

# GM 546

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, EDWARD PUNUA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Report Title: State Board of Public Accountancy

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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KEALI'I S. LOPEZ  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PRESENTATION OF  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH STATE LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2014

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014  
10:00 A.M.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 546

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 546, regarding the appointment of Edward Punua to the State Board of Public Accountancy ("Board"). My name is Keali'i Lopez, Director of the Department. The Department strongly supports the confirmation of Mr. Punua's appointment to the Board.

Mr. Punua has maintained a license as a certified public accountant since April 17, 1998, and has a permit to practice. Mr. Punua's certified public accountant's license is current, valid and in good standing.

Mr. Punua fully understands the role and various responsibilities of the Board including the setting of policies for the industry, review and approval of new licensees, receiving and investigating complaints, and interpreting and enforcing the applicable statutory laws and rules and regulations. Mr. Punua brings experience to the Board having served on an industry related board and community oriented committee.

Mr. Punua understands that the appointment to the Board will require his attendance and participation, and although commuting to and from Kauai for the monthly meetings may be a challenge, it will not be a problem. Mr. Punua feels that as a personal matter, it is an honor to be nominated to serve on the Board and he is looking to give back to the profession that has been his vocation for the last 24 years. Mr. Punua believes that coming from a neighbor island, he has a unique perspective and fresh eyes that he can share with the Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the appointment of Mr. Punua to the State Board of Public Accountancy.



**HSCPA**  
Hawaii Society of  
Certified Public Accountants

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on  
Commerce and Consumer Protection

**GM 546**

In Support of the Confirmation of Edward L. Punua  
State Board of Public Accountancy

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229

900 Fort Street

Suite 850

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

My name is Michael Tanaka and I am the President of the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants (HSCPA). I am testifying on behalf of the Board of Directors of the HSCPA in support of the confirmation of gubernatorial nominee, Edward L. Punua, to the State Board of Public Accountancy.

Mr. Punua is a sole practitioner on the island of Kauai and is very active in the community he serves. A member of the HSCPA since 1999, he served on the HSCPA Board of Directors from 2004-2010 and was the liaison between Oahu and Kauai's connection to professionals and students in the accounting profession.

As a 'Gen Xer', Mr. Punua will bring a new perspective to the table as he advocates issues affecting the profession while focusing on protecting the interest of the public. His leadership and professional experience make him qualified to serve the interests of the public and the accounting profession.

For these reasons, we urge you to confirm Mr. Punua's nomination to the State Board of Public Accountancy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The HSCPA is the only professional CPA organization in Hawaii representing a diverse membership throughout the State of Hawaii, mainland and internationally in public practice, business and industry, education and government.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael I. Tanaka, CPA  
President



*Punua Insurance Agency, Inc.*

P. O. Box 1488, Lihue, Hawaii 96766 Phone: (808)245-8508



March 10, 2014

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hawaii State Legislature

Attention: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chairperson

Dear Senator Baker:

Re: Edward Punua, GM #546,  
Nomination to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy

I am writing to you and your Committee to request your support for Edward Punua to serve on the State Board of Public Accountancy.

I know that Edward will do an outstanding job on this very important Board. I am a little biased because he is my son. However, in all his 46 years that I have known him, he has been of exceptional character, a very hard worker and a wonderful son. The State of Hawaii will be proud to have him on your team.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Victor K. Punua'.

Victor K. Punua

**Momi Cazimero [cazimero.momi@gmail.com](mailto:cazimero.momi@gmail.com)** 7:12 PM (1 hour ago)

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Roslyn Baker, Chair

My name is Momi Cazimero.

I strongly support Governor Neil Abercrombie's appointment of Edward Punua to the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy.

I got to know Edward very well when he was a college student. Because of his art interest, he interned with me to refine his artistic abilities. Even after focusing on his business as an accountant, he has managed to become a proficient steel guitarist and maintained his artistic skills.

Edward is a fine, upstanding individual who has had a successful accounting business in Kauai. He has also raised a wonderful family. I have always known Edward to be productive, efficient, constructive and humble. He will also work well with others because he has a warm, welcoming personality.

I have had an acquaintance with the family that pre-dates Edward's birth. His father and I were classmates at Kamehameha. Like his parents, Edward has a strong Christian faith and the qualities of character and respect that have shaped his aspirations and goals. I could not be more proud of him.

Momi Cazimero

Dear Senate President Kim and Members of the Senate,

My name is Paul T. Kuramoto. I am a practicing CPA (HI License #CPA-1630).

I write to you in support of the nomination of Edward Punua (GM #546) to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Accountancy.

I have known Edward professionally, and his family socially, for about 20 years. Even though he resides on Kaua'i, we have maintained contact via email and phone calls, and have coordinated our attendance at special continuing education programs to keep in touch with each other.

During my years of friendship with Edward, he has always exhibited the character I would desire of anyone who would represent my profession. I wholeheartedly recommend approval of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Edward Punua to the Hawaii State Board of Accountancy.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Kuramoto, CPA

Aloha,

I would like to recommend Edward Punua, GM#546 to the State of Hawaii - state board of public accountancy.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Julie Schuller  
Realtor - Sales  
Managing Partner  
Resort Properties of the Pacific  
Suite C206 - Princeville Center  
P.O.Box 223143, Princeville, Kauai, HI 96722  
Cell: 808.634.4423  
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I fully support Edward Punua GM 546 for this appointment Thank you , Ralph Young

Dear Senator Roslyn Baker,

I am honored to be nominated to the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy.

Here are my responses to your question in your e-mail dated February 21, 2014:

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the State Board of Public Accountancy?

I would like to serve as a member of the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy in order to give back to the accountancy profession which has provided me the privileges of a professional CPA vocation during the past 24 years. I look forward to serve as a board member and to participate in the important law making processes that will affect our current and future professionals.

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

The board member's roles and responsibilities is to understand the state of Hawaii accountancy statutes and framework which guides the state's accounting profession. Our highest responsibility is to represent the public interests.

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 believe that I am qualified for the board member position because I am committed to working with other board members to individually and corporately accomplish these responsibilities. I plan to draw on my skills as a team player, effective listener and communicator to be able to understand the challenges and opportunities we face as the state accountancy board. My experience on other boards and committees will also be a valuable resource.

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

During my term of service, I hope to be a valued member who can be trusted to objectively represent the public's interest, and genuinely understand those of our fellow board members who both agree and have opposing views.

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

In addition to those skills mentioned above, I am also committing my personal qualities of dependability, objectivity, and organization to best facilitate my service on the board. These qualities along with my professional experience will benefit the board by being committed to working together for the common good of the board's goals.

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

Having the privilege of 23 consecutive years working in the public accounting industry has allowed me to experience the Oahu local firms as well as international firm perspectives and concerns. My current professional experience as a sole-practitioner on the island of Kaua'i will benefit my role as a board member by representing neighbor island concerns.

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 do not foresee conflicts of interest at this point but know that as a single board member, I am charged with representing a population of individuals in public, private, government and other related bodies that all have an important point of view and personal interests. Conflict between these views and my own are inevitable. On-going, open discussions to understand opposing views will be my approach to reaching consensus and hopefully an agreeable outcome.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Punua