Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRUCE KAWANO, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Report Title: State Boxing Commission of Hawaii

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):



NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI

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

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310 P.O. Box 541 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809 Phone Number: 586-2850 Fax Number: 586-2856 www.hawaii.gov/dcca

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. 547.

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

My name is Alan Taniguchi and I am the Executive Officer for the Hawaii State Boxing Commission ("Commission"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 547, regarding the **reappointment** of Bruce Kawano to the Commission. The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Kawano's reappointment to the Commission.

Mr. Kawano has served on the Board since July 1, 2010, and has been involved with boxing for over 20 years. He has coached the USA Women's National team and taken them to two Women's World championships.

Mr. Kawano has an excellent meeting attendance record. His vast experience as an amateur boxing coach provides invaluable and meaningful contribution during the Commission's meetings. He is also very diligent in responding to requests for input on

Testimony on G.M. No. 547 Wednesday, March 12, 2014 Page 2

amending administrative rules and other related matters. The Commission's mission to effectively oversee boxing in Hawaii will continue with his reappointment.

The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Kawano to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DANILO AGBAYANI	OLD SCHOOL BOXING	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Meartz	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As Past President of USA Boxing, Inc. I highly endorse the nomination of Bruce Kawano to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission. Mr. Kawano has served USA Boxing with the highest integrity for over 30 yrs...His knowledge of boxing as coach, manager and administrator is impeccable.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Kurt Kresta

Aiea, Hawaii

808-260-3661

March 9, 2014

Re: Consideration for Bruce Kawano for State Boxing Commission of Hawaii

To the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I would like to voice my support for reappointment of Bruce Kawano to the State Boxing Commission.

I spent 13 years as a Dallas Police Officer and have personally seen what can happen when young men and women follow a deviant path. I have also seen how athletics, and boxing in particular, can provide a positive influence in the life of a young adult. It can provide an outlet and instill a sense of pride and accomplishment for someone who desperately needs direction. To achieve such a positive outcome, proper guidance is paramount. In the nearly 9 years I have known Bruce Kawano, he has shown the strength of his moral character. He is always concerned with the overall well-being of his boxers, and not just their performance in the ring. He also constantly speaks of a boxers work ethic and character and not just physical ability.

Bruce is my brother in law, and I have 2 young children. He has been a positive influence in their lives, and I trust him unconditionally to help guide them to be responsible, ethical, and loved young adults.

I also know he is passionate about the sport of boxing, and I believe is a fine ambassador for the sport. I hope he can continue his service to the state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kurt Kresta

My name is Dr. Brian Panik, I am a board certified emergency physician practicing in Hawaii since 2006. I have been volunteering to protect boxers in Hawaii since 2010. I am writing to support Mr. Bruce Kawano as a gubernatorial nominee to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission, GM547. I have worked with him as a ringside physician registered with USA Boxing at many events over the years including the Hawaii State Championships, The Junior Olympic State Championships, and most recently at The Hawaii Police Department Police Activity League HPD PAL. I am continually impressed by his professionalism, concern for safety, and superior work ethic. He serves as an excellent role model for the younger boxers, and directly contributes to their personal development as demonstrated by his involvement in the HPD PAL program.

I support Mr. Bruce Kawano with out reservation, and look forward to his reappointment to The Hawaii State Boxing Commission through GM547. I would have preferred to give testimony in person, but am scheduled to work today and appreciate the opportunity to show my support for Mr. Kawano. If you have any questions or I can be in any assistance in these matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank You,

Brian

Dr. Brian Panik, DO, FACOEP, FACEP PO Box 1028 Haleiwa, HI 96712 This email is to recommend the nomination of Bruce Kawano (GM547) for Boxing Commissioner. I have worked closely with Bruce as an athlete, coach, official, and fellow board member of Amateur Boxing of Hawaii since June of 2008. As interim manager and president of amateur boxing of Hawaii, Bruce continually acted with integrity and with the sole purpose of growing the boxing community. He treated everyone fairly and offered help to members of the amateur boxing community without regard for their personal disagreements. He was willing to work with anyone for the betterment of the boxing community regardless of the way he was treated by them on a personal level. I believe this is very rare in people and have greatly valued this trait about him. I hope you entrust the office to him- he deserves it.

