

GM645



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

April 10, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
and Labor Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I write you in support of the confirmation of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB).

I have known Danny since he was a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law when he visited the Industrial Relations Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to obtain help on his research paper. Since then I have had the opportunity to work with him and observe his work as an advocate before me in my capacity as labor arbitrator. Danny is not only extremely knowledgeable about labor law but, perhaps more importantly, his strong ethical foundation marks him above his peers.

In terms of his work experience, he worked for over 25 years with the premier law firm of Takahashi, Vasconcellos, and Covert, providing legal services for clients from both union and non-union sectors, including maintaining a solo law practice concentrating in the field of Hawaii's worker compensation law. It is unquestioned that he is well acquainted with the statutory intent and purpose of HRS Chapter 386, Hawaii Workers' Compensation law and various Hawaii Administrative Rules related to the field, and he is a respected practitioner among employer representatives, claimants, and government officers entrusted with the administration of the law. Clearly, his education background and professional experience qualify Danny for the position of Chair of the LIRAB. Most importantly, I know Danny has the judicial temperament needed to carry out the role of Chair of the LIRAB.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Danny's appointment as Chair of the Labor Appeals Board. If there are any further questions, I would be most pleased to respond and can be reached at 956-8132.

Very truly yours,

Joyce M. Najita
Director

SHOPO**PRESIDENT**

Tenari R. Ma'alala

VICE PRESIDENT

Malcolm Lutu

TREASURER

James "Kimo" Smith

SECRETARY

Michael Cusumano

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Don Faumuina

John Haina

Erik Iinuma

HONOLULU CHAPTER CHAIR

Stanley Aquino

HAWAII CHAPTER CHAIR

Darren Horio

KAUAI CHAPTER CHAIR

Jesse Guirao

MAUI CHAPTER CHAIR

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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1708
Lihue, Hawaii 96766
Ph: (808) 248-8911

April 7, 2014

FAX: 586-7334/U.S. MAIL.

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **Danny J. Vasconcellos - Nomination, Chair of the
Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board**

Dear Chairman Hee and Honorable Committee Members:

I write this letter in strong support of Danny J. Vasconcellos' nomination to be the next Chairperson of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board ("LAB").

I am the President of the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers ("SHOPO"), which is the public sector union that represents all of our county police officers serving throughout the 50th State. As a police union, we pay particular attention to the appointments to the LAB since many of our officers appear before the board for injuries they have suffered in the line of duty. Some of these injuries are very serious given the circumstances of our daily duties and the type of volatile and violent situations we are often called in to intervene.

Our review and evaluation of a person applying for a position on the LAB is based on several factors, including but not limited to intelligence, legal knowledge and experience, integrity, judicial temperament and diligence. We use our evaluations to determine whether we will support, oppose or remain neutral on a particular applicant. We take our evaluations and recommendations seriously, as we know that the position we take on an applicant could negatively impact that person's chances of confirmation.

As the largest public law enforcement labor organization in Hawaii, I voice our unequivocal and strong support for Mr. Vasconcellos' nomination to serve as the next Chairperson of the LAB and believe he is exceptionally qualified to serve in that position.

Mr. Vasconcellos comes from a strong labor background and has a keen understanding of worker's rights as well as the rights of employers. He has 25 plus years of experience as a labor attorney and has handled a large variety of issues and cases in the worker's compensation arena. Mr. Vasconcellos is involved in a significant number of LAB appeals annually, which attests to his intimate knowledge and first-hand experience with the LAB, experience that will serve him well as Chairperson. He is well versed in worker's compensation laws as evidenced by his handling of at least five leading appellate cases decided by our appellate courts.

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
April 7, 2014
Re: Danny J. Vasconcellos, Nomination, Chair of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board
Page 2

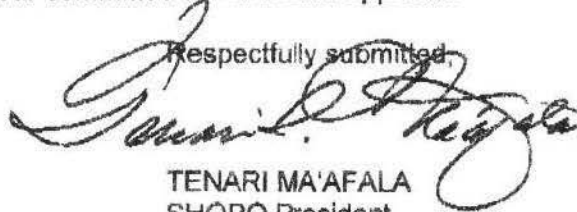
The comments and feedback we have received about Mr. Vasconcellos has been overwhelmingly positive. It is clear that he possesses the highest levels of judicial intelligence, detailed knowledge of the worker's compensation arena, personal integrity, diligence, a balanced demeanor and is a hard worker.

We believe that Mr. Vasconcellos will be balanced in his approach on the issues, will weigh the merits of each case from all sides and render well-reasoned decisions that are fair to all parties that come before the LAB.

As police officers, we strive for the highest levels of integrity and ethics and take comfort in knowing that Mr. Vasconcellos is of a like mind and practice. With his sense of fairness, humility, sharp legal mind, broad legal knowledge and even keeled temperament, we believe Mr. Vasconcellos is an excellent choice to be the next Chairperson of the LAB.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination and sincerely hope Mr. Vasconcellos will receive your committee's unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tenari Ma'afala", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

TENARI MA'AFALA
SHOPO President



Hawai'i Injured Workers Association
715 South King Street, Suite 410
Honolulu, HI 96813
info@hiwahawaii.org
Phone: (808) 538-9771

April 9, 2014

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, Senate Judiciary and Labor
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee

Date: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Douglas Thomas Moore, President
Hawai'i Injured Workers' Association

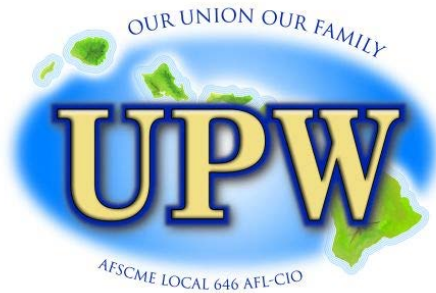
**Re: Strong Support For GM 645: Nomination of Danny J. Vasconcellos
As Chair Of Labor And Industrial Relations Appeals Board**

Thank you Chair, Senator Hee, Vice Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, and Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee for allowing the Hawai'i Injured Workers Association (HIWA) to submit our **strong support** for Mr. Danny J. Vasconcellos' nomination as next Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Danny Vasconcellos, Esq., has worked tirelessly for the injured workers in Hawai'i as a workers' compensation claimant's attorney for over 25 years. He will bring to the Labor Appeals Board his extensive knowledge of DLIR Administrative Rules and workers' compensation law, particularly with first hand litigation experience in groundbreaking cases. Mr. Vasconcellos has stated his commitment to remain true to the statutory intent of workers' compensation law to take care of our injured workers for which HIWA is strongly committed to do.

Danny appears to be a man of integrity and even-handed fairness to all. He will bring needed assets to the Labor Appeals Board: his knowledge, experience, caring, and fairness. The people of Hawai'i, especially injured workers, need him and HIWA strongly endorses him.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit **strong support** for Mr. Danny Vasconcellos' appointment as the next Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

The Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: April 14, 2014
TIME OF HEARING: 10:00 AM
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY ON GM645
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIALS
RELATIONS APPEAL BOARD DANNY VASCONCELLOS

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW strongly supports the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Mr. Vasconcellos has 26 years of legal practice experience specializing in Workers' Compensation Law and Labor Law. He is familiar with the legislative intent and purpose of the law. His practical experience and first-hand knowledge will be a positive addition to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Over the years I have had the pleasure of working with Danny and I believe that his passion for justice, experience, and work ethic make him extremely qualified for this position.

After your full consideration of Mr. Vasconcellos' background, character, experience and qualifications, I ask that the Committee on Judiciary and Labor find Danny Vasconcellos qualified for the appointment and recommend that the State Senate confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Telephone Local Union 1357

2305 S. Beretania Street #206 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Telephone (808) 941-7761 • Toll-free 1 (800) 994-4239 • Fax (808) 944-4239



Kimi L.N. Koge
Business Manager-Financial Secretary

Ted M. Furukado
President

April 10, 2014

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair,
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Date: Monday, April 14, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Scot Long, Assistant Business Manager, IBEW Local Union
1357

Re: Rise in Support For GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos As Chair Of Labor And Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Thank you Chair, Senator Hee, and Vice Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, for allowing me to provide a testimony in **strong support** for the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chairman for the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

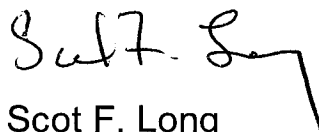
I have known Mr. Vasconcellos since I first came on staff as a Local Union Representative with Local 1357 in 1999, when he worked for the law firm of Herbert Takahashi. Mr. Vasconcellos had a strong influence in helping me transition from a Local Union Representative to the Leader of our Local Union in 2004.

Mr. Vasconcellos has a tireless work ethic and the utmost integrity, only to be exceeded by his compassion and willingness to make sure that those who work in the field understand the law, as well as the "intent of the law".

Mr. Vasconcellos will use those qualities, coupled with his years of experience with the law, to strengthen the position of Chair. Mr. Vasconcellos will be a valued and, above all, a fair Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board.

Senator Hee and members of the Judiciary Committee and Labor Committee, on behalf of the 800 IBEW Local Union 1357 members, I rise in support of Mr. Vasconcellos' appointment as Chair of the Labor Appeals Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scot F. Long". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Scot F. Long
Assistant Business Manager

SFL:nkl



HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

320 Ward Avenue, Suite 209 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Randy Perreira
President

Telephone: (808) 597-1441
Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
April 14, 2014


G.M. 645 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DANNY VASCONCELLOS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2020

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination of Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB).

Mr. Vasconcellos has a vast understanding of the issues and an impeccable resume and will serve the Industrial Labor Relations Appeals Board to the highest level possible. Mr. Vasconcellos is a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law and the University of Hawaii at Manoa and serves as a member on the American Bar Association and the Hawaii Bar Association. Further, Mr. Vasconcellos has over twenty six years of experience in labor law including workers' compensation law and has always shown integrity and professionalism.

I know Mr. Vasconcellos will provide a fair and balanced approach and has the knowledge, intellectual capacity, and devotion to take on the difficult tasks that lie ahead. Mr. Vasconcellos is the right person to serve as the next Chair of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board and I respectfully urge a favorable recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
President



LOCAL UNION NO. 126



OF THE

International Union of Elevator Constructors

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO

SUITE 215, 707 ALAKEA STREET • HONOLULU, HI 96813 • TELEPHONE (808) 536-8653 • FAX (808) 537-3779

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2014
Hawaii State Senate

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Monday, April 14, 2014
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 325

Governor's Message 645

Relating to the consideration and confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair, Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair, and Esteemed Members of the Committee

The International Union of Elevator Constructors, Local 126 is in strong support of Governor Abercrombie's appointment of Danny Vasconcellos to the position of Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB).

Having ceaselessly championed the cause of the "Working Man and Woman" for many years, Mr. Vasconcellos is without doubt well suited and extremely qualified for this position. He possesses the dedication, the open-mindedness to weigh all the facts at hand, and the necessary skills to lead LIRAB.

Not only does LIRAB handle appeals to Workers' Compensation Decisions, but it also handles Boiler and Elevator Safety Issues which is another reason why we support his appointment. As a former partner in the law firm of Takahashi & Covert, Mr. Vasconcellos has handled cases for Local 126 and has shown himself to be an intelligent, proficient, and creative practitioner of the law. Through our dealings he has familiarized himself in different aspects of our industry and can provide valuable insights which very few people are able to do.

