

# GM706

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board Of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, And Landscape Architects, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOEL KUROKAWA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Board Of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, And Landscape Architects

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Friday, April 1, 2016  
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 706.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is James Kobashigawa and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects ("Board"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 706, regarding the **reappointment** of Mr. Joel Kurokawa to the Board. The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Kurokawa's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Kurokawa has been serving as a Board member since January 17, 2013, and is being reappointed as a landscape architect member. He has been licensed as a landscape architect since September 19, 2002, and his license is current, active and in good standing. Since Mr. Kurokawa's initial appointment, there have been 39 meetings of which he has attended 34. His experience as a member of the Board for the last

three years provides the Board with a wealth of knowledge both locally and nationally as he has represented the Board at national and regional conferences. Moreover, Mr. Kurokawa is currently the Vice Chairperson of the Board, serves on the Rules Committee, and serves on the Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System ("LA CES") Committee for the national organization the Board is a member of. He actively participates in the Board's discussions and provides unique insights and knowledge based on his experiences. Mr. Kurokawa's experience as a landscape architect and his desire to contribute to the community will continue to be an asset to the Board.

The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Joel Kurokawa to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** [Allan G. Schildknecht, PPC](#)  
**To:** [baker4 - Haley](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Joel Kurokawa EASLA Board  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 30, 2016 8:49:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter of Support Joel Kurokawa EASLA Board.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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**ATTN: Haley Saba, Legislative Aide to Senator Roz Baker**

Haley,

Please accept this letter of support for Joel Kurokawa's nomination to his second term on the EASLA Board.

Joel has done so much for Hawaii that it's impossible to note all of them in this letter, but to say the least, he is a very dedicated both to his profession and willing to give his time to help the people of Hawaii. A hard worker, compassionate and overall great individual and a mentor to many new to the industry.

I highly recommend Joel for this position.

Aloha and Mahalo

**Allan Schildknecht**

Allan Schildknecht

Hawaii Chapter ASLA – Past President

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1253 S Beretania St #3006  
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## Hawai`i Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

March 30, 2016

### 2016 Executive Committee

Elizabeth Fischer, *President*  
Allan Schildknecht, *Past-President*  
Vacant, *President Elect*  
Joel Kurokawa, *Trustee*  
Meredith Komata, *Vice-President*  
Jennifer Appel, *Secretary*  
Jennifer Appel, *Interim Treasurer*

Scott Fiorovich, *Kauai Member at Large*  
Jennifer Matsumura, *Oahu Member at Large*

*Large*  
Vacant, *Oahu Member at Large*  
David Sereda, *Maui Member at Large*  
Vacant, *Hawaii Member at Large*

Senator Roz Baker  
ATTN: Haley Saba, Legislative Aide  
Hawaii State Senate Office  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Subject:** Letter of Support for Joel Kurokawa  
For Second Term on EASLA Licensing Board

Honorable Senator Baker and Members of the Committee,

I am honored to provide you with this letter of support for Joel Kurokawa to be reappointed to his second term on the EASLA Licensing Board. I've worked closely with Joel over the past three years as President Elect and President of the Hawaii Chapter ASLA and have known Joel for 20 plus years. He has proven to be one of the hardest working members of our Hawaii Chapter ASLA executive committee, a mentor and a true professional in his field.

Mr. Kurokawa is a proven leader, not only within the landscape industry, but in our community as well, serving on numerous civic committees in the past

Over his past term, Joel has moved up from a new member of EASLA to their Secretary and now Vice-Chair, a feat that can only be accomplished by hard work and dedication to doing a good job.

I have no doubt that Mr. Kurokawa will continue to be a valuable asset to the Board and I give him my highest recommendation for his reappointment.

If I can provide any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Very Respectfully,

Allan G. Schildknecht  
*Hawai`i ASLA Immediate Past President*

HASLA



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School of Architecture

March 29, 2016

Senator Roz Baker  
Chair of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee  
Attn: Haley Saba, Legislative Aide  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
Honolulu, HI

**Letter in Support of Joel Kurokawa's Reappointment to the EASLA Board**

Dear Senator Baker:

In my roles as Past President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture, I am pleased to write to you in strong support of Joel Kurokawa's reappointment to a second term on the Hawaii Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects (EASLA Board).

