



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 12, 2016

Testimony of Rep. Clift Tsuji
Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Thursday, April 14, 2016, 9:30 a.m. State Capitol, Room 016
RE: GM642

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Please accept my support for Ms. Marian Tsuji's nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. With her extensive work history, I believe Ms. Tsuji is someone who will bring significant benefit to this Council.

I have known Marian for over a dozen years. Since 2003, Ms. Tsuji has been President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific, a non-profit providing workforce training, life skills development, and meals on wheels to adults with disabilities.

Ms. Tsuji also worked as an independent consultant all over the nation in corrections program development, as well as serving as the Deputy Director for Corrections for the Hawaii Department of Public Safety, the Chief of Staff for Lt. Governor Mazie Hirono, and in other capacities with the New York City (NYC) Department of Corrections and the NYC Criminal Justice Agency.

With this appointment to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, Ms. Tsuji will bring a fresh perspective and improve services for those seeking employment in the State of Hawaii.

This individual has distinguished herself in her profession and volunteerism in the community. The prospect of what she could further accomplish serving on this Council is a point worthy of consideration. I humbly ask that you give positive consideration to Ms. Tsuji's nomination.

Sincerely,

CLIFT TSUJI

Representative Clift Tsuji
District 2: Keaukaha; parts of Hilo, Panaewa and Waialea
State Capitol, Room 402 Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 586-8480 Toll-free from Hawaii Island 974-4000, ext. 68480 Fax: 586-8484
Email: reptsuji@capitol.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN H. TASAKA
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8630 / Fax: (808) 586-8674
Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

April 12, 2016

To: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Allicyn Hikida Tasaka, Interim Executive Director
Workforce Development Council

RE: GM 642 Gubernatorial Nominee Marian Tsuji to the Workforce Development Council
for term to expire June 30, 2018
Hearing: Thursday, April 14, 2016 @ 9:30am, State Capitol Room 016

POSITION: Strong Support

Good morning Chair Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor. I am Allicyn Tasaka, Interim Executive Director of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) testifying in strong support of Marion Tsuji's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2018. Ms. Tsuji would fill a slot reserved for a workforce sector member on the Council.

The WDC is an attached agency to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and is responsible for advising the Governor and Legislature on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for employers and employees. The WDC is the State Workforce Development Board for purposes of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. The WDC assists the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive, strategic workforce development plans and oversees publicly funded workforce investment activities in the state.

Ms. Tsuji is President and Chief Executive Officer of Lanakila Pacific in Honolulu. Lanakila Pacific is a non-profit providing workforce training, life skills development, and meals on wheels to adults with disabilities. She also has extensive experience in the corrections industry in Hawaii and in New York and has served as Deputy Director for Corrections for the Hawaii Department of Public Safety (5/99-12/02).

Ms. Tsuji has served as Chair of the WDC for several years under the Workforce Investment Act which preceded WIOA. She has first hand knowledge of the Council and will bring historical

background and perspective.

Ms. Tsuji's experience in workforce training and her background in corrections will make her an ideal resource as WIOA includes ex-offenders returning to the community as "individuals with a barrier to employment." WDC will benefit from her unique set of experiences.

In this critical year, WDC has been preparing the WIOA Hawaii Unified State Plan. The plan covers the six core formula grant programs authorized under WIOA and outlines the state's vision and strategy for carrying out activities under each program. The WIOA plan is a Congressional mandate requirement in order for Hawaii to receive the bulk of federal funding for the State's primary job training and placement activities.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Ms. Tsuji as a member of the Workforce Development Council where he would be a valuable asset to the Council.

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



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 642 CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, MARIAN TSUJI**

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") is in **support** of Ms. Marian Tsuji's confirmation and appointment to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Ms. Marian Tsuji is currently the President/CEO of Lanakila Pacific, the Hawaii based non-profit organization which provides workforce training, life skills, and also the meals on wheels. She has previously worked as an independent consultant for corrections program development nation-wide. Ms. Tsuji has also worked various administrative and directorial positions, such as the Deputy Director for Corrections at the Hawaii Department of Public Safety, and Chief of Staff at the Office of Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono, Director of Education at NYC Department of Correction, and many more.

Ms. Tsuji's excellent resume shows her wealth of knowledge and experience and makes her an excellent choice for the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this nomination of Ms. Marian Tsuji.