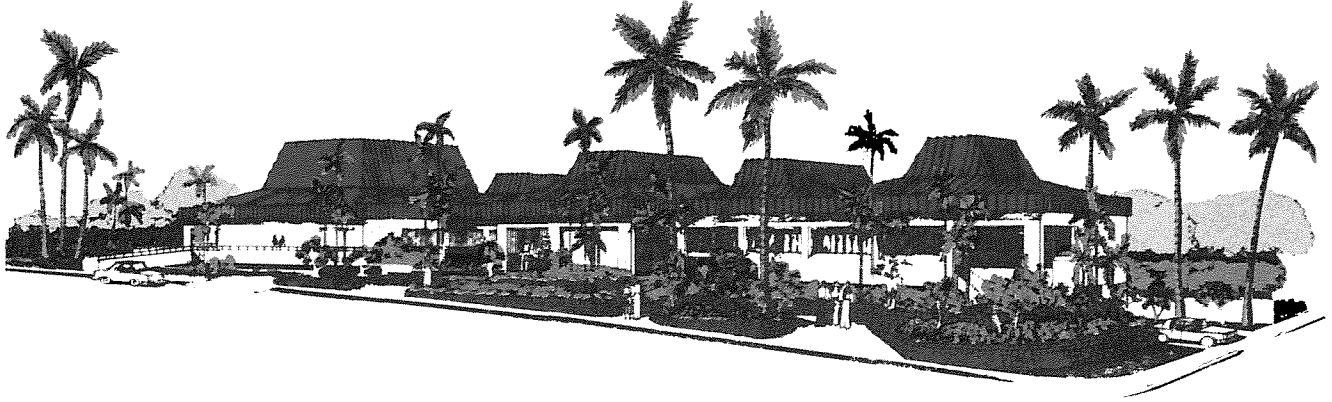
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Vasconcellos' appointment as Chair of LIRAB.

Sincerely,

Marc Yamane
Business Representative
IUEC Local 126



LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA LOCAL 368



PETER A. GANABAN
*Business Manager/
Secretary-Treasurer*

ALFONSO OLIVER
President

JOBY NORTH II
Vice President

TONI FIGUEROA
Recording Secretary

THOMAS CATHCART
Executive Board

JAMES DRUMGOLD JR.
Executive Board

LEIMOMI JOHNSON
Executive Board

MARK MAGUSARA
Auditor

MARK TRAVALINO
Auditor

JOSEPH YAW
Auditor

NELSON S. TERRADO
Sergeant-At-Arms

April 8, 2014

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: GM645 Danny Vasconcellos, Esq.

Hearing: Monday, April 14, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

Of the many appointments that Governor Abercrombie has made related to Labor, the appointment of Attorney Danny Vasconcellos to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board is significant and important.

Mr. Vasconcellos has the knowledge and experience of more than 26 years in Workers Compensation and is therefore very capable of making reasonable and sound decisions based on the Workers' Compensation Law and the Rules of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. He intends to refocus the administration and operations of the Labor Appeals Board as Chairman if confirmed, to comply with and to the full extent of the legislative mandate (HRS Chapter 386). The law provides in part, medical, rehabilitation, income, and indemnity benefits to a worker with a work-related injury. He believes that workers compensation and statutory benefits should always be made available to the injured worker.

Mr. Vasconcellos is an open and respectful individual; he has integrity and a demeanor for Chairmanship of the Labor Appeals Board. His ability to work with others in resolving workers' compensation issues and legal ones will be important

to the culture of the Labor Appeals Board. And his experience with many of the parties in the Workers Compensation system will be foundational.

We believe that Mr. Vasconcellos is very qualified for the Chairmanship of the Labor Appeals Board and humbly request that the Committee accept and pass GM645 for a full vote on the Senate floor.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Ganaban', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Ganaban,
Business Manager, Secretary/Treasurer



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Telephone Local Union 1357

2305 S. Beretania Street #206 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Telephone (808) 941-7761 • Toll-free 1 (800) 994-4239 • Fax (808) 944-4239



Kimi L.N. Koge
Business Manager-Financial Secretary

Ted M. Furukado
President

Testimony In STRONG SUPPORT of nominee:

**DANNY VASCONCELLOS
AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD**

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Monday, April 14, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair - Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair - Senator Maile Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my strongest support for the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chairman for the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I met Mr. Vasconcellos 7 years ago while he worked for the law firm of Herbert Takahashi. He became partner in the firm and grew through his experiences in the field. What impressed me then as well as now is his ethical foundation and his desire to provide his clients with proper guidance and education on the "intent of the law".

Mr. Vasconcellos brings to the Board this strength and knowledge of the law as well as his vast experience in working with injured workers and other professionals from different sectors in the community. With this being said I believe, Mr. Vasconcellos will be a valued and above all, a fair Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board. I believe in his commitment to "doing the right thing" and I wholeheartedly support your favorable consideration of Danny Vasconcellos to be the next chairman of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you again for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Andie P. Kahakui
Assistant Business Manager
IBEW Local Union 1357

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2014

THE SENATE

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Monday, April 14, 2014; 10:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 645 ON DANNY VASCONCELLOS
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD**

The ILWU Local 142 supports G.M. 645 for the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos to serve as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB).

Throughout his legal career, Mr. Vasconcellos has been involved with the ILWU—the union and its members. Mr. Vasconcellos has represented the ILWU in labor law issues involving unfair labor practices, grievance and arbitration cases for our bargaining unit members and has represented members in their claims for workers' compensation. He has always represented his clients, whether it was the union itself or individual members, with the utmost professionalism, fairness, honesty, and forthrightness.

Following many years with the law firm of Takahashi Vasconcellos Covert, Mr. Vasconcellos opened a solo practice in 2010, primarily representing injured workers in their claims for workers' compensation. Mr. Vasconcellos is dedicated to his work and his clients. We have never found him to be anything but an advocate for the law as it was intended to be applied.

The workers' compensation law was enacted to take care of the needs of workers who are injured on the job. Under the presumption clause, workers injured in the course of employment are presumed to be eligible for workers' compensation. In exchange, these workers give up their right to sue their employers, even if the employer is found to be negligent. However, over the course of decades, this "grand bargain" has often been forgotten, and an unnecessary adversarial relationship among workers, employers, and insurers has developed.

We need someone like Mr. Vasconcellos to set things right and restore application of the law to its original intent. The law should be straightforward and applied evenly and fairly. All parties should be working toward the ultimate goal of workers' compensation—that is, to provide benefits, both medical and indemnity, to enable injured workers to return to gainful employment, whether with the original employer or another.

Most disputes are settled amicably, either between the parties or with intervention by the Disability Compensation Division. LIRAB's role is to ensure that the law is upheld, that the interests of injured workers are not forgotten, that decisions are fair and impartial. In light of these requirements, we believe that Mr. Vasconcellos is more than qualified to serve as Chairman of this important Board.

The ILWU urges confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you for considering our testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: lhoshijo-hrcc@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM645 on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM*
Date: Friday, April 11, 2014 1:09:42 PM

GM645

Submitted on: 4/11/2014

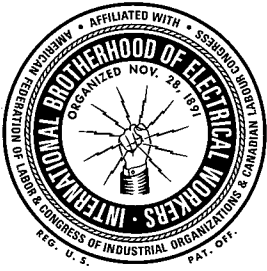
Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
leonard hoshijo	Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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Kimi L.N. Koge
Business Manager-Financial Secretary

Ted M. Furukado
President

April 10, 2014

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair,
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
And Members of the Senate Judiciary and
Labor Committee

Date: Monday, April 14, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Kimi L. N. Koge, Business Manager-Financial Secretary, IBEW Local Union 1357

Re: Compelling Support for GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos as Chair of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Thank you, Chair, Senator Hee, and Vice Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, for allowing me to provide testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chairman of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I met Mr. Vasconcellos 20 years ago while he worked for the law firm of Herbert Takahashi, and again in 2007 when I was hired on staff at IBEW Local Union 1357 as a Local Union Representative. He later became a partner in the firm and grew through his experiences in the field. What impressed me then, as well as now, is his ethical foundation and his desire to make sure that those who work in the field understand the law, as well as the "intent of the law".

Mr. Vasconcellos helped me personally with my Workers' Compensation claim 20 years ago, and what I admired about him was his professionalism, advice, his character and his work ethics. Holding no punches, with his experience in the field, he advised me that an attorney wasn't needed in my case. I admired him for his honesty and chose to have him represent me, anyway.

Mr. Vasconcellos brings to the Board his strength and knowledge of the law, as well as his vast experience in working with injured workers and other professionals from

different sectors in the community. This being said, I believe Mr. Vasconcellos will be a valued and, above all, a fair Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Vasconcellos' appointment as Chair of the Labor Appeals Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimi L. N. Koge', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kimi L. N. Koge
Business Manager-Financial
Secretary

KLNK:nkl



Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
April 14, 2014
10:00 a.m.

G.M. 645, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, DANNY VASCONCELLOS, for a term to expire 6-30-2020.

Dear Chairperson Hee and Committee Members:

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) gives its unreserved support to the nomination of Danny Vasconcellos to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Mr. Vasconcellos has a long history as an attorney in the practice of employment law in the State of Hawaii. I have known Mr. Vasconcellos with regard to his work in the field of Workers' Compensation Law and other employment relations issues. He is respected by both the legal and labor communities.

Most importantly, Mr. Vasconcellos will bring a commitment to the basic principles upon which Hawaii's Workers' Compensation was created.

I urge your favorable consideration of the appointment of Mr. Vasconcellos to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. Musto, Ph.D.
Executive Director

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

1017 Palm Drive • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 • Facsimile: (808) 593-2160
Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>

Case Management Works – Hawaii, Inc.

April 10, 2014

Committee On Judiciary And Labor
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha,

I strongly support Governor Neil Abercrombie's exceptional nomination of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos for Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LAB).

Mr. Vasconcellos has extensive experience, over twenty-five years, in labor law and in particular, workers compensation. During this time, he demonstrated a thorough understanding of the statutory intent and purpose of Workers' Compensation Law, the administrative procedures under the Disability Compensation Division, the LAB, and the court system. Mr. Vasconcellos would bring these valuable aptitudes to the workers' compensation system and thus benefit the people of Hawaii.

As a vocational rehabilitation counselor working professionally in Hawaii for over fifteen years, I have seen Mr. Vasconcellos ably represent his clients and earn the respect of others involved in the Workers' Compensation System. Mr. Vasconcellos is an honest professional with a profound commitment to accountability. He approaches cases and disputes based on the facts and the law. He understands that Hawaii's workers' compensation legislation clearly recognizes that society bears responsibility to ensure injured workers and their families do not shoulder the burden of work injury alone.

Mr. Vasconcellos has represented injured workers with a focus upon the statutory goals established under Hawaii's Workers' Compensation Laws: 1) Medical restoration and physiological rehabilitation as far as possible; 2) Return of permanently disabled workers to gainful employment when possible, even when training is required; 3) Provision of substantial compensatory relief for the economic and other losses incurred. He will transport this focus to the LAB.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Vasconcellos to Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Submitted By:

Tony Hunstiger

Tony Hunstiger, M.Ed., CRC, LMHC

Don Kegler, M.Ed, C.R.C.
Chief Operating Officer

Gary F. Gallagher, M.Ed, Psych, C.R.C.
President

Ann L. Mochida, R.N., C.C.M.
Big Island Branch Manager
Director of Medical Case Management Services

KIRSTEN H. HARADA, M. Ed., CRC, MHC
Vice President, Rehab. Specialist, TFT-Alg

BEVERLY TOKUMINE, M. Ed., CRC, MHC
Senior/Rehabilitation Specialist, TFT-Alg

VOCATIONAL MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS, INC.

LAURIE H. HAMANO, M. Ed., CRC, MHC, TFT-Alg
President, Rehabilitation Specialist

PATTI ANN INOUE, M. Ed., CRC, MHC
Rehabilitation Specialist, TFT-Alg

JESSICA BOHNE, M. Ed., CRC
Rehabilitation Specialist, TFT-Alg

April 8, 2014

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and
Honorable Members of the Senate

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Kirsten Harada, M.Ed., CRC, LMHC
Vice President of Vocational Management Consultants

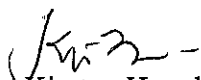
RE: Compelling Support For GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos
As Chair of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Danny J. Vasconcellos's appointment to serve as the Chair of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Mr. Vasconcellos has proven to be a strong client advocate in the worker's compensation system. I have known him to be well respected in the community as a fair and honest attorney that is knowledgeable in the employment practice of law. His focus always based on following and making decisions based on the intent of the law. He is known for his passion, dedication and extensive legal background. For these reasons I feel that Mr. Vasconcellos would be an excellent candidate for the Chair to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share and support the appointment of Mr. Vasconcellos to this position. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 538-8733.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Harada, M.Ed., CRC, LMHC
Rehabilitation Specialist, Vocational Management Consultants



Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Date of Hearing: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time of Hearing: 10:00 a.m.
Place of Hearing: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Dear Honorable Chairman Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Mr. Vasconcellos and I are classmates and proud graduates of the William S. Richardson Law School, Class of 1987. We are very fortunate to have obtained a legal education as a passageway to a career of service in law, either in private practice or in a public capacity. After many years distinguishing himself as an expert in workers compensation law, Mr. Vasconcellos is now choosing to leave private practice for the public sector rededicating his honed skills and valuable experience to help resolve the important disputes that come before the Board.

