

GM544

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Elevator Mechanics Licensing Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEVE TSUNEMOTO, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

Report Title: Elevator Mechanics Licensing Board

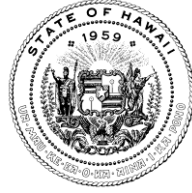
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



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**PRESENTATION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016
Tuesday, March 1, 2016
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON **GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 544**, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO **THE ELEVATOR MECHANICS LICENSING BOARD**, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **STEVE TSUNEMOTO**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2018.

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

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 544, nominating Mr. Steve Tsunemoto for membership on the Elevator Mechanics Licensing Board ("Board") for a term to expire June 30, 2018.

Mr. Tsunemoto has a long history of public service, having formerly served on the Board from July 2005 to June 2011.

Mr. Tsunemoto has committed nearly 30 years of his life working for ThyssenKrupp Elevator Company as a service technician, a position through which he has been able to gain expertise in the various aspects of the elevator/lift service and repair business in Hawaii. He also proudly serves as president of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Hawaii Local 126.

In addition, the nominee displays a desire to train others in this job field, serving as an area coordinator for the National Elevator Industry Educational Program since 2000 and also administering the apprenticeship program for the International Union of Elevator Constructors. Mr. Tsunemoto understands his responsibility to attend and prepare for the Board's periodic meetings.

Given Mr. Tsunemoto's experience and leadership in the industry, the Department believes that he is in a good position to positively contribute to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of Mr. Tsunemoto's nomination to the Elevator Mechanics Licensing Board.



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-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016
Hawaii State Senate

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Tuesday, March 01, 2016
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

Governor's Message 544

Relating to the consideration and confirmation to the Elevator Mechanics Licensing Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Steve Tsunemoto, for a term to expire 06-30-2018

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair, and Esteemed Members of the Committee

I am honored to write a letter of recommendation for Steve Tsunemoto. I have known him going on close to 15 years. I have found him to be a person of incredible integrity and honesty and during this time he has proven to be an invaluable friend and co-worker.

I value Steve's insightfulness as well as his judgment and often turn to him for advice. Due to his intelligence and skills Steve has garnered the respect of all industry members and has risen to the top of our trade, working as the main troubleshooter for ThyssenKrupp Elevator.

Steve currently serves as the President of Local 126 and as an Instructor in our Apprenticeship Program where he is able to impart his knowledge and wisdom to the next generation of Elevator Constructors.

Having served as a past Chairman of the Elevator Mechanics Licensing Board, Steve is well aware of the responsibilities, duties, and concerns facing the Board and for these reasons I am in strong support of his appointment to the Elevator Mechanic's Licensing Board.

Sincerely,

Marc Yamane

Business Representative – Financial Secretary

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

Having been employed in the elevator trade for 29 years, I understand the importance of ensuring the quality of individuals employed in the elevator trade, specifically pertaining to the safety of the riding public. I feel I have the depth of experience to evaluate candidates applying for a elevator mechanic license here in Hawaii, as well as monitoring the actions of elevator mechanic license holders.

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

The role and responsibility of the board is to ensure that the qualifications of the applicants are consistent with the requirements stated in HRS Chapter 448H and HAR Chapter 81.

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

By ensuring that the experience and qualifications of the applicant are consistent with the requirements, I feel that we can at least be assured that a minimum knowledge of what is required to install, service and repair elevators and escalators in the State of Hawaii.

- (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.

As previously stated, I've been employed as an elevator constructor for the past 29 years, 25 of which as a journeyman, employed in all aspects of the trade, from construction, repair and service. In addition, I hold a Qualified Elevator Inspector certification and am currently an instructor in the National Elevator Industry Apprenticeship Program, with certification to train OSHA, First Aid and AED, Scaffolding, Fork Lift and Aerial Lift.

I've previously served two terms on the licensing board, including a term as chairman.

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

Personally, I would like to see some form of continuing education requirement be including in renewal of the license so that the license holder would be updated with changes in the code, especially pertaining to changes in the periodic testing of the various conveyances which elevator constructors are tasked to maintain.

In addition, I'd like to correct the variance in registration requirements for individuals registering in the State of Hawaii versus applicants requesting licensing from other parts of the country.

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

1. I feel a responsibility to be involved in all aspects of the elevator trade, from training new apprentices to keeping abreast of changes in the code.
2. I am not adverse to the work involved as a member of the licensing board.
3. I am well versed in all aspects of the elevator trade.

I hope that my qualifications would complement the knowledge and experience of the board as a whole.

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

Again, I've been a member of the Elevator Mechanic Licensing Board previously, as well as a member of the committee involved in the adoption of the Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, 2010 edition, here in the State of Hawaii.

(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 might be a perception that a conflict of interest exists due to my membership in the Union of Elevator Constructor Local 126, but I am well aware that the licensing board exists to ensure the safety of the public by reviewing the qualifications of applicants with confirmation by administering a test of basic knowledge. I feel that my training and continued emphasis on safety by the International Union of Elevator Constructors has more than prepared me for inclusion as a member of the licensing board.