

GM 537

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Examiners in Optometry, Gubernatorial Nominee, REID SAITO, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Report Title: Board of Examiners in Optometry

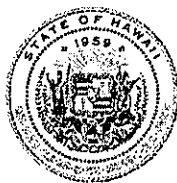
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2014

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 537.

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

My name is Sandra Matsushima and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Examiners in Optometry ("Board"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 537, regarding the **reappointment** of Reid Saito, O.D., to the Board. The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Saito's reappointment to the Board.

Dr. Saito has been licensed as an optometrist since June 30, 2000, and his license is current, active and in good standing. He has served on the Board as an industry member since July 1, 2011. Dr. Saito is a devoted member of the Board and has attended 14 out of the 16 meetings.

Dr. Saito currently serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Board and actively participates in discussions and offers invaluable insight regarding the profession. These insights have assisted the Board in its decision-making.

For these reasons, the Department believes that Dr. Saito will continue to contribute to the Board while enhancing the Board's effectiveness.

The Department supports the confirmation of Reid Saito, O.D., to the Board of Examiners in Optometry, and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

Reid Saito
Board of Examiners in Optometry

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Examiners in Optometry?

I have always felt a desire to serve the community and the board of optometry allows me to use my knowledge of the profession to make sure the level of optometric care in Hawaii is top notch.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

The primary responsibility of a board member is to maintain public safety. We also serve as a resource for our licensees when they have questions about scope of practice and conduct issues.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I have been a TPA practicing optometrist in Hawaii for the past 13 years. During that time I have served as President of the Hawaii Optometric Association and have been presented with a number of issues both local and national. I like to believe that I graduated from the Illinois College of Optometry at a time when optometry's role in eye care was quite progressive. My various experiences thus far have given me a good perspective of the profession and how it can best serve the public in today's healthcare system.

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

I would like to see the licensing/relicensing process stream-lined with the use of electronic monitoring of continuing education credits. This should make the process more efficient and straight forward for both the applicant and the Board.

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

Each member brings different qualities to the Board, but the one common quality that each member must possess is good ethics. Besides being ethical I am also practical and strategic. These additional qualities can be valuable when the Board is discussing complex issues and how to resolve them.

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

During my term as President of the HOA we instituted a new dues incentive policy to encourage timely payments by our members. This change was widely embraced and made the job of our treasurer much easier. More importantly, it allowed the HOA to have more of a presence nationally as voting power at national meetings was determined by the number of current paying members. While this idea was an obvious one and easy to implement, it proves how sometimes a simple solution can be beneficial on multiple levels.

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

I don't foresee any conflicts of interest that would complicate my term on the Board. The most important factor in dealing with conflicts of interest is to first recognize when one exists. An ethical individual will be able to separate those interests and act in a manner appropriate to his or her role as a Board member, or dismiss themselves from the matter if unable to do so.