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and members of the Committee.

I am Gregory Jackson, Jr., Director of the Veteran's Services. OVS supports confirmation of Peter Yukimura to be appointed to the Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

Mr. Yukimura, is a veteran of the Vietnam War and was awarded a combat infantry badge, a bronze star and two purple hearts. As a disabled veteran, Mr. Yukimura is personally familiar with how the federal Veterans Affairs services operate. His experience as a veteran—particularly as a veteran of the Vietnam War—provides him a unique insight vital to the Advisory Board's activities.

In his private capacity, Mr. Yukimura has demonstrated his acumen as a businessman dating back nearly three decades as the president or as a general partner of multiple small businesses including travel, real estate development, food services and product distribution.

As a resident of Kauai, Mr. Yukimura has a long history, not just of being engaged in his community, but of being a driving force for his community's progress. He holds numerous positions as a director, member and trustee, with community associations, for example as honorary Director of the Kauai United Way, Director of the Honolulu 200 a police and firefighters support group, Director of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, and as a member of multiple other chambers of commerce both in Kauai and Honolulu.

Mr. Yukimura has a long history of public service. He served as a vice chair of the Kauai Utility Cooperative, as Commissioner - State Land Use Commission, and as a member of the Small Business Regulatory Review Board. His experience will be a great asset to the Governor's Advisory Board on Veteran's Services. One noteworthy public service position not reflected elsewhere in Mr. Yukimura's resume, is his service for approximately 10 years as a member on the local Selective Service board for the island of Kauai. This former position—and being a draftee himself—provides him with a unique perspective that can add considerable value to his work on the Veterans Advisory Board.

Mr. Yukimura exemplifies the dedication, can-do spirit and service-oriented philosophy essential for holding a position of this kind.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of Peter Yukimura's confirmation and consideration.



**Michael J. Murakoshi**  
Senior Vice President  
and Region Manager

April 18, 2011

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Ref. Mr. Peter Yukimura-Nomination to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

Please accept this letter as my written testimony on behalf of Peter Yukimura to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

I have known Mr. Yukimura on a personal and professional basis for over 10 years and have found him to be a man of the highest integrity. Peter has a broad knowledge of our island having been born, raised and a successful businessman here on Kauai. Professionally, he has always conducted himself in a manner that deems the highest respect. Peter has firsthand knowledge and personal experience with which to draw from having served in the U.S. Army-Infantry and a Vietnam Veteran. He has served on several Federal and State Boards demonstrating his commitment and dedication to the people of Hawaii. I know Peter welcomes the opportunity to assist on the Veterans' Services Advisory Board.

It is with certainty that you will find Mr. Peter Yukimura to be conscientious, truthful, capable and reliable. Peter is a man well liked, involved in the community and concerned about the welfare of all who have served in protecting our Country. He is well qualified and will be an asset to the "Advisory Board on Veterans' Services".

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my recommendation for his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Murakoshi".

Michael J. Murakoshi  
Senior Vice President and  
Kauai Region Manager

April 18, 2011

Honorable Senator Will Espero  
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military  
Affairs  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination of Peter Yukimura to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Dear Senator Espero:

I'm pleased to endorse the nomination of Peter Yukimura to serve on the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. I've known Mr. Yukimura and his family for many years.

Mr. Yukimura and I served together on the Board of Directors of the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative for the past four years. He has served as an elected board member since 2005 and was recently re-elected to another three year term by our membership which consists of the rate payers on the island of Kauai.

We also serve together on the Board of Trustees of Lihue Christian Church, part of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ.

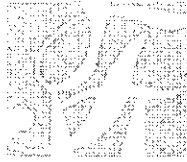
He brings his well established and successful business experience and his passionate commitment to serve our community.

Mr. Yukimura is a decorated combat wounded Vietnam War veteran and is eminently qualified to bring his experience and expertise to the Advisory Board.

He will be a great Board Member.

Sincerely,

David Iha  
Director, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative  
Emeritus Provost, Kauai Community College  
Emeritus Secretary of the Board of Regents, University of Hawaii



**FUJITA & MIURA**  
PUBLIC RELATIONS, LLC

The Honorable Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
The Senate  
State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 18, 2011

RE: GM745 Confirmation for Peter Yukimura to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services,  
Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

Dear Senator Espero and Committee Members:

It gives me great pleasure to support the nomination of Peter Yukimura to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. I have known Mr. Yukimura professionally for more than 10 years.

A third generation Kaua'i resident and graduate of the University of Hawai'i, Mr. Yukimura served in the Army Infantry in the Vietnam War. He is the President of Koa Trading Company, a grocery distributor and has more than 30 years of business experience in Hawai'i. He is an active, well-respected business and community leader. In 1985, Mr. Yukimura received the Small Business Association's Small Businessman of the Year Award. He has served on the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission and is a member of the Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce, the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, and the Hawai'i Food Industry Association. He is also a Board member for the Kaua'i Community College Fund and Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative, a member-elected position. In these capacities, Mr. Yukimura is an outstanding asset. Importantly, he understands veterans issues and is committed to positively contributing to veterans services in Hawai'i.

