

**Board of Professional Engineers,
Architects, Surveyors, and
Landscape Architects**

Effective Date: 12/24/2012 (INTERIM)

Expiration Date: 6/30/2016

Representing: Landscape Architect

Department: DCCA

Term Limit: N/A

Kurokawa, Joel

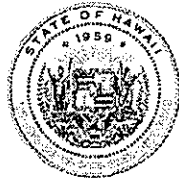
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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Friday, March 1, 2013
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 513.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is James Kobashigawa and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 513, regarding the appointment of Joel Kurokawa to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Kurokawa's appointment to the Board.

Mr. Kurokawa has served on the Board as an interim member since December 24, 2012, and is being appointed as a landscape architect member. Since his interim appointment, there have been two meetings, both of which he attended.

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Mr. Kurokawa has been licensed as a landscape architect in Hawaii since September 19, 2002, and his license is current, active, and in good standing. He has more than 25 years of experience internationally, nationally and locally. Prior to returning to Hawaii, Mr. Kurokawa practiced in California and Japan. With his vast experience, knowledge in the field of landscape architecture, and his willingness to serve and contribute to the community, Mr. Kurokawa is expected to be an asset to the Board.

The Department supports the confirmation of Joel Kurokawa to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

STATEMENT OF JOEL KUROKAWA

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects?

I was recommended to serve on the Board of EASLA by a Michael Chu, who recently completed his term. I've been practicing landscape architecture in Hawaii for 17 years as principal and owner of Ki Concepts. Prior to this I practiced in Tokyo, Japan for 8 years and 4 years in the San Francisco Bay Area. I was born and raised in Hawaii and am an active community advocate for keeping our island home clean, green, and beautiful. Landscape architects play a critical role in this, and the EASLA Board ensures through licensure that landscape architects in Hawaii are held to a high professional standard of care to protect the Public health, safety, and welfare. At this point in my career I believe I can make a positive contribution, and it is my duty to be of public service. Thus, I would be honored to serve as one of two landscape architects on the EASLA Board to uphold our State's high standards.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects?

As a Board member my role and responsibilities are to enforce HRS Chapter 464 and 436B, including but not limited to, rules which define the engineers, architects, surveyors and landscape architects in which licensing is offered, clarify the qualifications needed for licensure, and set forth practice requirements.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities as a member of the Board, 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 Board.

As a licensed landscape architect in Hawaii I have firsthand experience, albeit many years ago, of the licensing application and pre-qualifications requirements and procedures, taking the LARE and State examination sections, have 17 years of professional practice as a landscape architect in Hawaii with a diverse portfolio of project types and locales from site planning to design / public and private / small to large / simple to complex / urban to rural / mauka to makai / and wet to dry, owning and operating a landscape architecture consulting firm, have supervised/mentored landscape architecture interns preparing to qualify and take the licensure examination, have served on the Executive Committee of the Hawaii Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects, and serve on the board of two environmental non-profit organizations lending my professional landscape architecture expertise. All of these experiences requires me to have a clear understanding of the regulations, laws, and requirements governing the title and practice of landscape architecture in Hawaii, and I believe this qualifies me and will aid in my decision-making ability to serve as a board member of EASLA.

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

My goals during my term are to serve in the Public interest and to actively participate in the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards (CLARB) so as to continue to improve on the relevancy and appropriateness of the Landscape Architecture Registration Examination (LARE) to ensure that the standard of care and practice of landscape architecture protects the public health, safety, and welfare of Hawaii's citizens, visitors, and environment.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how will these qualities benefit the Board?

I am collaborative and work well in a group, action oriented, and organized. These qualities will help the Board get its work done in an efficient, timely, and pleasant, professional manner.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member?

I have served on other boards. Sometimes issues before a board can elicit divergent viewpoints and can sometimes cause divisions amongst board members. I've learned that it is important that all board members perceive that each has an equal and fair opportunity to share their point of view without fear of ridicule or ostracism. When a board is respectful of each other it tends to operate more efficiently and effectively.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

Yes. In fact, at my first Board meeting as an interim board member last month an employee of my firm submitted an application to take the LARE for board review and approval. Before board discussion of this candidate's application I disclosed I have a conflict of interest because the candidate was an employee of my firm, and I recused myself from taking part in the review /approval process.