While there are many reasons why Mr. Vasconcellos should be appointed as Chair of the Labor Board, I would like to emphasize a few of them.

He is superbly qualified having specialized for more than 25 plus years in the area of workers compensation law. I have first-hand knowledge of his intelligence and dedicated lawyering skills as he handled my husband's recent work comp matter and we were more than satisfied with his skillful representation and positive outcome.

Mr. Vasconcellos will make an excellent chair because he is a person of great integrity, character and honor. He is open minded and willing to hear multiple points of view. He is not beholden to any one single interest over another. Over the years he has developed an excellent working understanding of the Labor Board's values, mission and objectives and he has earned the respect of his peers and colleagues in the field.

Mahalo nui loa Chairman Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro for allowing me to provide testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as Chairman of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Aloha a hui hou,

Lani Ma'a Lapilio
President, Aukahi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: ggdietcoke@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM645 on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM
Date: Friday, April 11, 2014 5:39:53 PM

GM645

Submitted on: 4/11/2014

Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gary gallagher	CASE MANAGEMENT WORKS INC	Support	No

Comments: My name is Gary Gallagher and I have been a vocational rehabilitation counselor in Hawaii for over 35 years. I wish to be on the record in strong support of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos appointment to chair the Labor and Industrial Appeals Board. In my dealings in the workers compensation/vocational system Mr. Vasconcellos has always appeared to be a measured, reasoned and well prepared attorney. I believe he will be an excellent chair because of his vast experience, communication skills and ability to work with all parties in the Workers Compensation system.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



**THE LAW OFFICE OF
GORDON KIM**

Executive Centre, Suite 1705
1088 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

☎ Phone: (808) 536-1717
Fax: (808) 531-5443

April 9, 2014

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
and other Honorable Members

Re: Support for GM 645, Gubernatorial Nominee, Danny Vasconcelles
Dear Mr. Hee:

I am a practicing attorney, and have resided in Kaaawa for 60 years. I am writing this letter to urge you to appoint Danny Vasconcelles as Chairman of the Labor Appeals Board. I have been in the workers' compensation field of law for about 30 years representing the little guy to ensure the legislative intent of the workers' compensation act is carried out. I know Mr. Vasconcelles through workers' compensations cases I have handled while a partner at Park Kim and Gill (now Park and Park) and now, in my own private practice. He has been working in the workers' compensation field for over 25 years, and is highly competent and knowledgeable this field of the law, and knows the rules and regulations in this area.

I have seen first hand in the last 10 years how the purpose and intent of the workers' compensation act has been eroded, and have seen many injured workers suffer health and financial difficulties because of this. I believe this has happened because of under staffing of the Disability Compensation Division ("DCD") and Labor Appeals Board, and lack of adequate workers' compensation education for the hearing officers at the DCD, with no legal over sight over their decisions. I believe that we need someone that will have the *will* to make changes at the Labor Appeals Board and its direction of the DCD, rather than going with the "status quo," which many times do not even follow the Supreme Court or I.C.A. decisions on workers compensation issues," *and follow the intent and purpose of the workers' compensation act passed by the legislature*. Mr. Vasconcelles is *objective, honest, and knowledgeable*, and I am sure that he will make an outstanding Director of the Department of Labor.

Very truly yours,
THE LAW OFFICE OF GORDON KIM

GORDON KIM

ccs: File

LAW OFFICES OF
T. J. LANE
HARBOR COURT OFFICE TOWER
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TELEPHONE: (808) 526-4000
FACSIMILE: (808) 568-0078
tj@hawaii-attorney.com

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TO: CLAYTON HEE, Chair
MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Vice Chair
OTHER HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

FROM: T.J. LANE

DATE: Monday, April 14, 2014
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 325, State Capitol
425 South Beretania Street

RE: Support for GM 645 Confirming DANNY VASCONCELLOS to the
Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

I support Danny Vasconcellos to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board ("LAB") for a term to expire June 30, 2020. Mr. Vasconcellos has the attributes of judicial integrity, morality, and temperament. Mr. Vasconcellos will be a fair and just decision maker with an unwavering commitment to objectivity.

Mr. Vasconcellos is well equipped to modernize move the LAB by implementing technological changes to expedite movement of the abundance of work, including the backlog of cases now pending. I have no doubt Mr. Vasconcellos will perform superbly in his new role.

This is one hearing I would like to attend but personal reasons have forced me to be out of state. For the foregoing reasons, I offer my full support of Danny Vasconcellos in writing.

Sincerely,



T.J. Lane

Law Offices of
SCOTT K. COLLINS

*HARBOR COURT 55 Merchant Street, Suite 1850
Honolulu, Hawai`I 96813*

*Telephone No. (808) 533-3335
Facsimile No. (808) 533-3336*

E-Mail: Attorney@SCollinsLaw.com

*****CONFIDENTIALITY*****

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April 10, 2014

Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: Compelling Support For GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos As Chair of Labor And
Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Dear Chairperson Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro & Fellow Committee Members:

It is a privilege to be afforded this opportunity to attest to the extremely high moral character, professionalism and intellect in support of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos to serve as the Chair of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I am presently an attorney here in Honolulu and have been in private practice as a solo practitioner for eighteen years. Prior to that, I was a deputy prosecuting attorney for about ten years. Before entering the legal profession I was previously also a police officer with the Honolulu Police Department for approximately thirteen years.

I first met Mr. Danny Vasconcellos when I was starting out in private practice and possessed limited knowledge in the area of labor law. Over the years I sought out the wealth of wisdom and guidance that Mr. Vasconcellos possessed in the area of labor law. There were countless times when I called upon Mr. Vasconcellos for advice, and without hesitation, each and everytime, regardless how busy he was, he took the time to advise and guide me in this area. As time went on, I not only had the pleasure of not only being a colleague to Mr. Vasconcellos, but a friend as well.

Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: Compelling Support For GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos As Chair of Labor And
Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

April 10, 2014

Page Two

Other admirable traits I observed when interacting with Mr. Vasconcellos was his high intelligence and knowledge, while simultaneously possessing the ability to always be calm and rational under adverse and difficult conditions.

But most importantly, what greatly impressed me was Mr. Vasconcellos' unique ability of possessing a sense of justice that was always tempered with compassion.

These same qualities that I've mentioned above are the very basis as to why Mr. Vasconcellos is highly respected and regarded in the legal community by numerous fellow attorneys.

I am extremely confident that Mr. Vasconcellos will be an outstanding Chair to the Labor And Industrial Relations Appeals Board and, without a doubt, he most certainly will greatly contribute and be an asset to the labor community here in Hawai'i.

This high opinion I have of Mr. Vasconcellos is based on my past experiences which I believe have made me a good judge of character, coupled with the meaningful relationship I've developed with Mr. Vasconcellos over the years.

I am honored to have known Mr. Vasconcellos for all these years but am even prouder to have him as a friend.

If you have any question or concern, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,


Scott K. Collins, Esq.

THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

Hearing: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Testimony on GM 645

To the Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
And to the Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 645, nominating Danny Vasconcellos to serve on the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (“LIRAB”). My name is Lowell Chun-Hoon, and I am a lawyer specializing in labor relations, workers’ compensation, and other disability cases, and the managing partner of a small law firm. In our practice, I have generally made roughly thirty or more appearances a year in trials, motions, and conferences before the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board for more than thirty-six years.

Mr. Vasconcellos is uniquely well-qualified to assume this important position. He has specialized in industrial injury compensation and labor law for 26 years, practicing for 23 years with the preeminent labor law firm of Takahashi, Vasconcellos and Covert, where he represented not only individual injured workers, but some 14 different public and private sector trade unions. That experience is also especially valuable because it affords him broad familiarity with the customs, practices, and regulations of both white collar and blue collar employment. This in turn enables him to appreciate the multitude of different workplace environments in which injuries occur, and to understand, as very few lawyers can, the complex interaction between Hawaii’s worker injury statute with collective bargaining, anti-discrimination law, and civil rights statutes.

During his career Mr. Vasconcellos has also argued six significant appellate cases. Industrial injury adjudication in our State is governed by a seventy-one page statute and three separate detailed chapters of the Hawaii Administrative Rules. Most of the disputes in this unique field relate to the disputed interpretations of existing law and regulations. Mr. Vasconcellos’s appellate work has helped to clarify the scope and proper application of the positional risk doctrine, Zemis v. SCI Contractors, Inc., 80 Haw. 442 (1996); whether part-time students under the age of 22 are entitled to dependent’s death benefits, Survivors of Iida v. Oriental Imports, 84 Haw. 390 (1997); and the proper criteria for determining when statute of limitations commences to run in any claim. Hayashi v. Scott Co., 93 Haw. 8 (2000).

In Lindinha v. Hilo Coast Processing, 104 Haw. 164 (2004) Mr. Vasconcellos vindicated the right of Claimant's attorneys to recover attorneys' fees and costs from the employer when the employer successfully appeals to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, but such decisions are subsequently reversed. Given the impoverished economic circumstances of most disabled employees and their inability to afford the formidable cost of legal services, Mr. Vasconcellos successful prosecution of Lidinha is a major achievement in assuring access to justice and the opportunity for Claimants to have their claims fully litigated. In Kapuwai v. City and County of Honolulu, 119 Haw. 304 (Haw. App. 2008), 212 Haw. 33 (2009), the court decided the Claimant was entitled to the greater of the awards when permanent disability was measured based on either the great toe or the whole person, affirming the beneficent spirit that has always guided administration of this law.

The LIRAB Chair, however, must possess more than mere technical expertise. He or she must possess skill in human relations. Many of those persons who sustain industrial injuries are frail and traumatized, some become obsessively preoccupied with their physical and emotional pain, while many others are simply confused and overwhelmed by the comprehensive system of regulation that controls their medical care, rehabilitation, and financial sustenance. Mr. Vasconcellos has become intimately familiar with these issues in his private practice, and that experience will surely be transferrable to his new role as an adjudicator.

During his years as a practitioner, Mr. Vasconcellos has become widely regarded as a vigorous and conscientious advocate, and the same disciplined approach he displayed as a lawyer will insure that the Board's case load is administered efficiently and productively. Moreover, while he is congenial and relaxed in his private dealings, he also has the capacity to be decisive, forceful, and resolute –traits that are indispensable to the orderly administration of justice and controlling the sometimes contentious litigants that appear before him. Mr. Vasconcellos' technical mastery of relevant law, his energetic but disciplined work ethic, and sound leadership should result in a productive Board whose timely decisions will minimize both the unnecessary delay that adds needless cost for employers and insurers and the frustration of claimants whose lives are sometimes cruelly disrupted while awaiting a determination of their fate. Finally, his personality is such that he possesses the qualities of detachment, objectivity, honesty, and open-mindedness that should make him a just and impartial decision maker.

While it is self-evident that no one can predict the future performance of any nominee with certainty, Mr. Vasconcellos' past record and personal character provide every indication that if confirmed, he will serve with distinction. The law firm of King, Nakamura & Chun-Hoon supports his confirmation fully and without reservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 645 and Mr. Vasconcellos.

