



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 13, 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: GM 658 and GM 659**

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

Please accept my testimony in support of Barry Taniguchi's nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. I firmly believe that Mr. Taniguchi's many years of experience in business and his involvement and leadership in the community will be an asset to the Council.

I have known Barry for 30 years and consider him a personal friend. In that time, I had the pleasure of working alongside him in various community and business organizations, and can attest to his hard work and commitment. As the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KTA Super Stores and K. Taniguchi, Ltd., he provides jobs that support the community, and in his numerous leadership positions in service organizations, he continues to serve his neighbors in Hilo and the rest of the Big Island.

At present, Mr. Taniguchi is a member of the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, President of the Board of Directors for the Boy Scouts of America Aloha Council, and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KTA Super Stores and K. Taniguchi, Ltd.

Mr. Taniguchi's appointment to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council will bring his much valued experience as a business and community leader, employer, and volunteer to serve as an asset to the State.

Sincerely,

CLIFT TSUJI

Representative Clift Tsuji – Chair, Committee on Agriculture

District 2: Kona/Kahala; parts of Hilo, Paia/Kea, and Waialeale

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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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 658 and 659 Gubernatorial Nominee Barry Taniguchi to the Workforce
Development Council for terms to expire June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2020
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 support of Mr. Barry Taniguchi's confirmation to the WDC for terms to expire on June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2020. Mr. Taniguchi would fill a slot reserved for a private sector business 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.

Mr. Taniguchi has been the Chief Executive Officer and President of KTA Super Stores since 1989 and has been its Chairman since February 2014. He also serves as Chairman of the Boards of the Hawaii Employers Mutual Insurance Company and The Food Basket, Hawaii Island's Foodbank. He is also Vice Chair of the Hawaii Health System Corporation Corporate board. He currently serves on the boards of directors of: Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc., American Savings Bank F.S.B, and the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board; and on the Board of Governors of the Hawaii Employers' Council. He serves as Trustee of the Hawaii Community Foundation, Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation, Tax Foundation of Hawaii, Queen's Health

Systems and the Lyman House Memorial Museum.

The WDC is very fortunate to have someone like Mr. Taniguchi serve and is a reflection of his strong commitment to developing the workforce statewide. Mr. Taniguchi's experience leading a locally-based grocery store chain, his board membership experience in the banking, utility, healthcare, insurance, economic development, and non-profit sectors make him a valuable resource for WDC.

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 Mr. Taniguchi 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. 658/659 CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BARRY TANIGUCHI**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") is in **support** of Mr. Barry Taniguchi'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.

Mr. Barry Taniguchi is the current chairman, chief executive officer, and director of KTA Superstores and K. Taniguchi Ltd. He serves on the board of directors of Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc., American Savings Bank, FSB, and Valley Isle Produce, Inc. Mr. Taniguchi also participates with other professional organizations, such as the Hawaii Society of CPAs, American Institute of CPAs, the director of Hawaii Food Industry Association, and more. In addition, he also participates as President of the Board of Directors on the Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America, Hawaii Island Economic Development Board of Directors, and many more.

Mr. Barry Taniguchi's incredible resume reveals his vast knowledge and leadership experience. His numerous accolades and immense list of current and previous positions extend throughout the local, national, and international communities. Mr. Taniguchi is an excellent choice for the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this nomination of Mr. Barry Taniguchi.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM658 on Apr 14, 2016 09:30AM*
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 9:57:41 AM

GM658

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

Testimony for JDL on Apr 14, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch	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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Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

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TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: Thursday, April 14, 2016

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

RE: GM658– Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the **Hawai'i Workforce Development Council**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **BARRY TANIGUCHI**, for term to expire 06-30-2016.

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

I am writing to fully support the nomination of Barry Taniguchi to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Barry is an outstanding example of what it means to be a leader, a team player and a good person. For over eight years, I have had the pleasure of working with him on food industry issues. In 2015, HFIA was honored to present Barry with a Lifetime Achievement Award and he was inducted into our Hall of Fame for his many years of contribution and dedication to the food industry and to communities on the Big Island. As demonstrated through his words, actions, and commitment, Barry helps make Hawaii a better place.

Barry Taniguchi is an outstanding and compassionate leader and I wholeheartedly support his nomination.

Thank you for your support of his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Lauren Zirbel
Executive Director