

GM768

GABRIEL LEE

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, GABRIEL LEE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Report Title: State Board of Public Accountancy

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
3/9/2012	S	Received.
3/9/2012	S	Referred to CPN.
3/19/2012	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 04-03-12 9:30AM in conference room 229.



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

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

Tuesday, April 3, 2012
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 768
GABRIEL LEE

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 in support of Governor's Message No. 768 regarding the appointment of Gabriel Lee to the Board of Public Accountancy ("Board") as a public member. The Department respectfully requests the Committee to recommend that the Senate advise and consent this appointment to the Board.

Mr. Lee is currently employed as Executive Vice President, Commercial Markets, for American Savings bank, where he is the division manager overseeing corporate banking, commercial banking, commercial real estate, cash management and international services. Mr. Lee has also served as Vice President and Commercial Banking Officer at First Hawaiian Bank, and was a Vice President and Pacific Marketing Director at Bancorp Leasing of Hawaii. As an individual who works frequently with accounting professionals, Mr. Lee is uniquely qualified as a public member to bring a corporate customer perspective to the Board.

Mr. Lee also has a strong history of community service, including but not limited to his current involvement as a board member of the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts of America, Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Diamond Head Theater, Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, Retail Merchants of Hawaii and Saint Louis School. His prior board experience includes the Catholic Charities Family Services, Hawaii Community Reinvestment Corporation, and the Hawaii Dental Service (2004 to 2008 as Chairman). Mr. Lee's familiarity with board processes and governance issues provide an excellent foundation for his participation as a strong and capable public member of this Board.

Mr. Lee has been apprised of the Board of Accountancy meeting schedule and has indicated that this schedule will not pose a problem for him.

In light of his background, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Mr. Lee will prove to be an asset to the State and to this Board. I respectfully request the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to this appointment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection

GM 768

In Support of the Confirmation of Gabriel Lee
Board of Public Accountancy

Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

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). On behalf of the HSCPA Board of Directors, we support of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee, Gubernatorial Nominee to the State Board of Public Accountancy (State Board).

The HSCPA highly recommends Mr. Lee, a financial executive and major contributor within the community. We believe his consummate professionalism, high moral character, proven leadership, and business experience make him uniquely qualified to fill this important position as a public member of the State Board.

Mr. Lee has extensive experience in the financial area, working with accounting professionals in both the public and private sectors, and serving on various non-profit Boards. He is actively involved in the community he serves and continues to be recognized for his achievements. If appointed to the Board, Mr. Lee will provide that same leadership and dedication in helping the State Board assume its role as the regulator of Certified Public Accountants in Hawaii.

For the past decade, the State Board has been faced with challenges on the current regulatory system. It is the responsibility of the State Board to promote high professional standards and to protect the interest of the public. We believe that Mr. Lee's enthusiasm and dedication for the goals and objectives of State Board and the public will allow him to make the right decisions that put the public interest and the CPA profession's responsibilities first, while at the same time, bring a unique perspective to the process.

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.

The HSCPA Board of Directors is proud to recommend Gabriel Lee for nomination to the State Board of Public Accountancy and ask for your support in confirming his nomination.

Sincerely,

Kathy Castillo
Executive Director
Hawaii Society of CPAs



A Hawaii Limited Liability Partnership

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection

GM 768

In Support of the Confirmation of Gabriel Lee
State Board of Public Accountancy

Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 9:30 am
Conference Room 229

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

My name is Ross R. Murakami, partner of KMH LLP. I am submitting testimony in support of the confirmation of Gabriel Lee to the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy.

I have known Gabe for over 10 years, both personally and professionally. In both these capacities, Gabe has always exhibited the highest ideals in both character and integrity. I believe him to be well respected in the business and banking community and also among those friends who we have in common.

I believe Gabe would be an excellent member of the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy. I submit this notice of my support for his confirmation without any reservations.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross R. Murakami'.

Ross R. Murakami
Partner

Rodney M. Harano, CPA
700 Bishop Street, Suite 1040
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

April 3, 2012
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

GM 768

**In Support of the Confirmation of Gabriel Lee
Board of Public Accountancy**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Committee Members:

My name is Rodney Harano and I am a partner in the local firm, CW Associates, CPAs. I support the confirmation of Gabriel Lee, Gubernatorial Nominee to the State Board of Public Accountancy, as its public member.

I have known the nominee, Gabriel Lee, personally and professionally for 10+ years. He has extensive experience in the banking and financial arena, working closely with his customers and their CPAs. He has a clear understanding of the interrelationship between the CPA profession and the customer base he serves.

Besides being a consummate professional, he is also is an outstanding citizen and is well-respected by his peers and colleagues in the civic community, serving on several not-for-profit Boards. On top of all his business and civic responsibilities, he has time to be a good husband, father and friend to those who know him outside of "downtown".

Gabriel Lee has integrity, is objective, and possesses personal characteristics and business acumen required to be a good public member on the Board of Public Accountancy. I ask for your support in confirming his nomination to the Board of Public Accountancy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rodney M. Harano, CPA

GABRIEL S. H. LEE

March 12, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Senatorial District 5
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230

RE: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Board of Public Accountancy

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

I would appreciate your consideration as an appointee to the State Board of Public Accountancy under the public member position that becomes available on July 1, 2012.

As a commercial banker, I have over 25 years of experience in dealing with certified public accountants in conjunction with the preparation of financial statements for financial analysis related to loan requests, and in negotiating loan terms and conditions with the Chief Financial Officers and Controllers of customers.

My background and experience will ensure that the mission of State Board of Public Accountancy will be fulfilled to promote high professional standards and to protect the interest of the public.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.

Best regards,

Gabriel Lee