

GM554

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

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

Description:

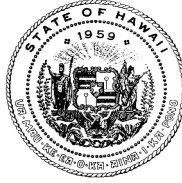
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
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**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM554

**GM554, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
ROGER BABCOCK, 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 Dr. Roger Babcock, to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater
- 4 Treatment Plants (Board). Dr. Babcock'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 Dr. Babcock is an associate professor in the College of Engineering at the University of Hawaii
- 8 (UH) and is an associate researcher at the Water Resources Research Center. He has a Ph.D. in
- 9 Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of California Los Angeles and has served
- 10 on the UH faculty for the past 20 years. Dr. Babcock will serve in the capacity of the engineering
- 11 faculty member on the Board.
- 12 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

February 24, 2016

The Office of Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
28th Legislature of Hawaii, 2016 Regular Session

**Subject: Recommendation for Confirmation of Dr. Roger Babcock Jr., PhD, PE,
GM576
Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment
Plants (BOC)**

Honorable Senator Baker and Committee Members,

It is my honor to provide strong support for the nomination of Dr. Roger Babcock Jr., PhD, PE (GM 554) to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants (BOC).

I am the president of The Limtiaco Consulting Group, a local engineering company that specializes in water/wastewater infrastructure. I have known Dr. Babcock for more than 15 years through the water/wastewater professional design industry and associated service organizations including the Hawaii Water Environment Association. Many of my coworkers are his former students.

Dr. Babcock has served on the BOC before and has been heavily involved in the education of wastewater treatment plant operators. I believe Dr. Babcock is highly qualified to serve on the BOC. **He has my strong endorsement.**

Thank you for this opportunity.

Best always,
THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP, INC.


John H. Katahira, PE
President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM554 on Mar 1, 2016 09:30AM*
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016 2:52:48 PM

GM554

Submitted on: 2/28/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 1, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

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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Roy K. Abe
46-291 Kupale Street
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

February 25, 2016

Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
28th Legislature of Hawaii, 2016 Regular Session

Subject: Letter of Endorsement for Dr. Roger Babcock, GM 554

Dear Senator Baker:

I am pleased to provide this is a letter of endorsement for the nomination of Dr. Roger Babcock Jr., PhD, PE. (GM 554) to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants (BOC).

I am a vice president of HDR Engineering Inc., a multi-discipline engineering firm with a Honolulu office. I am a licensed civil engineer with 35 years of consulting experience primarily in the wastewater treatment and water quality field.

I have known Dr. Babcock for approximately 20 years through our active participation in water and wastewater professional organizations, such as the Hawaii Water Environment Association. I have worked with Dr. Babcock on projects, classroom and conference presentations, and College of Engineering activities.

I highly recommend that Dr. Babcock be provided the opportunity to served a second term on the BOC as he is highly qualified for this position. He is very knowledgeable on wastewater treatment systems and operations, and for many years, has fulfilled a critical need in the water pollution control and public health profession by providing much needed operator training.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (808) 247-3297

Sincerely,


Roy Abe, P.E.

GM 554- Roger Babcock Jr, PhD, PE

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

To serve the Hawaii community by helping protect public health and the environment as affected by wastewater treatment and disposal.

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

The role of the Board is to oversee the licensing of professional wastewater treatment plant operators and the classification of wastewater facilities. The responsibility is to ensure that HRS 340B and HAR 11-61 are implemented and enforced and thereby protecting public health and the environment.

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

By making sure that wastewater operations personnel are properly trained and educated to do their jobs according to Hawaii laws and the federal Clean Water Act – thus public waterways and beaches are protected from sewage contamination.

- (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.

One of the Board positions is specifically designated to be a faculty from UH. I am a professor of Civil Engineering and my specialization is in wastewater treatment, disposal and recycling. In addition, for many years, I have taught wastewater operations training courses to wastewater operators. I have visited most of the wastewater treatment plants in Hawaii. I have conducted research on treatment operations at several treatment plants and worked closely with operators at that time. I have worked in treatment plants and also designed such facilities and written operation manuals. As a licensed professional engineer (PE), I had to earn through examination and then maintain an engineering license and also take a pledge to a code of ethics. These are the same things that wastewater operators must do – so I understand the process

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

To continue to serve the public and the wastewater operators by assisting to streamline the Board operations and procedures. In the past 4 years I have served

as Board secretary – writing all of the minutes. I have re-designed and cleaned up the webpage, I have spearheaded the effort to implement the national standardized certification tests from the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC), and the implementation of computer-based testing (CBT) available from ABC as an optional method for Hawaii operators to take the certification tests and to allow an additional attempt each year. In the next 4 years, I will help with similar initiatives, such as redoing the operator lists, plant lists and further improving the website.

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

I am optimistic, hard-working, and get along with everyone. The Board is a diverse group of folks who are all volunteers, I try to keep everyone looking at the big picture, being efficient, and keeping it “light” and fun as much as possible (where appropriate).

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

I have served on this Board from 1997-2003 (including as Chair from 2000-2003) and from 2011-2015, so I know how the Board runs, where it has been, and where it is going. I also serve on several other professional and community boards including American Society of Civil Engineers, Hawaii Water Environment Association, Mililani Town Association and others.

- (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?

None. But if a conflict does come up, I would inform all the Board members of the conflict and then not participate in the discussions or vote on any decision related to the conflict.