AYABE, CHONG, NISHIMOTO, SIA & NAKAMURA

ANN H. ARATANI
SIDNEY K. AYABE
MONICA K. CHOI
ROBERT A. CHONG
STEPHEN C. DYER
PATRICIA T. FUJII
STEVEN L. KOTO
KENNETH COYA
DAVIDA GILBERT
RYAN I. INOUE
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PHILIP DESATO
MICHAEL J. VAN DYKE
J. THOMAS WOODA
DIANE W. WONG
CALVIN F. YOUNG

RODNEY S. NISHIDA
(1969 - 2004)

PA LAW CORPORATION

April 11, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Letter in Support of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chairman
of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimbukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for the confirmation of
Danny Vasconcellos to be the next Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations
Appeals Board. I was very pleased to learn of his nomination by Governor Abercrombie
for the Chairmanship.

I am a partner with the law firm of Ayabe Chong Nishimoto Sia &
Nakamura. I have practiced in the area of workers' compensation for over 30 years. I
have known "Danny" for over 25 years, always in opposition to me as I only represent
the interests of employers and insurance carriers, while his practice is solely on the
claimant's side.

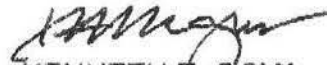
Danny is very knowledgeable in labor law, and specifically in workers'
compensation matters. We have had many hearings and our legal battles are
somewhat noteworthy, at least in my mind. From those encounters I was able to
observe his tireless work ethic, and his professional commitment and tenaciousness on
the claims he handled. Over time, Danny has built his reputation and is respected by
the workers' compensation community and legal circles.

In conclusion, it is without any reservation I strongly support the
appointment of Danny as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals
Board. The State of Hawaii and the legal community will greatly benefit from his trial and
judicial experience at the appellate level.

If you have any questions about my support of Danny Vasconcellos,
please do not hesitate to contact me.

Senator Clayton Hee
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
April 11, 2014
Page 2

Very truly yours,



KENNETH T. BOYA

KTG:lsk
[643475]

AYABE, CHONG, NISHIMOTO, SIA & NAKAMURA

ANN H. ARATANI
SIDNEY K. AYABE*
ROBERT A. CHONG
STEPHEN G. DYER
PATRICIA T. FUJII
STEVEN L. GOTO
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MONICA K. SUMATSU
PHILIP S. UESATO
MICHAEL J. VAN DYKE
J. THOMAS WEBER
DIANE W. WONG
CALVIN E. YOUNG

*A LAW CORPORATION

April 11, 2014

RODNEY S. NISHIDA
(1949 - 2004)

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

By fax only to 586-7334

Re: Danny J. Vasconcellos, Esq.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

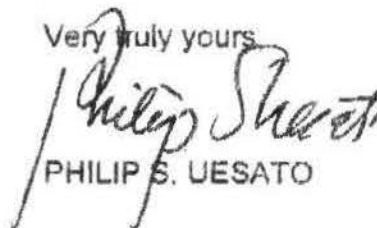
I am writing in support of the nomination of Danny J. Vasconcellos, Esq., to be Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I have known Mr. Vasconcellos for most of the time that he has been practicing law. We have been on opposite sides of many workers' compensation cases over the years. Mr. Vasconcellos represents his clients with great expertise, passion and zealously.

He has maintained a solo law practice for several years, and having done that myself in the past, I can say with certainty that he will be able to handle the demands of being the administrative head of the Appeals Board. The Chairman of the Appeals Board leads it not only in its adjudication functions, but must administer its budget and personnel as well. I believe that Mr. Vasconcellos will be able to do both.

I believe that Mr. Vasconcellos is well-suited to be chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, and I urge his confirmation. Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on his candidacy.

Very truly yours,


PHILIP S. UESATO

AYABE, CHONG, NISHIMOTO, SIA & NAKAMURA

ANN H. ARATANI
SIDNEY K. AYABE*
MONICA K. S. CHOI
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CALVIN R. YOUNG

RODNEY S. NISHIDA
(1949 - 2004)

April 11, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Facsimile: 586-7334

Re: Letter in Support of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chairman
of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on
Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for the confirmation of
Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chairman for the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals
Board.

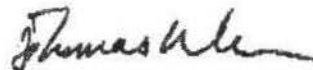
I am a partner in the law firm Ayabe, Chong, Nishimoto, Sia & Nakamura and
have practiced in the area of workers' compensation in Hawaii for over twenty years.

Mr. Vasconcellos is a skilled attorney, experienced in workers' compensation
laws, and a very capable adversary. He will bring years of knowledge and workers'
compensation litigation experience to the Labor Appeals Board.

I support your favorable consideration of Danny Vasconcellos to be the next
Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.

Very truly yours,



J. Thomas Weber

GALLAGHER KANE AMAI

ATTORNEYS AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION

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J. PATRICK GALLAGHER
JOELLE SEGAWA KANE
JACQUELINE W. S. AMAI
LEAH M. REYES

ERIN I. MACDONALD
SKYLER G. CRUZ
TRISH K. MORIKAWA
KATHERINE Y. KOGA

In Memoriam
JEFFREY Y. HIGASHI

jamai@insurlawhawaii.com
Direct: 531-2023, Ext. 423

kkoga@insurlawhawaii.com
Direct: 531-2023, Ext. 414

April 11, 2014

By E-Mail to JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Senator and Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 645: Danny J. Vasconcellos, Esq. - Consideration for Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, State of Hawaii (Confirmation Hearing on April 14, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., Room 325)

Dear Senator Hee:

Please consider this letter in support of the nomination of DANNY J. VASCONCELLOS, ESQ., for the position of Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, State of Hawaii.

My law practice focuses on the area of workers' compensation insurance defense. As such, I have been aware of Mr. Vasconcellos's practice in this area since I started work as an associate attorney in 1994. Through my practice I have handled and litigated numerous cases with Mr. Vasconcellos representing the claimant, and in the course have worked with him in all aspects ranging from investigation and discovery, litigation before the Disability Compensation Division and Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, and settlement. Mr. Vasconcellos has extensive knowledge and expertise in labor, employment and workers' compensation law, in addition to his overall skills and accomplishments in the legal profession and community at large.

I regularly appear before the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board in the representation of our firm's clients. I believe that the extent of experience and knowledge that Mr. Vasconcellos will bring to the Board will enable it to continue to assist the community in the efficient and professional manner that are its trademarks. I know that Mr. Vasconcellos will fulfill the responsibilities of the chair's position with fairness and respect for all participants in the process.

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Re: GM 645 Danny J. Vasconcellos, Esq.
April 11, 2014
Page 2

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of his nomination to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Thank you for this opportunity and your time in this regard.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jacqueline W. S. Amai".

Jacqueline W. S. Amai

April 11, 2014

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
Hawaii State Capitol, 5th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Abercrombie:

I am pleased to support the appointment of Danny Vasconcellos as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB). I believe that his appointment will enhance the effectiveness of LIRAB.

Mr. Vasconcellos is particularly well qualified and an ideal selection. He has the intellectual capacity to deal impartially with all matters that will come before LIRAB and is able to make informed decisions that will stand up to close scrutiny. He's committed to ensuring that all cases have an opportunity to be presented and considered as fully and dispassionately as possible.

I am certain that his experience, expertise, and dedication will be an asset to the state and as such, we unconditionally support his appointment and urge you to confirm him.

Thank you for your consideration.

KALĀ & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Gwen L. Keliioomalū, MA, CRC, LMHC

LEONG KUNIHIRO LEZY & BENTON

Attorneys at Law - A Law Corporation
1212 Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

*Scott G. Leong
Gary N. Kunihiro
Normand R. Lezy
Shawn L.M. Benton
Paul A. Brooke*

*Telephone No.: (808) 524-7575
Facsimile No.: (808) 524-7878*

Linda Zichittella Leong (1948-2004)

April 11, 2014

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Hawaii State Senate
Chairman, Committee On Judiciary and Labor
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Appeals Board Nominee, Danny J. Vasconcellos
Governor's Message 645**

Dear Senator Hee:



We are writing to support Governor Neil Abercrombie's nomination of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, State of Hawaii ("Appeals Board"). Our firm has had numerous workers' compensation cases against Mr. Vasconcellos. Based on our experience in handling cases against him, we believe Mr. Vasconcellos has the knowledge, expertise, and work ethic to become the next chairman of the Appeals Board. He knows the law, procedure and the practitioners. Although he represented injured workers during his private law practice years, we believe that as Chairman of the Appeals Board, he will be a fair and objective and listen to all the evidence before rendering decisions on cases and motions. There is precedent for this since previous governors have nominated workers' compensation practitioners for the chairman's position and they have all been fair and objective. We believe Mr. Vasconcellos will follow in those footsteps.

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Re Appeals Board Nominee, Danny J. Vasconcellos
April 11, 2014
Page 2

In conclusion, we restate our support for Mr. Vasconcellos' nomination as Chairman of the Appeals Board.

Very truly yours,

LEONG KUNIHIRO LEZY & BENTON


Scott G. Leong

Gary N. Kunihiro

/s/ Shawn L.M. Benton

Shawn L.M. Benton

SGL/GNK/SLMB:ara

cc: Danny J. Vasconcellos, Esq.

CASE LOMBARDI & PETTIT

A LAW CORPORATION

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Na'unanikina'u A. Kamali'i

Of Counsel
John R. Dwyer, Jr.
Gregory M. Hansen
Frederick W. Rohlifing III

† A Law Corporation

Daniel H. Case (Retired 2012)

April 12, 2014

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Email: senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov

**Re: Nomination of Danny J. Vasconcellos to the Labor & Industrial
Relations Appeals Board, State of Hawaii (GM 645) - Support**

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimbukuro, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Frederick W. Rohlifing III and I am Of Counsel at Case Lombardi & Pettit. It is my pleasure and honor to submit this letter in support of the confirmation of Danny J. Vasconcellos to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board of the State of Hawaii. While my law practice is concentrated in the area of business and real estate civil litigation, I do on occasion represent workers' compensation claimants and appear before the Board. Mr. Vasconcellos is eminently qualified to be a Board member based upon his 26 years of experience in zealously and effectively representing injured workers claiming under the Hawaii Workers' Compensation Law. His extensive representation of injured workers and his depth of knowledge regarding the Hawaii Workers' Compensation Law give him a valuable perspective on the importance of securing the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of appeals to the Board. I am confident that Mr. Vasconcellos will serve the people of Hawaii well and with distinction. I respectfully urge you to confirm Danny Vasconcellos to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Sincerely,


Frederick W. Rohlifing III

April 11, 2014

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 643
DATE: Monday, April 14, 2014
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Nomination of Elizabeth Kent to the Commission to Promote
Uniform Legislation

Dear Senator Hee:

I write this letter in enthusiastic support of Elizabeth Kent's nomination to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation ("CPUL"). As a member of the CPUL, Elizabeth acts as a representative of the State of Hawaii to the Uniform Law Commission, the national organization responsible for drafting many of the uniform laws enacted throughout the country.

Elizabeth has been a member of the CPUL for several terms. As is the case with all other Commissioners, she receives no compensation for her time. Yet she freely and enthusiastically gives many, many hours of her time in service to her position. During the year, she attends drafting committee meeting of the national organization, acts as a liaison between the national organization and local interest groups, and provides testimony to our Legislature on uniform laws which are being considered for enactment.

As a further sign of her commitment and sense of responsibility, she has in the past attended the annual meeting of the Uniform Law Commission even when the State of Hawaii had no funds in its budget to pay for this expense. Elizabeth utilized her own resources for her travel, accommodations, and conference fees for this week long conference, representing the State of Hawaii.

Please be assured that this week-long event is a working conference, and even when the State's budget allows for attending this meeting, the attendee

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

April 11, 2014

Page 2 of 2

must give up his/her work or vacation time to attend. During the conference, attendees spend each day in plenary meetings or committee meetings, during which various uniform laws are considered, discussed, and worked on.

At the end of the conference, each State delegation is called upon to vote for or against the uniform or model acts then under consideration. Elizabeth's presence at the conference ensured that our State was represented and its voice heard. The fact that she gave up her time and personal resources to represent our State at this important event is a tribute to both her dedication and her recognition of the importance of the work of the conference to our State.

Elizabeth Kent is a great asset both to the State of Hawaii and to the Commission to Promote Uniform Legislation, and I hope you will not hesitate to confirm her appointment to a new term.

