

GM553

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

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

Description:

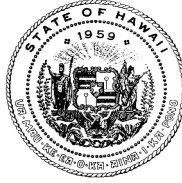
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
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**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM553

**GM553, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
LOREN TANIGAWA, 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. Loren Tanigawa, to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater
- 4 Treatment Plants (Board). Mr. Tanigawa's confirmation will allow the Board to continue to operate
- 5 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. Loren Tanigawa currently holds a Grade 4 wastewater treatment plant operator certificate and is
- 8 employed by the County of Kauai. He has over ten years of operations experience at the Wailua
- 9 Wastewater Treatment Plant on Kauai. Mr. Tanigawa will serve in the capacity of Kauai's
- 10 representative on the Board.
- 11 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

RICHARD K. MINATOYA

TESTIMONY

ON

GM 553 - CONFIRMATION OF LOREN TANIGAWA
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING
PERSONNEL IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker

Chair

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani

Vice Chair

and Members

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Richard Minatoya, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT GM 553, the nomination of LOREN TANIGAWA to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants.

I have personally known Mr. Tanigawa for over a dozen years. Over this long period of time, I found Mr. Tanigawa to be caring, hard working, knowledgeable and conscientious. He currently serves on the board of certification, and given this experience and his personal qualities, I believe that he will continue to make positive contributions to the board.

I wholeheartedly request, without reservation, that the committee recommends CONFIRMATION to the full Senate.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

GM553 – Loren Tanigawa

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

So the Board has a voice from the operators, and to conserve and protect Hawaii's water.

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

To ensure we have qualified operators in the field to protect public health.

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

By ensuring that there are people with the skills, experience, and knowledge to adequately run wastewater treatment facilities in the state.

(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 worked in the wastewater field for approximately 10 years. In that time, I have learned by example and have studied many books on the proper functioning of a wastewater treatment facility. I have taken the series of wastewater certification exams and currently hold a Grade IV Operator's certification. I continue to take continuing education classes to maintain my certification. I am currently the head operator at the Lihue, HI wastewater treatment plant. I assist and teach other operators who are just starting out. I strive to excel in my work.

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

Encourage more operators to study to obtain their Grade IV Operator's Certification, assist in training and teaching, and to ensure the certification program keeps pace with changing technology.

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

Hard working, willingness to work with others, and dependable. I make the effort to come to all board meetings even though they require me to fly to Oahu, I can work with others in a committee situation, and if I commit to taking on a task, I strive to complete it.

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

My current experience as a Grade IV Operator and a previous term on the Board.

(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?

We are currently short four Grade IV Operators at the County of Kauai. There could be a push to certify people who don't have the qualifications necessary in order to fill those positions. I believe in honesty and hard work to obtain results. I will continue offer my experience in teaching others and try to help them gain the necessary knowledge and experience to pass their certification exams.