

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



MARIAN TSUJI  
CHAIRPERSON

JAMES P. HARDWAY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, SUITE 417  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.hawaii.gov/labor/WDC](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor/WDC)  
Phone: (808) 586-8672 / Fax: (808) 586-8674

January 25, 2012

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: Monday, January 30, 2012  
Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 016

From: Marian Tsuji, Chairperson  
Workforce Development Council

**RE: GM 563 – Jeff Thompson  
Workforce Development Council**

The Workforce Development Council (“WDC”) supports the appointment of Mr. Jeff Thompson as a member of the WDC for a term to expire on 6/30/2015. Mr. Thompson would fill a slot reserved for private sector members on the WDC.

The WDC is an attached agency to the DLIR and is responsible for advising the Governor and Legislature on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for all. The WDC is also the State Workforce Investment Board for purposes of the federal Workforce Investment Act (“WIA”) of 1998. The WDC assists the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive five-year strategic workforce investment plans and oversees workforce (public) investment activities in the state.

Mr. Thompson joins the council with vast experience in the construction industry. Mr. Thompson’s presence would benefit the WDC in attempting to resolve long-term workforce issues related to one of Hawaii’s largest employment bases and economic drivers - construction. His assistance is greatly needed in helping to identify the barriers associated with better preparing and positioning of local labor to fill positions such as project manager that are traditionally filled by imported labor from the mainland. As noted in the material submitted by the Governor and the appointee, his myriad of experience makes him a vital asset to the WDC. In this critical year, the WDC will be preparing the 5-year state plan on the use of federal Workforce Investment Activities (WIA) monies. This WIA plan is a requirement in order for Hawaii to receive the bulk of federal funding for the State’s primary job training and placement activities. Mr. Thompson’s extensive experience will be vital to those efforts. The WDC is in strong support of Mr. Thompson’s appointment and urges this committee to approve his nomination.

Thank you for this time to provide testimony for Mr. Jeff Thompson