Very truly yours,

KEVIN P.H. SUMIDA



sedgwick®

Sedgwick – Hawaii Office

P.O. Box 14153

Lexington, KY 40512-4153

My Direct Phone No: 808-523-3260 Local fax: 808-523-3269 / E-fax: 859-264-4062

April 11, 2014

By E-Mail to JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Clayton Hee
Senator and Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 645: Danny J. Vasconcellos, Esq. - Consideration for Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, State of Hawaii
(Confirmation Hearing on April 14, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., Room 325)

Dear Senator Hee:

Please consider this letter in support of the nomination of DANNY J. VASCONCELLOS, ESQ., for the position of Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, State of Hawaii.

I have adjusted workers compensation claims representing the Employers for over 13 years. In my position, I have dealt with Danny Vasconcellos who represents the injured workers. It has been my experience that he is very fair, knowledgeable and professional in this field.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of his nomination to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Thank you for this opportunity and your time in this regard.

Sincerely,

LUANNE L. CHUN
Claims Consultant

I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I have known Mr. Vasconcellos for many years, and have witnessed his ability to effectively represent issues at Department of Labor Hearings consistent with the requirements of HRS Chapter 386, Hawaii Workers' Compensation Law. Given his many years of experience in the workers' compensation area and familiarity with the workers' compensation laws and rules, I believe he has an excellent foundation from which to represent and understand complex issues that are presented at the Appeals Board.

Mr. Vasconcellos' previous experience and licensed practice in the venues of the State of Hawaii Supreme Court, Intermediate Court of Appeals, and United States District Courts, affirms his capacity to represent issues in a variety of settings and venues. His familiarity with the national labor relations board and understanding of labor management-related cases provides a broad platform for a comprehensive understanding of a variety of issues which I believe would be a solid foundation to perform capably as the Appeals Board Chairman.

Based on my experience with Mr. Vasconcellos, he is a bright, caring, hard worker, who will complete the necessary due diligence to arrive at fair and reasoned decisions in the completion of his duties. His ability to read and understand various pleadings and positions, and ascertain facts and issues will serve him well in his role as Appeals Board Chair.

I believe that Mr. Vasconcellos has the ability and proven record that demonstrates he is capable of effectively researching legal issues and considering the various aspects of issues that he will be confronted with, and that he will be able to interpret and enforce the rules and procedures in a fair and consistent manner.

I encourage you to confirm Mr. Vasconcellos' nomination as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: mberkowitz@vocationoptions.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM645 on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 10:43:48 AM

GM645

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this appointment of Mr. Danny Vasconcelles. He will be outstanding for the Labor Board Appeals position. Mr. Vasconcelles has the necessary qualifications and integrity to fill this position. Sincerely, Marcia Berkowitz

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

April 8, 2014

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
and Honorable Members of the Senate

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 AM
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Adam Yonamine

**Re: Compelling Support For GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos
As Chair Of Labor And Industrial Relations Appeals Board**

I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos for Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (Board).

Mr. Vasconcellos has twenty-six (over twenty-five) years of legal practice in Workers' Compensation and Labor Law. He has demonstrated a thorough understanding of the statutory intent and purpose of Workers' Compensation Law, the administrative procedures under the Disability Compensation Division, the Board, and the court system. Mr. Vasconcellos has ably represented his clients and earned the respect of others involved in the Workers' Compensation System.

The Chair of the Board has important administrative responsibilities in addition to the adjudicatory responsibility of deciding appeals. Mr. Vasconcellos also has experience in other areas of labor law that will provide perspective that will aid his decision-making and the operations of the Board. He has the background, education, experience and judgment to serve in this important role.

Further, Mr. Vasconcellos's extensive experience and ability to work with the various parties in the workers' compensation system make him a very strong candidate for Chair of the Board. If confirmed, Mr. Vasconcellos would be a valuable asset in the workers' compensation system and thus to the people of Hawaii.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Vasconcellos to Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

April 14, 2014

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
and Honorable Members of the Senate

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Laurie H. Hamano, M.Ed. CRC, LMHC
President of Vocational Management Consultants, Inc.

**Re: Compelling Support For GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos
As Chair Of Labor And Industrial Relations Appeals Board**

Thank you Chair, Senator Hee and Vice Chair, Senator Shimabukuro for allowing me to provide a testimony in **strong support** for Mr. Vasconcellos' nomination to the Labor Appeals Board.

I met Mr. Vasconcellos over 20 years ago while he worked for the law firm of Herbert Takahashi. He later became partner in the firm and grew through his experiences in the field. What impressed me then as well as now is his ethical foundation and his desire to make sure that those who work in the field understand the law as well as the "intent of the law".

Mr. Vasconcellos brings to the Board this strength and knowledge of the law as well as his vast experience in working with injured workers and other professionals from different sectors in the community. With this being said I believe, Mr. Vasconcellos will be a valued and above all, a fair Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Vasconcellos' appointment as Chair of Labor Appeals Board.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF G.M. No. 645
RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DANNY VASCONCELLOS
TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Monday, April 14, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I am attorney Wayne Mukaida. I have been in practice since 1978. Since 1989, I have devoted a substantial portion of my legal practice to representing injured workers in their workers' compensation claims.

I strongly support G.M. No. 654, relating to the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos for appointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I. Mr. Vasconcellos has the specialized knowledge required for the position.

Mr. Vasconcellos' vast experience in workers' compensation ("WC") law makes him supremely qualified for the all the requirements of the position.

A. WC law involves many unique legal concepts. The practice of WC law should be recognized as a specialty area. There are concepts in WC law which are found nowhere else. The bare WC statute and regulations have been interpreted by a great and growing body of case law.

Mr. Vasconcellos has been involved in this area on a daily basis for an extended period, and has been instrumental in helping to develop WC law via his practice before the Disability Compensation Division, the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. The cases which he pursued to the appellate courts are required reading for every WC practitioner.

Mr. Vasconcellos will not require any time to familiarize himself with the law in this field, but instead will be fully equipped to "hit the ground running."

B. WC necessarily involves injuries and diseases and therefore requires an understanding of medicine. WC law necessarily requires an ability to read medical charts, and an ability to decipher reports of medical experts. Over his many years of practice in WC, Mr. Vasconcellos has, without a doubt, become very familiar with many of the complex medical issues involved in various cases, and will be able to use this understanding in reaching decisions.

C. WC requires an understanding of the challenges faced by injured workers. A serious injury on the job affects many aspects of an employee's life. The many practical implications of being injured on the job, of being without income, of systemic delays, of dealing with family members, of being in pain on a daily basis, of facing an uncertain future, of suffering the frustration of not receiving medical care because a carrier claims that a physician is not complying with the WC Medical Fee Schedule, etc., are all considerations with which Mr. Vasconcellos is well versed.

II. Mr. Vasconcellos is dedicated to WC practice.

Mr. Vasconcellos could have worked in other more lucrative areas of law. The fact that Mr. Vasconcellos has practiced WC law for an extended period should be recognized as a significant indication of his dedication to the field.

III. Mr. Vasconcellos has an understanding of challenges faced by employers.

Modern union leaders must have an understanding of challenges faced by management. Mr. Vasconcellos has represented unions before courts and administrative agencies. He also received an undergraduate degree in Business Administration, and has been an employer himself. It can be expected that Mr. Vasconcellos will bring a balanced perspective to the Board.

IV. CONCLUSION.

Mr. Vasconcellos is very well qualified for the position and he should be confirmed to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

WAYNE H. MUKAIDA
Attorney at Law
888 Mililani St., PH2
Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone: 531-8899

April 9, 2014

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
and Honorable Members of the Senate

Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Lily Miyahira

**Re: Compelling Support For GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos
As Chair Of Labor And Industrial Relations Appeals Board**

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos to serve as the Chair of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Mr. Vasconcellos has extensive knowledge and experience in labor law and workers compensation and is extremely qualified to deal impartially with all matters that come before the LIRAB. He is well respected in the community and I have known him to be a fair and honest attorney, a person with integrity and professionalism. He is known for his passion, dedication, commitment, accountability, and extensive legal background, and for all these reasons, I am confident that he will provide perspective that will aid his decision making and the operations of the Board. His experience and judgment makes him a valuable asset to serve in this position for the people of Hawaii.

I totally support and strongly urge you to confirm Mr. Danny Vasconcellos to Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Thank you for your consideration and opportunity to provide my testimony in support of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos to this position.

Sincerely,

Lily Miyahira

TESTIMONY BY YAYOI TUMAMAO
IN SUPPORT OF NOMINEE

DANNY VASCONCELLOS
AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, April 14, 2014
10:00 AM
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

April 9, 2014

To: The Honorable Chair Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my strongest support for the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chairman for the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I have been Mr. Vasconcellos' secretary since May 2013. Since I have started working for him, I have found him to be extremely knowledgeable in workers' compensation law. He has been a fair and honest advocate for his clients and has holds a strong leadership role. I believe that he is well established to be qualified to serve as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I wholeheartedly support your favorable consideration of Danny Vasconcellos to be the next Chairman of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you again for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.

Sincerely,



Yayoi Tumamao

Margaret Walker
1212 Pensacola Street #208
Honolulu, HI 96814

April 8, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: In Support of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chair of the Labor and Industrial
Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Hee and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I was Danny's legal secretary from April 2009 to June 2010. During that time I found him to be extremely knowledgeable about workers compensation with a keen eye towards fine details and nuances in the law. I found that he was well-respected not only by both Employer representatives and Claimants, but also by personnel of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Danny approached each case with a fresh, impartial mind with the goal of finding what was fair and just in each case.

One only needs to talk to Danny to see the passion he has for workers compensation law. I firmly believe Danny will make an evenhanded, strong, dedicated Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Very truly yours,



Margaret Walker

Sheila S. Tateishi
1215 Kalama Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Telephone No. 808-383-3765

April 8, 2014

The Hawaii State Senate
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2014

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, April 14, 2014
TIME OF HEARING: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 325

RE: Nomination of Danny Vasconcellos to Labor and Industrial Relations
Appeals Board

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of recommendation is submitted on behalf of Danny Vasconcellos in support of his nomination to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I strongly believe Danny Vasconcellos will be a fair and impartial decision maker as he has extensive knowledge and experience in workers' compensation law.

I have known Danny for the past 20 years and had the pleasure of working for him for 16 of those years. Over those years I have spoken to clients and to staff at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Disability Compensation Division and was informed that Danny is well-respected in the field and is highly recommended by those who know him. He goes out of his way to share his knowledge and takes time to explain the law.

Danny is fair-minded and open minded. He is very professional and will be an invaluable appointee to the Board.

Sincerely,



Sheila S. Tateishi

JOSEPH F. ZUIKER
Attorney at Law
A Law Corporation
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 1111
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

(808) 523-1142

Facsimile 534-0023

Assisting Injured Workers Throughout Hawaii

April 9, 2014

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Other Honorable Members

Re: Strong Support for GM 645 for Gubernatorial Nominee:

Danny J. Vasconcellos, Esq.

Hearing date: Monday, April 14, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Hearing location: Conference Room 325, State Capitol, 415
South Beretania Street

Dear Committee Members:


Please note my active representation of injured workers in the State of Hawaii for over twenty-two (22) years. During that time I have been able to observe the diligence and skill demonstrated by LAB Board Member-Designee Danny Vasconcellos, Esq.

Being fully aware of his respect for Hawaii's Worker's Compensation Statutes, I note my strong support for his candidacy as a member of the Labor and Industrial Relations' Appeals Board.

Please confirm Attorney Vasconcellos swiftly so that he can begin contributing toward the strengthening of this most important part of our State's injured worker rehabilitation system.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


Joseph F. Zuiker, Esq.

cc: file

TESTIMONY BY

**KEVIN H.S. YUEN,
ATTORNEY AT LAW
33 Niolopua Lane
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT OF NOMINEE
DANNY VASCONCELLOS
AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD**

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, April 14, 2014
10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

TO: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Thank you for the opportunity to express my full and unqualified support for the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chairman of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I am an attorney licensed in the State of Hawaii since 1983. My practice of law is on the island of Maui, though I have represented clients throughout the State of Hawaii. I am committed to assisting in the protection of the rights of individuals whether through personal injury, wrongful death, industrial accidents, discrimination, retaliation in the workplace, among other areas of the law.

