

GM739

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board Of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, GREGG TAKETA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: State Board Of Public Accountancy

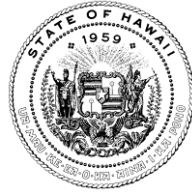
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



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

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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. 739.

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

My name is Lauren Kai and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Public Accountancy, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Governor's Message No. 739, regarding the **reappointment** of Gregg Taketa to the Board of Public Accountancy ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Taketa's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Taketa has been licensed as a certified public accountant ("CPA") in Hawaii since April 6, 1979, and is a founding member of Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates, LLC, a CPA firm based in Hilo on the Island of Hawaii that provides a wide range of public accounting services to clients since August 1983. Mr. Taketa's CPA license is current, active, and in good standing, as is his firm's permit to practice.

Mr. Taketa was appointed as a CPA member of the Board on July 1, 2012. He is an extremely reliable member and has attended 44 of the 45 scheduled meetings since his appointment. He is conscientious in his preparation for the meetings, and by sharing valuable insights and expertise that he has gained over his more than thirty years of professional experience in certified public accounting, Mr. Taketa contributes to the breadth of information that the Board finds invaluable when making its decisions. The Board recognizes and acknowledges Mr. Taketa's expertise and contributions to the profession and to the Board, and has appointed him to key committee and Board leadership positions throughout his first term of service. Mr. Taketa currently serves as the Board's Vice-Chairperson, and as Chairperson of the Board's Peer Review Standing Committee. In addition, Mr. Taketa serves on the Education Committee of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, and is involved in the committee's work on a national level.

The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Taketa to the Board of Public Accountancy, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Hawaii Association of Public Accountants

P.O. Box 61043
Honolulu, HI 96839

Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health

Friday, April 1, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Re: GM 739 – Strong Support of Gregg M. Taketa, CPA, CVA to the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Association of Public Accountants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 739 and the confirmation of Gregg M. Taketa, CPA, CVA to the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy. HAPA is a statewide organization consisting primarily of small to mid-sized Hawaii CPA firm owners and managers located throughout Hawaii.

I am the current President of HAPA, and I have known Gregg Taketa for over 12 years while serving with him on the HAPA Board. Gregg has served as State President of the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants from 2006 to 2009, and as State Vice President, State Treasurer, State Director, and as a committee chairperson for various committees. While serving on the HAPA Board, Gregg has represented HAPA on various CPA licensing issues. Gregg is intelligent and analytical and is very familiar with the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Board rules governing certified public accountants.

Gregg brings with him over 35 years of public accounting experience, performing audit, tax, and business consulting for a broad range of clients and in a number of industries. He is a founding member of Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates, LLC in Hilo, Hawaii.

Gregg has served as the Vice Chairperson of the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy for the past several years and has done an excellent job handling peer review concerns which will be implemented next year.

The Hawaii Association of Public Accountants strongly supports GM 739 and respectfully asks you to confirm Gregg M. Taketa to the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy. Thank you for considering the above.

Eric Matsuda, CPA

HAPA State President

Marilyn M. Niwao, M.S.P.H., J.D., CPA, CGMA
Niwao & Roberts, CPAs, a P.C.
2145 Wells Street, Suite 402
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Before the Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Health
Friday, April 1, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229

**Re: GM739 – Strong Support of Gregg M. Taketa, CPA, CVA
to the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

I testify in strong support of GM 739, and I respectfully urge you to confirm the appointment of Gregg M. Taketa, CPA, CVA to the Hawaii State Board of Public Accountancy.

I am a CPA and attorney and the president of Niwao & Roberts, CPAs, a P.C., a Maui CPA firm. While I served as President of the National Society of Accountants (NSA) last year, Gregg Taketa served on the NSA Accounting Standards Committee and published a number of technical accounting articles for the organization which were circulated nationally, including an article on peer review. Gregg is very knowledgeable about accounting theory and principles and he works tirelessly to help other public accounting practitioners.

Gregg also served in the past as State President of the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants (HAPA), State Vice President and State Treasurer of HAPA, and I have known him for many years while serving on the same HAPA Board. Gregg is thoughtful, analytical, and is very professional in his deliberations. He has demonstrated a solid commitment to raising professional standards and protecting the interests of the consumer of public accounting services.

Gregg is a founding member of Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates, LLC, the largest CPA firm on the Island of Hawaii. He is very familiar with the concerns of neighbor island public accounting practitioners, and thus offers an important perspective of accounting practice to the Hawaii Board of Public Accountancy.

I strongly urge you to support GM739 and the confirmation of Gregg M. Taketa to the Hawaii Board of Public Accountancy. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Niwao

Marilyn M. Niwao, M.S.P.H., J.D., CPA, CGMA

Brian M. Iwata, CPA
101 Aupuni St., #139
Hilo, HI 96720

March 30, 2016

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **GM 739**
Relating to Nominee Gregg Taketa

Chair Senator Baker and Vice-Chair Senator Kidani and committee members:

I support Gregg Taketa for re-appointment as a board member to the State Board of Public Accountancy.

I have worked with Gregg for over 35 years and have found Gregg to be fair, honest and intelligent. Gregg understands the issues of the profession and will continue to be an effective member of the Board as well as being the only member representing the Big Island.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian M. Iwata, CPA

Gregg M. Taketa
Nominee for Board of Public Accountancy
State of Hawaii

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

I would like to serve the State of Hawaii by assisting the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) with the administration of the laws and administrative rules of the State of Hawaii.

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

The primary responsibility of a member of the Board is to protect the consumers of public accountancy in Hawaii by administering the laws and administrative rules of the State of Hawaii as it relates to the practice of public accountancy.

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

I've been a practicing CPA in Hawaii since 1979. I believe my experience and familiarity with the professional standards that CPAs must comply with will allow me to serve on the Board. I've served on the Board of Public Accountancy since 2012 so I understand the current issues that the DCCA is faced with in protecting the public.

- (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 Vice Chairperson of the Board of Public Accountancy for the past three years, I had the privilege of representing Hawaii at several NASBA conferences and annual meetings. This allowed me to understand the issues that regulators of public accountancy must face and to network with members of the Board of Accountancy in other states. I'm also the chair of the Peer Review Standing Committee and I've been involved in the implementation of Hawaii's mandatory peer review law.

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

I want to continue my efforts to ensure that Hawaii's consumers of public accounting services are protected. More specifically, I would like to oversee the successful implementation of Hawaii's mandatory peer review law during my

next term, which includes the completion of the first cycle of peer reviews of all CPA firms that are subject to Hawaii's peer review law.

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

I am dedicated to protecting Hawaii's consumers. I also have a good sense of fairness and impartiality that is necessary in administering the laws and rules that affect public accountancy. Finally, I believe that I have the necessary background and experience in carrying out my duties and responsibilities.

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

I was a member of the Hawaii State Tax Review Commission from 2011 to 2012. This experience taught me to be objective and look at issues from all points of view. I was also a past president of the Hawaii Association of Public Accountants. This experience allowed me the opportunity to testify before the legislature on proposed legislation that related to public accountancy in Hawaii.

- (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?

As a resident of a small state and a practicing CPA, there is always the possibility of future conflicts of interest. I realize this and must continue to be aware of situations where a conflict of interest exists. I also realize that not all conflicts can be overcome. In those situations, I will recuse myself from any discussion and decision making.