Jen Siegal 808-265-8892

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Tangjian Jr.	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Greetings, I am writing to you in regards to Mr. Bruce Kawano's nomination to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission. I am sure you've heard nothing but positive comments about Mr. Kawano and his impact on the sport of boxing in Hawaii. This testimony will prove to be no different. There are a few people I personally know of in Hawaii that would help improve the sport's standing if given this position, but I would like to take this time to inform you of why I feel Bruce is the perfect person for this seat. I first met Bruce when I was 5 years old. I walked into Waianae boxing club with my father and siblings to see a long-haired man with a line of at least 10 children near my age, waiting their turn to punch the heavy bag with Bruce's instructions. He was transitioning from a fighter to a coach at the time, but you could never tell. The way he treated the athletes in the gym would give someone the impression that he had been coaching for a handful of years. As the years went by, I personally saw a lot of fighters and trainers alike leave the sport of boxing because they felt there wasn't enough reward in it. One name that always stayed prominent on the Hawaii amateur boxing level as a coach was Bruce Kawano. He helped more than a handful of boxers, including myself, achieve success on the national level and international. I personally traveled with Bruce to compete in 5 different states. I could not have imagined a better Head Coach for any State Team I was on. You could always feel this care and commitment, and would not have any reason to question why he was doing what he did. When I was 16 years old, I emphasized to Bruce my dream to attend Northern Michigan University on a full-ride scholarship funded by the US Olympic Committee. He advised me of the steps I needed to take, as well as introduced me to the people I needed to know. Two years later, I got the call saying I was accepted by NMU. The first person my father and I called to thank was Bruce. He was just excited as we were. It was like he was achieving the dream with me. The biggest thing I remember about Bruce is not his boxing instruction, but his mentorship to myself as well as an incredible amount of other athletes. His care for athletes and other trainers stretched far beyond the confines of any boxing gym. He made sure everything with you was good outside of the ring so that you'd have a better chance of succeeding inside the ring. A helping hand like the one he extends is very rare and even harder to find in such a cutthroat sport. I hope my statement gives you a clear image of how strong of a candidate Mr. Kawano truly is. I have full faith in the fact that Bruce will show the same type of care and commitment in this position as he does as a coach. Adding Bruce to the State Commission would be an indisputable victory for Hawaii Boxing. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, David "Kawika" Tangjian Jr.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ross Tsukenjo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Baker and committee members, I am writing to express my full support for the confirmation of Mr. Kawano to the State Boxing Commission. I believe his knowledge and experience will be of great benefit to commission and the State of Hawaii. Mahalo Ross Tsukenjo

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael K. Low	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please forgive this late testimony, as I was off island and unaware of the hearing. My name is Mike Low and I am a 24 year, Honolulu Police veteran. Bruce Kawano is an exceptional individual, and my childhood friend. There is no one better suited or qualified then Bruce. He is kind, hardworking and patient. His knowledge in every aspect regarding the sport of boxing is incredible. Whether it be teaching, training, logistics, travel, at either the professional, or amateur level, there is no one better. Please give him your full consideration. Thank you so much for your time. This testimony is respectfully submitted for your perusal.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jersula Manaba	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of the nomination for Bruce Kawano to the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii. Bruce was instrumental in helping us bring back the sport of boxing to our island of Molokai. Our last boxing event was over 22 years ago and in September 2012, with the help of Bruce Kawano and other local officials we not only held our first sanctioned boxing matches but were able to hold a coaches clinic free of charge. Please consider Bruce Kawano's application for the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii. Thank you, Jersula Manaba

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Aloha,

I have worked closely with Bruce Kawano for a handful of years in the boxing arena in different capacity's. Most of the time I'm hounding him for assistance when it comes to the island boxing scene whether it's getting in touch with fighters he knows or setting up human interest pieces in the sport of boxing. It's unfortunate the "sweet science" here in Hawaii has seen a slow decline over the past 4 years I've lived in Hawaii and I feel like Mr. Kawano's passion, tenacity, and sheer motivation to see the sport grow would help revive that spirit and I strongly feel Bruce can be that catalyst if chosen for the Boxing Commission.

Since I met him at an old sweaty boxing gym tucked away in the heart of Kalihi he's been a man of the people and I know that drives him to make decisions that are beneficial for those learning underneath him especially the young kids he helps keep off the street by keeping them in the gym learning a sport that is so brutal yet beautiful and humbling. He's also well connected in the sport home and abroad through years of forging relationships and that's a benefit you cannot quantify.

I have been consistently impressed by both Bruce's attitude towards his work and his performance in the arena of boxing no matter where I go people in the sport know Coach Bruce Kawano.

In short, he'll be an asset and should be strongly considered for this position.

Humbly,

Jahmai Webster KITV4 Sports Anchor/Reporter 801 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I'm writing in for support of Mr. Bruce Kawano to the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii. I have known and worked Mr. Kawano for over 10 years through various Boxing and MMA promotions throughout the state and I recommend him without reservation.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cedric Duarte	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Writing in for support of Mr. Bruce Kawano to the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Langen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Bruce Kawano has tons of experience with boxing and coaching and guiding youth. I was his high school English teacher and have followed his career up to coaching on the Olympic level. I have great respect for his sincerity and accomplishments. He is truly selfless and dedicated. He charges nothing for his coaching. It is all about the love of the sport and guiding youth to channel their aggression in constructive and disciplined ways. Kawano is a credit to the state of Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Aloha,

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony. I would like show my strong support of Bruce Kawano.