I have known Danny Vasconcellos for over 40 years.

In the time that I have known Mr. Vasconcellos, I have developed a deep respect for his ability to understand and practice the concept of pono, his willingness to exercise fairness and compassion in making the correct decisions affecting the rights of individuals, and his effectiveness as an advocate. His heart and head are in the right place and I have no qualms in believing that he will make the right decisions as the Appeals Board Chair in accordance with the laws of the State of Hawaii.

The Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board is faced with the difficult task of balancing the rights and interests of employees, employers, health care providers and insurance carriers. The position requires that the Chairman put aside bias and bring to the table leadership, proper decision making, wisdom, experience, and fairness. Without question, Danny Vasconcellos will be able to do that. His years of practice as an attorney will guide him in formulating policies and procedures that will improve the functioning of the worker's compensation system.

Over the years, Mr. Vasconcellos has demonstrated a complete understanding of Hawaii's worker's compensation system and of the necessity of providing protections to the rights of injured workers. His knowledge of Hawaii's worker's compensation laws, the decisions of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board and of the appellate courts of the State of Hawaii, is unquestioned and I have no doubt that he is superbly equipped to become the chair of the Appeals Board.

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Danny Vasconcellos to be the next Chairman of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.

KEVIN H.S. YUEN
Attorney at Law

April 9, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate

Re: GM 645--Danny Vasconcellos's Gubernatorial Nomination as Chairman of
Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee,

I am in **VERY STRONG SUPPORT** of Gubernatorial Nominee Danny Vasconcellos
as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board.

Mr. Vasconcellos has a vast understanding of the Hawaii's Workers' Compensation
Law, Disability Compensation, Rules related to Rehabilitation and the Hawaii
Administrative Rules. He knows legislative history and the purpose of Hawaii
Revised Statutes, Chapter 386.

He is impeccably honest, always fair, has integrity and is a hard worker. He will
be an outstanding Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board.
Although he can earn a better income in private practice, the people of this State
are lucky he is willing to be a public servant.

I urge you to pass Mr. Vasconcellos's gubernatorial nomination out of the
Judiciary and Labor Committee.

Sincerely,

Charlene Oshiro
941 Aliamanu Place
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: [Shannonkogaa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: GM 645 -- Danny Vasconcellos for Chairman of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 3:22:25 AM

April 9 10 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 645 -- Danny Vasconcellos' Gubernatorial Nomination as
Chairman of Labor
and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the
Committee,

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** Danny Vasconcellos to be the next Chairman
of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board.

He will serve the Board well as it's chairman because of his vast and
intricate knowledge of the Worker's Compensation, Disability and
Rehabilitation Statues. With great leadership skills, he will also be fair.

Please pass his gubernatorial nomination out of the Judiciary and Labor
Committee.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Oshiro
94-357 Ikepono Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: regoa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM645 on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 6:52:11 AM

GM645

Submitted on: 4/10/2014

Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANSON REGO	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am forwarding testimony in support of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos nomination as the next chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I do so because as an attorney in Waianae and Waipahu representing injured workers which is now approximately 50% of my law practice, I know that Hawaii needs a person not only with Mr. Vasconcellos' extensive knowledge of labor law, but also someone who understand the difficulties and complexities of our Worker's Compensation Law faced often by injured workers who often represent themselves without counsel. Mr. Vasconcellos has such knowledge having assisted or represented many such injured workers in the past. It is my hope that with Mr Vasconcellos' leadership that the Labor Appeals Board will be less costly to navigate for injured workers and its procedures would be streamlined for all Hawaii workers to have speedier access to resolve their injuries and return to work. The workers compensation system is in need of overhaul and needs a leader willing to begin this process now. Thank for favorably considering Mr. Vasconcellos nomination which I support. It is extremely important that the Legislature confirm another well-versed workers compensation practitioner, like outgoing Chair Roland Thom, to lead this Board. Anson Rego

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

GLENN D. CHOY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
735 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 417
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
☎☎☎
TELEPHONE: (808) 533-7007
FAX: (808) 533-4007

April 9, 2014

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
and Honorable Members of Committee

Date: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 AM
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From Glenn Choy, Attorney

**RE: Support for GM 645, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Danny Vasconcellos**

Dear Senator Hee:

This is to endorse the application of Danny J. Vasconcellos for Chair of the Labor Appeals Board.

Mr. Vasconcellos appeared before me when he served as the attorney for a grievant in an arbitration under the Hawaii Public Employment Collective Bargaining Law, Chapter 89, H.R.S.

Mr. Vasconcellos was superb in his advocacy for his client. He was thorough in his preparation, in his presentation of his case at hearing, and in his argument in his written submission.

He served his client at a high standard and showed his commitment and care for his role in upholding his client's interests in a strong yet fair manner.

I recommend him highly for the Chair of the Labor Appeals Board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours Truly,
Glenn D. Choy
Attorney at Law

From: [mel.nakagawa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Danny Vasconcellos' Gubernatorial Nomination
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 9:58:24 AM

April 10, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 645

Danny Vasconcellos' Gubernatorial nomination as Chairman of the
Labor
and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the
Committee:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Danny Vasconcellos's
Gubernatorial nomination as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial
Relations Appeal Board.

With his thorough understanding of the Hawaii's Workers'
Compensation Law and the Hawaii Administrative Rules, he would make
an excellent Chairman of the LIRAB.

I urge your passing his gubernatorial nomination out of the Judiciary
and Labor Committee.

Sincerely,

Melvin Nakagawa
2224 Akeukeu St.
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [mel.nakagawa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 10:03:21 AM

April 10, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 645
Danny Vasconcellos' Gubernatorial nomination as Chairman of the
Labor
and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the
Committee:

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Gubernatorial nomination as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial
Relations Appeal Board.

With his thorough understanding of the Hawaii's Workers'
Compensation Law and the Hawaii Administrative Rules, he would make
an excellent Chairman of the LIRAB.

I urge your passing his gubernatorial nomination out of the Judiciary
and Labor Committee.

Sincerely,

Sachiye Nakagawa
2224 Akeukeu St.
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: mel.nakagawa
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 10:04:35 AM

April 10, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 645
Danny Vasconcellos' Gubernatorial nomination as Chairman of the
Labor
and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the
Committee:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Danny Vasconcellos's
Gubernatorial nomination as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial
Relations Appeal Board.

With his thorough understanding of the Hawaii's Workers'
Compensation Law and the Hawaii Administrative Rules, he would make
an excellent Chairman of the LIRAB.

I urge your passing his gubernatorial nomination out of the Judiciary
and Labor Committee.

Sincerely,

Atley Nakagawa
2224 Akeukeu St.
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: [mel.nakagawa](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 10:07:13 AM

April 10, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 645
Danny Vasconcellos' Gubernatorial nomination as Chairman of the
Labor
and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the
Committee:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Danny Vasconcellos's
Gubernatorial nomination as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial
Relations Appeal Board.

With his thorough understanding of the Hawaii's Workers'
Compensation Law and the Hawaii Administrative Rules, he would make
an excellent Chairman of the LIRAB.

I urge your passing his gubernatorial nomination out of the Judiciary
and Labor Committee.

Sincerely,

Wallace Nakagawa
2224 Akeukeu St.
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: timothy.mcnulty@mauilaw.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM645 on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 10:07:47 AM

GM645

Submitted on: 4/10/2014

Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy McNulty	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As an attorney with more than 30 years experience in Workers Compensation both here and in California I can unequivocally state that Danny Vasconcellos will bring much needed balance to the Labor Appeals Board. I strongly support his nomination. Timothy P. McNulty

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

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DENNIS W. S. CHANG

Attorney at Law, A Limited Liability Law Corporation

WORKER'S RIGHTS - LABOR LAW
WORKER'S COMPENSATION
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
LABOR UNION REPRESENTATION
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BODILY INJURIES

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TO: CLAYTON HEE, Chair
MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Vice Chair
OTHER HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

FROM: DENNIS W. S. CHANG, Labor and Workers' Compensation
Attorney

DATE: Monday, April 14, 2014
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
425 South Beretania Street

RE: Compelling Support for GM 645 Confirming DANNY VASCONELLOS to
the Labor and
Industrial Relations Appeal Board for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

The compelling support of Danny Vasconcellos should reflect his stature in the workers' compensation community. I have known him since the early 1980's before he became lawyer when he was working in construction and married with a young family. He always had a sense of fairness and goodness. After he became a lawyer and graduated from the Richardson School of Law, he chose to become a labor and workers' compensation lawyer by joining the long line of prominent labor attorneys, who have ties with the first labor law firm in Hawaii of Bouslog and Symonds. He has devoted his entire career spanning twenty-six years in this area helping the needy and injured workers. Slowly with dedication and pure hard work, he became one of the more versed attorneys specializing in the representation of injured workers.

I know him well because we have worked together like the more versed attorneys, who have devoted their careers to become highly specialized in the field of workers' compensation. As an apt illustration he unselfishly assisted me in a landmark case, Capua v. Weyerhauser, where injured workers before 2009 were barred from

DILLINGHAM TRANSPORTATION BUILDING

735 BISHOP STREET • SUITE 320 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • TELEPHONE: (808) 521-4005

DENNIS W. S. CHANG

Attorney at Law, A Limited Liability Law Corporation

WORKER'S RIGHTS - LABOR LAW
WORKER'S COMPENSATION
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
LABOR UNION REPRESENTATION
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BODILY INJURIES

enrolling in the vocational rehabilitation process to find suitable and gainful employment once they received an award for permanent partial disability. I litigated the case for years and he located research on rule making and administrative rules violating the intent of the vocational rehabilitation statutory provision. Today, based on his essential contribution and brain-storming (with credit to a few others), every injured worker, whether they have received a monetary award for permanent partial disability or not, is entitled to critical vocational rehabilitation services for assistance by enrolling in the vocational rehabilitation process with the goal of returning to suitable and gainful employment. But, he will not mention the countless times he has helped others so I am providing a balance for a fuller understanding of who is Danny Vasconcellos.

As an advocate I am sure that he has irritated some on the side of the defense at times, and they may understandably continue to harbor ill-will towards him. I would urge all of you to completely disregard such criticism, if any, because he fully understands that he will no longer be an advocate, but instead, he will be wearing a different "hat," if confirmed, will serve as a decision maker for both sides. Aside from realizing that he will be placed in a new role requiring him to be more of a listener and to maintain a neutral role at all times, he unquestionably has a wealth of knowledge in the nuances of the workers' compensation statute and related administrative rules and regulations. He is also familiar with the leading case precedents as decided by the Appellate Courts. He himself has litigated cases to the Intermediate Court of Appeals and the Hawaii Supreme Court, which have changed the workers' compensation statute to remain fair and consistent with the underlying purpose of the workers' compensation statute.

In addition to possessing the requisite scholarly qualifications as the nominee to be confirmed, the only question lingering question is whether he will continue to have a bias towards injured workers, which is understandably a concern for those who represent the employers and insurance carriers. I submit that if this point is raised, it is merely a distraction and attempt to derail his confirmation.

In multiple discussions, he has committed to wearing a new "hat," if confirmed. He knows that he must carefully listen to the arguments of both sides, remain neutral, and render a disputed decision that is undoubtedly fair and consistent with the intent of the law and decisions that have construed the workers' compensation statute and are binding precedent for anyone confirmed.

Just as important he has the fine attributes of judicial integrity, morality, and temperament, which elevate him to a higher level to be a fair and just decision maker with his unwavering commitment to have an objective ear. He is also well equipped to move the LAB into the twenty-first century by implementing technological changes to

expedite movement of the abundance of work, including the backlog of cases now pending with accuracy and efficiency for the public. I do not have an iota of doubt that he will perform superbly in his new role. He is clearly not taking a position for the salary or a State pension, but instead made the decision after thoughtful deliberation. In speaking with him before I made my decision in support, he undeniably decided to become a public servant to hopefully make a contribution to the workers' compensation statute as intended when enacted and amended over the years.