Mr. Yukimura has the experience and acumen to represent veterans on the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. I strongly urge you to confirm his nomination. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joy Miura Koerte, Partner  
Fujita & Miura Public Relations, Inc.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Peter Yukimura, Governor's appointee to the Advisory Board on Veterans Services.

Peter Yukimura is a perfect fit for this position as he is a combat veteran from the Vietnam era and also combat wounded. Not only does he have this military experience, he is also a very successful business owner as President of Koa Trading co. the biggest food wholesaler on Kauai.

He had Government experience as he served two terms (8 years) on the Land Use Commission of the State of Hawaii. I serve with him on the Board of Directors of Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, formerly know as Kauai Electric Co. He has already served for 2 terms, (6 years). and was just re-elected for another 3 year term. He brings valuable experience to the Board and I'm sure he will do the same for the Veterans of Hawaii.

Please confirm Peter Yukimura for a seat on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. You will be justly served.

Thank you for this opportunity to give this testimony.

Teofilo Phil Tacbian  
former Chairman and Commissioner State Land Use Commission  
presently Chairman, Kauai Island Utility Cooperative

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2011 10:58 PM  
**To:** PGM Testimony  
**Cc:** edward@kawamurafarm.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM745 on 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for PGM 4/19/2011 1:15:00 PM GM745

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Edward M. Kawamura  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [edward@kawamurafarm.com](mailto:edward@kawamurafarm.com)  
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

I, Edward Kawamura, Past Kauai Veterans Council President, Past OVS Board Member, Past DAV, Dept. Of Hawaii Commander, current VA Advisory Board Member is in support of Peter Yukimura to the OVS Advisory Board.



Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs

Senator Will Espero -- Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani -- Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

1:15 pm

Conference Room 312

State Capitol

GM 745

Aloha Chair Espero and Vice Chair Kidani and members of the PGM Committee:

My name is Peter Yukimura and I am asking for your support for my confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. I feel that I am qualified to be on this Board because I am a veteran, I am involved in community service, and I am a person in business.

I am a veteran. I was drafted into the Army in 1967, was trained in Fort Ord, California and Fort Polk, Louisiana. In November of 1967 I was sent to Vietnam as an infantry rifleman. I got out 14 month later as a Sergeant E-5 with a Combat Infantry Badge, 2 Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. After the Army, I went to the University of Hawaii using the GI Bill and earned my degree in Business with an Accounting Major.

In 1971 I moved back to Kauai to join our family business. Through the years our food distribution grew to be one of the largest businesses on Kauai and has consistently been included in Hawaii Business Magazine's Top 250 Largest Companies in Hawaii. I have owned or been involved in many other businesses over the years. I have owned all or part of a sausage factory, a travel agency, a radio station, a cable tv company, a movie theater, and others, some that I would like to forget.

I have always been involved in community service. I am an Honorary Director of the Kauai United Way, after serving over 25 years. I am a Trustee of the Kauai Community College Fund Board, a Trustee for Lihue Christian Church, a Director of Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, a Director of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, member of the Kiwanis, member of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce and the Kauai Filipino Chamber of Chamber of Commerce. I also am a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans.

I believe that these life experiences qualify me to become a contributing member to the Advisory Board of Veterans' Services. Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Yukimura

**Subject:** RE: Re: Confirmation hearing - Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Senator Will Espero  
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs

Dear Senator Espero

I apologize again for not being able to attend my confirmation hearing tomorrow at 1:15 pm. Here are my answers to the questions in your letter of April 12, 2011.

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Advisory Board on Veteran's Services?

I wish to become a member of the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services because I believe that a large number of veterans and their families under utilize the benefits and services that are available for them. They need to be more aware and we need to communicate better with them of the services and programs that available for them and their families. I want to do my part in helping my fellow veterans.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services?

The role and responsibilities of a member of the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services is the advise the Governor and Director on veterans issues, legislation and programs. To advise the Governor and Director on issues from a veterans point of view.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

I believe that I am qualified for this position because I am a disabled veteran and I have gone through a lot of the hurdles that veterans endure just to get their benefits. I also know what community service means. I am a Trustee for the Kauai Community College Fund Board, a Trustee for Lihue Christian Church, a Board Member of Kauai Island Utility Cooperative and other non-profits. I know business. I am the President of Koa Trading Company and President of M & K Distributors, both are Kauai companies that employ over 50 people. These experiences, I believe make me qualified for the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

What I hope to accomplish on this Board is to help veterans become more aware of the benefits, services and programs that are available to them. I also hope to make government agencies more aware of the veterans' needs.

I hope these answers are satisfactory. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Yukimura