

GM539

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers, Gubernatorial Nominee, PETER AKAMU, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Board of Electricians and Plumbers

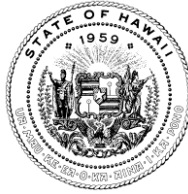
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

March 1, 2016
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 539.

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

My name is Christine Rutkowski and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Electricians and Plumbers, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 539, regarding the **reappointment**, of Peter Akamu to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Akamu's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Akamu has served on the Board since July 1, 2011, as an industry member representing the electrical trade. He is being nominated to serve a second term. Since appointed, Mr. Akamu has attended 26 out of the 27 meetings that the Board convened.

As a licensed journey worker electrician since November 1976, Mr. Akamu shares his many years of experience and valuable knowledge about the trade during

Board discussions. His active participation encourages thought provoking discussions upon which the Board has drawn well-reasoned conclusions.

The Department believes that Mr. Akamu's interest in continuing to serve on the Board, his active experience in the trade and his desire to contribute to the community will enhance the Board's effectiveness.

The Department supports the confirmation of Peter Akamu to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

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February 25, 2016

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION & HEALTH

For Hearing on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in Conf. Room 229

**RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 539
MR. PETER AKAMU TO THE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS & PLUMBERS**

Honorable Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members,

The **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186** represents over 3,800 members working in electrical construction, telecommunications, and with Oceanic Cable. Our members include civil service employees at Pearl Harbor, Hickam, Kaneohe, and military facilities throughout Hawaii. IBEW Local 1186 also represents over 120 signatory electrical contracting companies that perform most of the electrical work in our state.

We strongly support GM 539 and the Governor's nomination of Peter Akamu to the Board of Electricians & Plumbers. Mr. Akamu has been a licensed electrician for over 30 years, who has already served capably for one term on the Board, including this past year as its Chairman. I have known and worked with Mr. Akamu for more than 20 years, and have always admired his fairness, history of sacrifice, and dedication to public service. His background in contracting, instructing, and community service gives him decades of valuable and relevant experience.

Mr. Akamu possesses deep knowledge of the Hawaii electrical industry, its laws, and related regulations. As a current Board member, his history in the construction field, and work as an officer representing thousands of electricians in Hawaii equip him well for protecting the safety of the general public. We are fortunate that Mr. Akamu is able to serve, and look forward to even more valuable contributions to the E&P Board from him in the years ahead.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to offer our testimony in strong support for Mr. Peter Akamu's nomination to the Hawaii State Board of Electricians & Plumbers.

Mahalo and aloha,

Damien Kim
Business Manager – Financial Secretary
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers, Local Union 1186

Peter Akamu

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

To give back to the electrical industry and to the community by sharing the knowledge that I have acquired as an electrician. Also to address any questions or concerns that may arise with installation practices.

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

To be fair; unbiased; open minded; willing to make changes, but also willing to fight for what is right. To keep public safety in the forefront.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

By continuing my education on electrical work practices to keep pace with the changing industry. When reviewing applications, only allowing qualified applicants to take the State test.

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

I have been a licensed electrician for over 40 years and have started and completed all types of projects, such as residential wiring, commercial wiring, underground conduit, fire alarm and other specialized work. I was a Foreman for most of the projects and because of that I was able to work closely with the all of the other construction trades and have a very good working knowledge of the whole building industry. My experience in the electrical field went from an apprentice to Foreman to estimator to Union officer.

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

To provide the community and electrical industry in Hawaii a stable environment with current rules and regulations and to provide qualified electricians.

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

Open minded, will listen to all the facts before a decision, thorough, fair, passionate in keeping level playing field for all.

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

I served as a Trustee for Palama Settlement Board; as a Union President, I have worked with all types of people to reach an agreeable goal, whether it's conflict resolution to contract negotiations.

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

There may be, but through discussion and compromise conflicts can be overcome.