To sacrifice financially as he will be doing and potentially have a situation that will be possibly harshly untoward when his term expires effective June 30, 2020 should speak volumes that he is willing to serve unselfishly for the public good, something that he wanted to do for years now. This alone should be compelling reason to confirm him. This is aptly reflected by the diverse support that he has received as the nominee for a confirmation to complete the term of the chair.

This is one hearing that I wish I would have been present, but personal reasons have forced me to be out of state. For the foregoing reasons I offer my compelling support of Danny Vasconcellos in writing.

TESTIMONY BY JEAN MAEDA
IN STRONG SUPPORT OF NOMINEE

DANNY VASCONCELLOS
AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, April 14, 2014
10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my strongest support for the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chairman for the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I am writing this letter in support of the appointment of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board.

I began working for Mr. Vasconcellos in 2006 and observed his commitment and passion for defending the rights of injured workers. He brings 25+ years of experience in the workers' compensation field and has demonstrated an acute understanding of the complex issues that will surely appear before the Appeals Board. I believe that he has both the ability and more importantly, the integrity and impartiality backed by his extensive experience to apply the legislative intent and purpose of the workers' compensation laws.

Although he has been a fervent advocate for his clients, I have personally observed his no-nonsense attitude toward clients who attempt to manipulate the work comp system. It was not unusual to hear, "When do you plan to return to work?" as a reminder to a client of his or her responsibilities in the work comp process. Mr. Vasconcellos' honesty and integrity would brook no attempt by an individual to thwart a system he has vigorously defended for the benefit of all injured workers.

I wholeheartedly support your consideration of Danny Vasconcellos to be the next Chairman of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you again for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.

April 10, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hawaii State
Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Compelling Support for GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos as Chair of Labor and Industrial
Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I have known Danny since 1970. Danny and I attended Damien Memorial High School together and graduated in 1973. While at Damien we learned that doing the right thing and the fair treatment of others regardless of race, creed, or origin were tenants for life. Danny holds these beliefs and I know practices them every day. Over the years I have kept in contact with Danny and I believe today he holds these same beliefs as we did back in high school.

I believe Danny would be ideal for this position as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I believe he will best represent the state of Hawaii. I ask for your support in his nomination as I believe that over time he has proven to be fair, impartial, and open to all points of view. I know that Danny will be guided by the law and decide appropriately no matter how difficult of challenging it may be

Sincerely,

Ron Gonsalves
District Sales Manager
FedEx Services
101 N Sepulveda, 3rd floor
El Segundo, CA 90245
714 501 3827 CP

rsgonsalves@fedex.com

DEREK S. NAKAMURA

Attorney At Law • A Law Corporation

Central Pacific Plaza • 220 S. King Street, Suite 980 Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 521-8044 • Fax: (808) 521-8046 • Email: derek@lawdsn.com

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TO: CLAYTON HEE, Chair
MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, Vice Chair
OTHER HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

FROM: DEREK S. NAKAMURA, ESQ.

DATE: Monday April 14, 2014
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 325
State Capitol
425 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in support of GM 645 Confirming DANNY
VASCONCELLOS to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals
Board for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

I have practiced workers' compensation law for approximately 26 years and know Danny Vasconcellos from contact before practicing law and throughout my practice. Mr. Vasconcellos is competent and dedicated. He possesses the appropriate demeanor to preside over industrial relations Appeal Board cases and I am confident that he will be an excellent asset to the LAB and the Department of Labor. I know of no reason why he should not be confirmed to the position.

Derek S. Nakamura

WAYSON CHOW

Attorney at Law
A Law Corporation
Century Square
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 801
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone (808) 599-8844
Facsimile (888) 461-4884

To: Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
Chair Clayton Hee
Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro

Date: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: State Capitol Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 645--SUPPORT Danny J. Vasconcellos Nomination to the State Labor
& Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and
Judiciary & Labor Committee Members:

I am writing to strongly support Danny J. Vasconcellos recent gubernatorial nomination and pending appointment to the State of Hawaii Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (Labor Appeals Board).

Since graduating from the University of Hawaii William Richardson School of Law in 1987, Mr. Vasconcellos has diligently and skillfully represented many, many injured workers before the State of Hawaii's Disability Compensation Division, the State Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board, the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals and the Hawaii Supreme Court.

Mr. Vasconcellos's extensive experience in handling complex medical-legal issues, the complexities and nuances of treating, rehabilitating and facilitating seriously injured employees return to work, and his well deserved professional reputation for integrity, fairness, and his professional demeanor, will facilitate his serving as an effective and valuable Labor Appeals Board member.

In summary, I strongly and humbly urge your confirmation of Danny J. Vasconcellos to the State Labor Appeals Board.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: nyogi7@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM645 on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM
Date: Friday, April 11, 2014 1:34:33 AM

GM645

Submitted on: 4/11/2014

Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nolan K. Yogi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: NOLAN K. YOGI, ESQ. Law Office of Nolan Yogi P.O. Box 700964 Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0964 Tel./Fax No. (808) 672-0105 E-mail: nyogi7@msn.com
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF G.M. No. 645 RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DANNY VASCONCELLOS TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR Monday, April 14, 2014, 10:00 a.m. Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Nolan K. Yogi. I have been a member of the Bar in Hawaii since 1977. Beginning in 1991, I represented employers and insurance carriers, as well as claimants regarding the claims processing through our Workers' Compensation administrative system. I strongly support G.M. No. 654, relating to the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos for appointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Mr. Vasconcellos' vast experience in workers' compensation law makes him highly qualified for the position. Mr. Vasconcellos has been involved in this specialty area of legal practice for decades and has been instrumental in helping to develop this area of the law via his practice before the Disability Compensation Division, the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board and in Hawaii appellate courts. A number of his cases, which he pursued to through the appellate courts, have set legal precedent and helped to guide Worker's Compensation practitioners in their own practice. We owe him a debt of gratitude. Mr. Vasconcellos will not require any time to familiarize himself with the law in this area of law, but instead will be fully equipped to undertake the role of adjudicator immediately. Through his many years of practice, he clearly has become knowledgeable of the many complex medical issues involved in these types of cases and will be able to use his understanding in reaching decisions expeditiously. He further understands how a serious injury on the job affects many aspects of an employee's life. The many practical implications of being injured on the job, of being without income, of systemic delays, of dealing with family members, of being in pain on a daily basis, facing an uncertain future. His excellent legal skills will be accompanied by a compassion for the injured worker. Thank you for considering my testimony. NOLAN K. YOGI, ESQ. #1964

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

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From: coreykogaoa@aol.com
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: GM 645 - Danny Vasconcellos
Date: Friday, April 11, 2014 1:49:48 AM

April 11, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: GM-645 -- Danny Vasconcellos Gubernatorial Nominee as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board

Dear Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee,

My name is Charlene Yamagata and I am writing in VERY STRONG SUPPORT of Danny Vasconcellos, gubernatorial nominee.

I have known him for over 60 years and know he will serve well as Chairman because he is fair and has a good understanding of HRS 386, Worker's Compensation Law. He will bring knowledge and extensive experience to the Board. While having a keen eye on fine details, Mr. Vasconcellos is a very hard worker who is not afraid of putting in long hours to get the work done. He is well respected by the Claimants, Employer representatives and personnel at the Department of Labor because of his ethical foundation and knowledge of the law. I urge you to move his nomination out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Vasconcellos' appointment as Chairman of Labor Appeals Board.

Charlene Yamagata
3211 Melemele Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: [Gary Yamagata](#)
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Subject: Subject: GM 645 - Danny Vasconcellos
Date: Friday, April 11, 2014 2:06:32 AM

April 11, 2014

Chairman Clayton Hee
Vice Chairman Maile Shimabukuro
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate

Dear Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Danny Vasconcellos.

My name is Gary Yamagata. I'm writing to ask your support to move Mr. Vasconcellos' nomination through the Judiciary and Labor Committee. He is a good man, hard worker, brilliant, articulate, fair-minded, a model citizen, and through his law practice, has an immeasurable understanding of the Worker's Compensation Law, HRS, 386. As he brings his strength of this knowledge to the Board, he'll be a valued and fair Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeal Board.

Mahalo,

Gary Yamagata
3211 Melemele Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: rkessner@kdubm.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM645 on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM
Date: Friday, April 11, 2014 8:53:08 AM

GM645

Submitted on: 4/11/2014

Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Kessner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I offer my support for the nomination of Danny J. Vasconcellos to serve as Chairperson of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I have known Danny for many years in my capacity as a workers compensation defense attorney. Although we have opposed each other in the context of individual cases, Danny is well versed in the area of workers compensation law and is well qualified to be the Appeals Board's chairperson. He is a hard worker who is always well prepared. I am confident he can take off his advocate's hat and take on the role of impartial decision maker who will serve the needs of injured workers and the employer community.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

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TESTIMONY BY Gerald A. Onuma
IN STRONG SUPPORT OF NOMINEE

DANNY J. VASCONCELLOS, ESQUIRE

AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD

Monday, April 14, 2014

10:00 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Senate

Good morning, I am writing this letter in ardent support of **Mr. Danny J. Vasconcellos**, to responsibly and competently serve as the **next Chairman for the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board**.

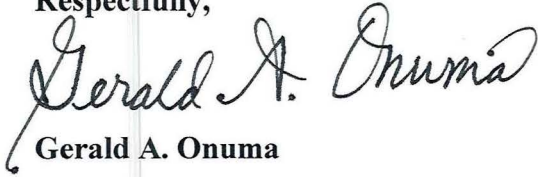
We became first day on-the-job co-workers and life-long friends nearly 38 years ago on July 16, 1976, on the grand opening day at the brand new, twin towered, Hyatt Regency Waikiki Hotel, at 2424 Kalakaua Avenue. From the very beginning of our employment, at the very youthful age of 21, Danny naturally exhibited his priceless trustworthy character and high quality results oriented work habits, while frequently under heavy time constraints. As demonstrated by his innate ability to make sound work related decisions that were always in the best interest of hotel guest and by his firm but flexible leadership skills, which inevitably earned him very favorable attention and approval from his "four-star quality minded" employer, plus gaining unconditional respect from an inexperienced group of 25+ team driven, productive, and cooperative subordinates.

Currently as a husband and proud seasoned father of three young adults, Danny has certainly not skipped a beat in his personal and professional life, by branding his healthy character traits, solid work habits, and sound leadership skills that have always embraced the highest moral and ethical values within his family circle and amongst his valued clients and loyal business associates!

Judging by Danny's outstanding and long standing career of 26 years in the highly specialized Workers' Compensation arena and diverse Labor Law field, **I submit that Mr. Vasconcellos undeniably possesses an exceptionally broad foundation, with priceless years of practical experience, plus an enduring passion backed by an expert's understanding of the statutory intent of the legislative history and purpose of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 386, and the Hawaii Administrative Rules as they relate to disability compensation and rehabilitation.** Additionally, Danny's lengthy (1987-2010) and valuable exposure to providing legal services to numerous non-union and union employees in both the public and private sectors include: UPW, HGEA, UHPA, HSTA, ILWU, IBEW, HNA, Carpenters, Laborers, Mason, Taper & Glazier, Elevator Constructor, Painter, Ironworker, GCIU, including other referral sources from: Physicians, Surgeons, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Physical Therapist, Certified Nurse Case Managers, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, and Insurance Adjusters.

In closing, to the Honorable Senate Leadership and ALL Other Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Senate, “**thank you very much**” for this rare opportunity to share my personal support and testimony for the favorable confirmation of **Mr. Danny J. Vasconcellos**, as our **next Chairman of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board**, in the great state of Hawaii! Again, I wholeheartedly place my deep support, confidence, and trust in **Mr. Vasconcellos’** professional ability to responsibly take charge of this very demanding and prestigious position. Now, we come before ALL of you and humbly ask for your individual support and favorable confirmation!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald A. Onuma". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gerald A. Onuma

Regional Vice President
Primerica Financial Services
3049 Ualena Street, Suite 101
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Mobile: (808) 306-0707
Office: (808) 833-5880
Email: gonuma.ub466@primerica.com
Website: www.primerica.com/GeraldOnuma

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabakuro, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Date: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 am
Place: Conference Room, 325, State Capitol

From: Danilo E. Ponce, M.D.

