

GM552

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEVIN NAKAMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants

Description:

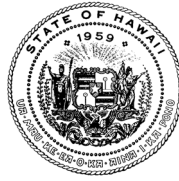
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM552

**GM552, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
KEVIN NAKAMURA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2019**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 1, 2016
Time: 9:30 AM

Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports the Governor's nominee,
- 3 Mr. Kevin Nakamura, to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater
- 4 Treatment Plants (Board). Mr. Nakamura's confirmation will allow the Board to continue to
- 5 operate and perform its duties required under Chapter 11-62, Hawaii Administrative Rules, entitled,
- 6 "Mandatory Certification of Wastewater Treatment Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants."
- 7 Mr. Nakamura currently works as an Environmental Health Specialist with the Department's Indoor
- 8 and Radiological Health Branch. He has worked for the Department for over two and a half years.
- 9 He also holds a Grade 4 wastewater treatment plant operator certificate. Prior to working for the
- 10 Department, he worked as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Superintendent for Aqua
- 11 Engineers and as a Wastewater Regional Superintendent for the City and County of Honolulu.
- 12 Mr. Nakamura has over 21 years of wastewater treatment plant experience. He also has a
- 13 Bachelor's of Arts degree from the University of Hawaii. Mr. Nakamura will serve in the capacity
- 14 of the representative from the Department of Health.
- 15 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?
*** To protect Public Health and the Environment of the State of Hawaii, to the best of my abilities.**
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?
*** Ensure the current (of which I am included) and future Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators (WWTPO) are properly certified, to perform their duties of operating Wastewater Treatment Plants correctly and safely.**
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?
*** I have a great love and passion to protect our precious (and finite) resources within our Island State. With that being said, I understand what is at stake if we do not properly treat our domestic wastewater properly, before it goes out into the environment.**
- (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 WWTPO (Grade IV – highest level in Hawaii) for the past 25 years. I started as an Asst. WWTPO and worked my way up to a Superintendent overseeing entire Regional Wastewater System. I have taught classes on wastewater and mentored subordinates, many of whom have since become Supervisors and Superintendents. I am fully aware of HAR 11-61 (which regulates WWTPO's) .**
- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
*** First, I would like to work with my fellow Board members to update the data-base of the current WWTPO's, to be able to have all their past and present pertinent information up-to-date. Second, complete / update the listing of all the treatment plants within the State of Hawaii. And third, update HAR 11-61 to clearly indicate requirements need to renew a license, gain a license from out-of-state, and include the Computer Based Testing system, we have implemented to allow operators more opportunities to advance in their field.**
- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.
 - 1) **Trustworthy – Will help to be transparent in Board matters.**
 - 2) **Fair – Help make impartial and rational decisions.**
 - 3) **Knowledgeable – Assist with making good decisions.**

- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.
*** For the past four (4) years I held the seat on this Board, as the Hawaii Water Environment Association representative.**
- (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?
*** I am currently employed by the State / Dept of Health / EHS / Noise Section...and do not see any possible conflicts of interests for my current position or from past positions / employments.**

However, should a possible conflict of interest situation arise during a particular topic or matter, I would offer insights / knowledge during the discussion, then recues myself from any final decision or vote on the matter.