Joel Kurokawa has a long and impressive record of service to the local landscape architecture community. He has demonstrated a thorough, forward-thinking understanding of a wide range of professional issues, and has a strong reputation for working on the forefront of landscape architecture in the State of Hawaii. His professional record and personal background qualify him uniquely to serve on the state licensing board. Joel has gained the respect of colleagues from various areas of the profession for his exemplary qualifications and his deep commitment to the field.

I support Joel Kurokawa's reappointment to the EASLA Board enthusiastically and with the confidence that he will make significant future contributions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Stilgenbauer".

Judith Stilgenbauer  
Director of Academic Affairs  
Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture & Urban Design  
jstilg@hawaii.edu  
808-956-7227

EASLA Board/ Joel Kurokawa  
March 2016  
Senate Confirmation

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

I am completing my first term as the landscape architect member on the EASLA Board. I've learned a tremendous amount about the regulation of the allied Architecture and Engineering professions in Hawaii in general and about Landscape Architects in particular. Serving on the Board has made me appreciate the importance of the roles and responsibilities of the EASLA Board executive, PVL staff, and volunteer board members in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Hawaii by ensuring that the state's allied design professions have the adequate education, training, and experience through licensure. I am interested in serving a second term because I do not feel my work on the board is yet complete.

A goal I've have set for myself is to work with the Hawaii landscape architecture community and the EASLA Board to establish continuing education (CE) requirements for Landscape Architects to maintain their Hawaii licenses. Hawaii is one of a small number of state jurisdictions across the United States that do not require it's landscape architects to obtain CE credits as a condition to maintaining licensure. Hawaii faces unique environmental, social, cultural, and economic challenges with increasing urbanization. As such, it is critical that our design professions, including landscape architects, tasked with the physical planning and designing of our diverse communities, remain prepared and equipped with the latest technology, tools, theory and practice to address these issues. CE requirements for landscape architects will improve the HAR Title 16, Chapter 115 and ensure the continued protection of the health safety, and welfare of the people of Hawaii.

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

As a Board member my role and responsibilities are to enforce HRS Chapter 464 and 436B, including but not limited to, rules which define the engineers, architects, surveyors and landscape architects in which licensing is offered, clarify the qualifications needed for licensure, and set forth practice requirements.

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

I believe as a member of the Board we carefully review, discuss, debate, and ultimately decide on issues of professional education, experience, ethics as it applies to licensure and practice of Engineers, Architects, Landscape Architects and Surveyors that come before the Board. Our discourse is guided by HRS

Chapter 464 and 436B and HAR Title 16, Chapter 115. It is in this manner that the consumer is protected.

- (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.

As a licensed landscape architect in Hawaii I have 20 plus years of professional practice as a landscape architect in Hawaii with a diverse portfolio of project types, scale, and on all major Hawaiian islands; owning and operating a landscape architecture consulting firm; have supervised and mentored landscape architecture interns preparing to qualify and take the licensure examination; currently serve as Trustee of the Hawaii Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects, and serve or have served on environmental non-profit organizations lending my professional landscape architecture expertise. All of these experiences require me to have a clear understanding of the regulations, laws, and requirements governing the title and practice of landscape architecture in Hawaii, and I believe this qualifies me and will aid in my decision-making ability to serve as a board member of EASLA.

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

See response to question 1.

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

I am collaborative and work well in a group, action oriented, and organized. These qualities will help the Board get its work done in an efficient, timely, and pleasant, professional manner.

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

I have served on other boards. Sometimes issues before a board can elicit divergent viewpoints and can sometimes cause divisions amongst board members. I've learned that it is important that all board members perceive that each has an equal and fair opportunity to share their point of view without fear of ridicule or ostracism. When a board is respectful of each other it tends to operate more efficiently and effectively.

- (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?



Yes. In fact, at my first Board meeting as an interim board member an employee of my firm submitted an application to take the LARE for board review and approval. Before board discussion of this candidate's application I disclosed I have a conflict of interest because the candidate was an employee of my firm, and I recused myself from taking part in the review /approval process.