Re: Compelling support for GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos as Chair of Labor
and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabakuro, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Danny J. Vasconcellos, Esq. as the Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I am a professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii, Dept. of Psychiatry, John A. Burns Medical School, and have been in clinical psychiatric practice for the past 35 years seeing Workers Compensation cases for Treatment, Independent Medical Examinations, and Consultations. In this capacity, it is of course a working necessity to interact with, know, and develop a fairly knowledgeable relationship with carriers, lawyers, other service providers, and needless to say, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Because the workers compensation system is basically an adversarial system, one quickly gets a sense of who the players are, and their respective inclinations and biases.

It is with unsolicited candor that I can say Mr. Vasconcellos is one of the few professionals in the field that has impressed me with his integrity, and sticking to principles based on Labor laws, and doing so in a fair, even-handed, humane, compassionate, but uncompromising manner. For these, he has my utmost respect and gratitude, and so I am strongly recommending him as the next chairperson for the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Very truly yours,

Danilo E. Ponce, M.D. Date: April 14, 2014

I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos for Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Mr. Vasconcellos has over twenty-five years of legal practice in Workers' Compensation and Labor Law, and worked in venues including the State of Hawaii Supreme Court, Intermediate Court of Appeals, and United States District Court. His career experience affirms his capacity to represent issues in a variety of settings. His ability to read and understand various pleadings and positions, and ascertain facts and issues will serve him well in his role as Appeals Board Chair. Throughout his career he has demonstrated the ability to effectively research legal issues and consider the various aspects of issues that he will be confronted with. I believe that these qualities will be an asset in the role of Board Chair, as he is called upon to arrive at fair and reasoned decisions in the interpretation and enforcement of rules and issue decisions on matters presented to the Appeals Board.

I encourage you to confirm Mr. Vasconcellos' nomination as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

April 11, 2014

Testimony by Philamerico Dela Cruz in support of nominee Danny Vasconcellos
To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: GM 645 Hearing for Confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos to serve as Chairman of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Dear Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my strongest support for the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chairman for the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I have known Danny since 1970 when we were students and classmates of Damien Memorial High School. Over the course of those years, we were exposed to the same ideals that govern the way we approach our life and career. The motto of DMHS is 'Act Manfully' and that is to act with integrity, responsibly, fairly and courageously. Danny, like many DMHS alumni, is a reflection of these attributes.

Since then, Danny has been one of the many high school classmates that I have kept in contact of over the years - personally, socially and professionally. I have found that he will approach this appointment with the same perspectives, that is responsibly, fairly, courageously and touched with the insights of being 'pono' to act righteously. He will be a strong and valued addition to the Labor and Industrial Relations Board.

I strongly support favorable consideration of Danny Vasconcellos to be the next Chairman of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Mahalo plenty for the opportunity to share my testimony with all of you.

Philamerico Dela Cruz
Sr. Systems Analyst
Chaminade University of Honolulu
3140 Waiialae Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY BY **SHAREN WAGO**
IN STRONG SUPPORT OF NOMINEE

DANNY VASCONCELLOS
AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, April 14, 2014
10:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my strongest support for the confirmation of Danny Vasconcellos as the next Chair for the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I have known Danny for over 30 years and am delighted to be able to support his appointment. Danny has always maintained high standards of ethics and equitability so it was not surprising that he would pursue a career in law. He is objective and fair-minded and has strong moral convictions – all personal characteristics which are vital to orchestrating resolutions acceptable to all parties. It would be difficult to find someone more suited to this appointment.

I wholeheartedly support your favorable consideration of Danny Vasconcellos to be the next Chair of the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you again for the opportunity to share my

testimony with you.

April 11, 2014

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
and Honorable Members of the Senate

Date: Monday, April 14, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Leona Tadaki-Kam

**Re: Compelling Support For GM 645 Danny Vasconcellos
As Chair Of Labor And Industrial Relations Appeals Board**

My name is Leona Tadaki-Kam, my association with Danny Vasconcellos is well over 20 years. He is an individual with strong ethical convictions and a man of good moral values. He would represent not only the injured workers but also represent the State as a fair and un-biased chairman. His experience and work ethic qualifies him for this position.

He would serve this leadership duty in a fair and balanced manner making him a champion for the people as well as for our judicial process making him **“a valuable and precious asset”**.

I strongly support the appointment of Danny Vasconcellos as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB). I believe that his appointment will enhance the effectiveness of DLIR. Thank you for your time and I know that given the opportunity Mr. Vasconcellos will definitely bring a lot to this position.

Leona Tadaki-Kam

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: kayray@cmw-hawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM645 on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM
Date: Friday, April 11, 2014 3:45:48 PM

GM645

Submitted on: 4/11/2014

Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kay Ray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos for Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Mr. Vasconcellos has over twenty-five years of legal practice in Workers' Compensation and Labor Law, and worked in venues including the State of Hawaii Supreme Court, Intermediate Court of Appeals, and United States District Court. His career experience affirms his capacity to represent issues in a variety of settings. His ability to read and understand various pleadings and positions, and ascertain facts and issues will serve him well in his role as Appeals Board Chair. Throughout his career he has demonstrated the ability to effectively research legal issues and consider the various aspects of issues that he will be confronted with. I believe that these qualities will be an asset in the role of Board Chair, as he is called upon to arrive at fair and reasoned decisions in the interpretation and enforcement of rules and issue decisions on matters presented to the Appeals Board. I encourage you to confirm Mr. Vasconcellos' nomination as Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

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**NELSON H.
KINOSHITA**

ATTORNEY AT LAW
A LAW CORPORATION

22 Lele Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Ph. (808) 935-5454

April 11, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam:

I highly recommend Danny Vasconcellos for the position of Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board Chairman. He is an experienced attorney with twenty six years of practice in the field of Worker's Compensation. He has represented clients diligently and zealously. He has participated in several landmark cases before the Hawaii Supreme Court. His expertise, practical experience and time spent doing Worker's Compensation cases illustrates the exemplary qualifications he has for the position of the Appeals Board Chairman.

Please do not hesitate to call should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Nelson H. Kinoshita 3840

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: valri.l.kunimoto@hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM645 on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM
Date: Saturday, April 12, 2014 11:03:06 AM

GM645

Submitted on: 4/12/2014

Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valri Lei Kunimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor: My name is Valri Lei Kunimoto and I support the confirmation of gubernatorial nominee Danny Vasconcellos to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB). I previously worked in the public employment area in the Attorney General's office and also for a number of years, at the Hawaii Labor Relations Board. I've come to know Danny Vasconcellos in these capacities, and in my opinion, Danny is an able and passionate advocate for his client. Since Danny has concentrated his private practice in the workers compensation field, I believe he is qualified and possesses the requisite knowledge of Hawaii's workers compensation law and its underlying policies, as well as the practice and procedure of LIRAB. He is compassionate and energetic and I believe, he will be fair in adjudicating the cases which come before the board. These views are my own and I make this testimony in my individual capacity. Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, 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.

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April 11, 2014

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Judiciary and
Labor Committee
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for GM-645 Danny Vasconcellos As Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations
Appeals Board

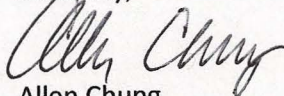
Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

This letter is to express my support for the confirmation of Danny J. Vasconcellos as Chair of the Labor
and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I have known Danny since high school when we both attended Damien High School. I have found him to
be even tempered and very meticulous in his decision making. He listens with understanding, and is
always honest yet fair.

I believe Danny will make a strong and dedicated Chair of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals
Board.

Sincerely,



Allen Chung
(808)275-5381

April 12, 2014

Dear Senator Hee:

It is my pleasure to express my support for Danny Vasconcellos for the position of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board Chair.

In 2011, I severely injured my back at work. I could no longer work as a journeyman carpenter as I had done for many years. In addition to being in constant, severe pain and worrying about having to change careers, I was clueless and overwhelmed by the worker's compensation system.

Shortly after my injury, I hired Danny. Over the last three years, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that I promptly received my worker's compensation benefits by zealously representing me at hearings, referring me to the best doctors and most importantly, always keeping me informed on the status of my case. He advised me of my rights under the laws and allowed me to maintain fair and realistic expectations. It was a huge weight lifted from my shoulders knowing that I had his support and guidance, which allowed me to focus on recovering from my injury, my family, and transitioning into my new career.

Without Danny's diligent service and support, I know that I would not have been able to accomplish all that I have since my injury in 2011. I am once again physically healthy, financially stable, and expect to receive my Bachelor's degree in May from the University of Hawaii, ready to begin my new career.

I am certain that Danny will serve as Chair with the same commitment and thoughtfulness by which he represents his clients, and therefore support his nomination.

Mahalo,

Aaron Kalaukoa
aaronkalaukoa@gmail.com

GILBERT C. DOLES

ATTORNEY AT LAW
A LAW CORPORATION

CENTURY SQUARE
1188 BISHOP ST., SUITE 1405
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TEL: (808) 521-0900
FAX: (808) 545-5560

April 10, 2014

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Date: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF G.M. No. 645
RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DANNY VASCONCELLOS
TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD**

Aloha Mr. Chairman, Ms. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor. My name is Gilbert C. Doles, and I have been a licensed attorney in Hawaii since 1983. Since 1989, I have focused and devoted a significant portion of my law practice in the area of labor law, primarily workers' compensation, as a claimant's attorney. During the past 25 years, I have represented and continue to represent many of Hawaii's injured workers in their workers' compensation claims.

It is without any reservation that I endorse and support G.M. No. 645 relating to the confirmation of attorney Danny Vasconcellos for appointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board for the following reasons: (1) vast knowledge and understanding of the complexities of Hawaii's Workers' Compensation, HRS Chapter 386; (2) over two decades of dedicated and successful representation of Hawaii's injured workers in pursuit of their rights and benefits, under HRS Chapter 386, in the Department of Labor's Disability Compensation Division, Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, and Hawaii's appellate courts; and, (3) practical, useful, and valuable experience of being an attorney in private practice, operating and managing a successful business and thriving law practice.

Based upon his educational and professional credentials, Attorney Vasconcellos is well qualified to fulfill the duties, responsibilities, and requirements of the position on the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Primarily because of his lengthy dedication and role as a zealous advocate for injured workers, attorney Vasconcellos would present a balanced but fair point of view to the existing Appeals Board, which has not been the case for many years. Therefore, I strongly urge your support and vote in favor of G.M. No. 645, relating to the confirmation of attorney Danny Vasconcellos for appointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration of my testimony.

THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

Hearing: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Testimony on GM 645

To the Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
And to the Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

I strongly support the nomination of Danny Vasconcellos to serve on the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (“LIRAB”). Based on Mr. Vasconcellos 26 + years of experience specializing in workers’ compensation law and labor law I believe he is qualified. His record is impressive, and his knowledge and experience will no doubt benefit LIRAB.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 645 and Mr. Vasconcellos.

Aloha,
Tatjana Johnson, Esq.

THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

Hearing: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Testimony on GM 645

To the Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
And to the Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

My name is Jason Silva, and I am a lawyer focusing in labor relations. I support the nomination of Danny Vasconcellos to serve on the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (“LIRAB”). Mr. Vasconcellos’ record and experience in workers’ compensation law and labor law is second to none and is proof that he deserves to be nominated for the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 645 and Mr. Vasconcellos.

Mahalo,

Jason Silva, Esq.

THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

Hearing: Monday, April 14, 2014
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

Testimony on GM 645

To the Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair,
And to the Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

My name is Joy Neely and I have been working on workers' compensation cases as an attorney for the law firm of King, Nakamura & Chun-Hoon for a couple of years now. Throughout this time, I have heard only positive things about Mr. Vasconcellos' knowledge and abilities in regards to this area of law. Based on his extensive experience and impressive qualifications, I would like to submit this testimony in support of Mr. Danny Vasconcellos' nomination to serve on the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joy Neely