

TESTIMONY

GM758

**HTH
Committee Hearing
03-07-2012**

**Testimony for
the Senate Committee on Health
Jodi M. Yamami
Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators**

Chair Josh Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for this opportunity to present some information on my background for your consideration of my confirmation to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.

Educationally, I graduated from Punahou School and attended the University of California at Los Angeles where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

I have over twelve years of engineering experience with Kaiser Electronics, a California company that designs and manufactures cockpit displays for military aircraft. For my first four years of service there, I worked in the Mechanical Design group analyzing systems for thermal and structural integrity, and supported the qualification testing of products which was required by the military.

During my last eight years at Kaiser Electronics, I managed the major mechanical and optical subcontractors that manufactured the piece parts of the cockpit displays from product design to end item shipment. During this period, I coordinated all Supplier Certification activities including policy development, training, commodity team orientation, and business review coordination. These certification activities produced a core group of suppliers that could be depended upon to manufacture quality product on a consistent basis. Since these products were used in fighter aircraft that not only protected the pilots during operations, but also provided a means of defense for our entire nation, only those certified suppliers could receive contract awards from Kaiser Electronics.

The fundamental basis for the development of the Supplier Certification program at Kaiser Electronics is very similar to the Operator Certification program that the Board of

Certification of Public Water System Operators administers. This Board is responsible for setting and maintaining the standards for certification of personnel who operate public water systems in order to protect the public health. The Board's role is critical in achieving the mission established by the Department of Health which is to protect and improve the health and environment for all people in Hawaii.

After returning home to Hawaii, I joined the Safe Drinking Water Branch of the State of Hawaii, Department of Health as an Engineer in 2007. For five years, my position has been responsible for the implementation and administration of the drinking water treatment plant operator and distribution system operator certification program. I currently make recommendations to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators on developing and administering regulations and procedures for certifying or rescinding the certification of operators and the approval of Continuing Education Units. My duties also include renewing operator certifications, developing and conducting statewide training for operators, and providing technical assistance in response to operators' requests. In addition, I have been a member of the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators for the past four years and will conclude my first term on June 30, 2012.

Per Chapter 340F-4 HRS, one individual on the Board should be from the state agency responsible for the State's safe drinking water program. Currently, I am serving on the Board in this capacity and if confirmed for a second term this requirement would continue to be fulfilled.

Utilizing the experiences in my diverse background, I will be able to apply my knowledge and experience toward using good judgement in making decisions to maintain the standards set for the certification of public water system operators. I have seen first hand on Sanitary Surveys of public water systems, the importance of the role of the public water system operator. Their duties are essential in protecting the drinking water the water system provides for the public. As a member of the Board, I would hope that my efforts would ensure that only capable and responsible operators become certified in order to achieve the mission of the Department of Health.

The three qualities that would best distinguish me for consideration would be: (1) that my Supplier Certification background can be applied in the interest of protecting public health, (2) I have a fresh perspective of the water industry from a regulatory view that is not compromised because of affiliation with any water purveyor, and (3) finally, my appointment would fulfill the statutory requirement that one member of the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators also be from the state agency responsible for the State's Safe Drinking Water Program.

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest, however if any should arise, I understand the procedures of the Board as they are dictated in Section 11-25-13 HAR, as concurrence of a majority of all members shall be necessary to make any action of the Board valid.

I respectfully ask for your support of my nomination to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators. Thank you.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

In reply, please refer to:
File: SDWB

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

GM758, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM
OPERATORS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JODI M. YAMAMI, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 7, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination of
2 Ms. Jodi M. Yamami to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** Ms. Yamami has worked in the Department of Health,
5 Environmental Management Division, Safe Drinking Water Branch for almost five years in an
6 engineering position that provides direct support to the Board of Certification of Public Water System
7 Operators. She is also in constant contact with all the Hawaii public water system operators and
8 provides support to them on a daily basis. Her position receives and reviews applications for
9 certification. She then prepares recommendations for the board at quarterly meetings. Ms. Yamami also
10 coordinates island wide continuing education training for the operators which is required for each
11 certification renewal every two years. She further administers operator certification examinations, and
12 receives and provides individual results with the utmost emphasis on privacy for each examinee. Her
13 work on the operator certification program has earned her one of the Department's sustained superior
14 performance awards for 2011.

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

1 Ms. Yamami has served a first term on the Board of Certification of Public Water System
2 Operators and has fulfilled the statutory requirement that a member of the Safe Drinking Water Branch
3 be represented on the Board. As a board member, she has represented Safe Drinking Water Branch
4 interests very well. Ms. Yamami's willingness to serve a second term will be of great benefit to the
5 Public Water System Operator Certification Program while at the same time, continue the fulfillment of
6 a statutory requirement.

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