I have known Bruce for years and have personally seen him coach and interact with the boxers, youth and staff at events. He always carries himself in a professional and humble manner and has set a good role model.

I feel Bruce would be a great addition to the Professional Boxing Commission.

Mahalo, Dee Kama-McShane

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxane Kuwata	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Bruce Kawano is a serious, professional, hardworking, dedicated young man, who is a team player that reaches out and extends himself to the community with an open heart. He has been a role model to people of all ages. He is strict and not afraid to discipline when needed. His amazing skill and ability to teach in a positive manner has made a difference in a lot of lives. Therefore, I believe that Bruce Kawano would make a great boxing commissioner for the state of Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

To whom it may concern:

This is in support of Bruce Kawano's nomination for state boxing commission. I have known Bruce for over 20 years now and he is a great candidate for the position and I am sure he will fulfill his duties as he has in the past as a boxing trainer. His love for the sport can be an asset to Hawaii boxing.

Thank you, Randy Beltran

Sent from my iPhone

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
xina-ann garett	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I Xina-Ann Garett would like to nominate Bruce Kawano for Hawaii State Boxing Commission. Over the years I have observed Bruce interact with people from all walks of life. He is an amazing coach and has always displayed professionalism and fairness. Bruce has also been known to reach out to the children in this community that have come from underprivileged backgrounds and has encouraged them and taken them to a higher level in boxing as well as in life. His actions have truly spoken for itself and I believe that we as a community would benefit by having him serve as State Boxing Commissioner.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Arceo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Bruce Kawano will do a good job on the boxing commission. He is currently involved with amateur boxing in Hawaii. He is a certified Coach and official for USA Boxing.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Aloha,

Please support the nomination of Bruce Kawano to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission.

I have known Bruce for over 15 years and he has always demonstrated the highest level of integrity and respect.

Mahalo
Thomas Sim

Thomas Sim Wholesale Travel Inc 1617 Kapiolani Blvd Honolulu Hawaii 96814 Phone 808 946 9466 ext 112 Fax 808 946 6333 I support the nomination of Bruce Kawano to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission. Bruce has supported youth and local boxing for many years and has been instrumental in positively shaping the Hawaii boxing culture.

John Pilotin Student Services Coordinator at Pomaikai Elementary <u>GM547</u>

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce R. Faulkner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Bruce Kawano's appointment to this board. I have personally known Bruce for many years and have worked with him on many local boxing events. I have also had the pleasure to officiate at the USA National Boxing Championships and know that Bruce is well respected by our peers.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

In regards to Gm547, please nominate Bruce Kawano of Kawano boxing. There is No other who has devoted more time to the development of Hawaiis young men and women amature boxing. Best regards Kevin Onuma

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Aloha! I would like to recommend Mr. Bruce Kawano for the position representing the State Boxing Commission. I have known him for over 30 years and can tell you that he has always been a dependable friend and one who has brought people together for a common cause. He has been a good friend to my family over the years and has always shown great respect towards my parents, which is one of the most noble character traits in any person. You would do well to confirm Mr. Kawano in this position!

Sincerely, Arliss Stanley

Dear Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

I have known Bruce Kawano for three years and I nominate him to be in the Hawaii State Commission to be renewed again.

He has done great work on bringing boxing back in Hawaii. He is greatly qualified and the best person I know.

Kind Regards, Domenique Ramolete

Aloha!

I would like to briefly express my strong support for Bruce Kawano in his endeavor to be a vital part in the Hawaii State Boxing Commission. His dedication to the boxing community speaks for itself. I remember having the opportunity to watch one of his matches many years ago at Pear Harbor. He has since been part of the boxing community and has dedicated himself to supporting our local young men and women who love the sport. I wish him the best and have all the confidence in the world that he will only dedicate himself even more to the sport and protect Hawaii's interest in the sport of boxing.

Mahalo and Aloha!

Tony Gabriel
Reservations Manager
205 Lewers St. Honolulu Hawaii 96815
Ph-808-921-7531 Fax-808-923-7848
Email: tgabriel@imperialofwaikiki.com
Website: www.imperialofwaikiki.com

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and the members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am writing testimony in support of GM547, confirming Bruce Kawano to the State Boxing Commission.

Mr. Kawano has recommendations and support from the Hawaii boxing community. Mr. Kawano has the necessary experience, exceeds all qualifications, and meets the moral standards to represent the Hawaii State Boxing Commission. Please confirm Mr. Kawano to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission.

Mahalo,

David Kane Cell: 808-478-3283

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Corina Ishikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of Bruce Kawano's submission for the position of boxing commissioner. His love and passion for the sport is amazing. But more importantly his experience is unquestionable from the grass roots novice to the elite Olympians and professional athlete boxers.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Aloha,

My name is Kathryn Pilotin and I am a teacher from Maui and support GM547 for Bruce Kawano to the Boxing Commission. I strongly believe that Bruce Kawano will be an asset to the Boxing Commission due to his experience, attitude, professionalism, honesty, and integrity. I support him for the Boxing Commission. Thank you! Sincerely, Kathryn Pilotin

Aloha,

I'd like to submit testimony in support of the Gubernatorial Nominee, Bruce Kawano, for the State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i.

Mahalo, Nga I nominate Bruce Kawano to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission.

Sincerely, Michelle Nakanishi

Sent from my iPhone

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robyn Jumawan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would like for you to accept the nomination for Bruce Kawano. I am in support of him being on the Boxing Commission.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Please nominate Bruce Kawano into the State Commission for boxing. He is an excellent coach.

Aloha, Christian Ani Sent from my iPhone

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn Nebres jr.	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: No man has done more for hawaii boxing then Bruce Kawano. I support him 100%

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for CPN on Mar 12, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ian miyashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of the nomination of Bruce Kawano to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

To the Honorable Senator Baker and Senators of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Protection. Here are my responses to your questions.

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii?

I see my role as a member of the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii as an opportunity to give back, to do something positive for our Community. Boxing helped me turn my life around, and I've helped other kids turn their lives around through the sport.

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

Setting rules and making sure those rules are followed are the key responsibilities of the Commission. Commissioners approve or deny professional boxing contests and licenses to ensure the safety of participants. Regulating the boxing events are key to determine mis-matches and manage dangerous situations. We have meetings and make these important decisions with our E.D. and Attorney General lawyer.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Commission 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 Commission.

Boxing has been a part of my life since 1987. I competed at the Olympic Training Center and National Golden Gloves Tournament representing our State. I have been coaching since 1994 and am currently a volunteer Boxing Coach and Supervisor at the Kalakaua District Park Gym. I've served in many roles including elected positions on the Board of Directors for the state amateur boxing program. I have also served on various committees and task forces both nationally and internationally with USA Boxing. All of this experience helps me in the decision-making process with the commission.

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

I hope to bring back professional boxing in Hawaii, not just to entertain fans but to provide a path for athletes who want to better themselves. I have the time, resources and connections with coaches, promoters and managers on both the local and national levels to do this. One of my Boxers will compete on ESPN2 on March 7, 2014 in the opening bout. I've been the elected president for the amateurs the last four years (2010-2013). In that time, I've increased membership from 357 registered members in 2009 to 561 in 2010 and membership remains steady. I am currently helping two local boxing coaches who want to put on shows, one on Maui and the other on Oahu this summer. I keep in contact with them weekly to guide them with the procedures of these events.

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

Three qualities that best describe me: honest, positive, and easy to get along with.

I live by a motto: It's not what you do when people are looking, it's what you do when people are not looking. I will not break rules or the law, I don't jaywalk, litter, etc.. I believe being honest and a person of integrity will be reflected in the young boxers who look to me to be as a role model.

I try to maintain a positive attitude in everything I do and I am easy to get along with. These are two qualities that are key to the Commission. Members must work together, appreciate the common goal, and make the best decision for the sport and the safety of the athletes.

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

The Police Athletic League – or PAL – looked to me when they wanted to add boxing to the program. The head of PAL – Honolulu Police Sergeant David Kauahi was determined to put on the first competition for the program in a decade. I met with him and E.D. of the Commission Alan Taniguchi last year to provide insight and guidance on the task. The event was held on February 15 of this year at the Police Training Academy and it was a huge success. I am proud to have been a part of that and many other boxing events locally, nationally and internationally. If you have any questions, please call Sgt. David Kauahi at 808-722-1818 or email him at dkauahi@honolulu.gov.

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

I'm a volunteer boxing coach. I have a few pro boxers, but mostly work with amateurs and keiki. There are times when issues arise, for example, at a pro event that I was involved in at the Blaisdell Arena. One of the athletes I trained and know well, Michael Balasi, was competing on Brian Viloria's undercard. I had to step aside to prevent any conflict as a Boxing Commissioner, and to maintain my role with the tournament. I did not coach/work his corner. I chose to sit in the stands as a spectator. Brian also asked me to help in his corner, but I told him I couldn't.

The 'conflict of interest' question is always a concern when it comes to sporting events. I am aware of how that could affect the integrity of the sport and make decisions about this with the best interest of athletes in mind. If I have any questions I call Alan Taniguchi right away.

The Honorable Senator Baker and Senators of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Protection, I know you are all very busy with the current session, so I tried to keep my answers short. Should you feel that I was not thorough enough on any of your concerns, please contact me at 808-542-1181 or email at bkawano@aol.com.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Bruce Kawano