

GM753

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEVEN CHOW, for a term to expire 06-30-2016.

Report Title: Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



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

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**PRESENTATION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2016
Wednesday, April 13, 2016
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON **GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NOS. 753 AND 754**, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO **THE MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD**, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **STEVEN CHOW**, FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016 AND 6-30-2020.

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

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message Nos. 753 and 754, nominating Mr. Steven Chow for membership on the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board ("Board") for terms to expire June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2020, respectively.

Mr. Chow has practiced law for nearly 35 years. He started with the law firm of Fujiyama, Duffy & Fujiyama in 1981, specializing in commercial and civil litigation. In 1994 he went on to found the firm known today as The Pacific Law Group.

Mr. Chow's past activities demonstrate his desire to serve the community. He served on various boards, including as past president for both Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii and Friends of Hickam, Inc. Mr. Chow also previously served on two other Hawaii state boards. He served on the Board of Chiropractic Examiners from 1997 to 2005 and more recently on the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Board from 2007 to 2014, including time as Chair, and consistently prepared for board meetings and familiarized himself with each profession. With the familiarity from two-term appointments on each of these state boards, he understands his responsibility to attend and prepare for the Board's regular meetings.

Given Mr. Chow's lengthy law background and extensive experience on other boards, the Department believes that he is in a good position to positively contribute to this Board's activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of Mr. Chow's nomination to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board.

**TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF STEVEN CHOW, TO THE MOTOR
VEHICLE INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD**

April 13, 2016

To: Chairperson Rosalyn Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am testifying in support of Steven Chow to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board. I have known Steven for over twenty years and have worked with him on many training seminars for members of our bar and especially over the past 10 years on the training of arbitrators in the Judiciary's Court Annexed Arbitration Program. He has given much of his time to assist in the training not only on Oahu but in other circuits as well.

Steven has also participated as a seminar speaker for me in various continuing legal education courses that I have presented for the legal community through the Pacific Law Institute. He is a very dependable person and I can always rely upon him to be prepared for any task and to present information in a clear and concise manner. I have also consulted with him on certain motor vehicle legal issues that may have arisen in my work and he is an excellent resource on the law.

Steven will be an asset to this Board because of his background in this area and can attest to his outstanding intellect and competence as well as his integrity and professionalism. I strongly support his nomination and urge his confirmation by this committee and the Hawaii State Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Roy M. Sasuga CIC
Chairman
Motor Vehicle Industry Repair Board

3454 Woodlawn Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

April 6, 2016

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chairperson, Commerce and Consumer Protection
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **Nomination of Steven J.T. Chow To
Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board**

Dear Senator Baker:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter asking for your support to confirm the nomination of Steven J.T. Chow to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board.

I have personally known Mr. Chow for over 25 years. Based upon my personal knowledge of and professional experiences with Mr. Chow, I have found him to be very conscientious and hardworking. Steve demonstrates the exceptional intellectual ability required to understand and apply the various aspect of law in his daily practice. He derives considerable pleasure and satisfaction from the challenges of solving complex legal problems.

In the years that I have interacted with Steve, both inside and outside of the legal environment, and I have found him to be a polite, responsible, sincere, and an all-around respectable individual. He will certainly be an asset to the organization and I would respectfully urge you to give speedy and favorable approval to his nomination to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board.

Sincerely,



Roy M. Sasuga
Chairman
Motor Vehicle Industry Repair Board

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board? I am committed to doing volunteer public service and non-profit work. I had previously served two terms on the Board Of Chiropractic Examiners and two terms with the Motor Vehicle Repair Board. I want to continue on any Board that needs help. I understand there is a need for public members on the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board (MVILB) and I know I can help.
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board? Protect health, safety and welfare of the public by insuring we have licensed and qualified dealers, manufacturers, franchisees, etc. pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 437.
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer? My previous experience on the Chiropractic Board and MVRB Board together with my background having served on several non-profit corporations and as an attorney gives me a different perspective to problems and issues that will come before the Board and to solve the problems and resolve the issues.
- (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 member of previous State Boards, I am familiar with the laws (statutory and administrative) dealing with licensing. When issues come before the Board dealing with the manufacture, distribution and sales of vehicles I can provide valuable insight into decision-making on those issues. I have also provided in the past suggestions to revise the laws that were antiquated and needed to be updated or deleted.
- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? Continue to insure that only licensed franchises, dealerships, manufacturers, etc. are operating in Hawaii. Insure that current licensing laws address the changes in the modernization of manufacturing, distributing and selling of automobiles.

- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board. 1. Consumer advocate—ultimately decide issues based on what is best for public, health, safety and welfare. 2. Facilitator—willing to listen to all sides of an issue and question where necessary the law and policy and apply a practical and “common” sense approach. 3. Contributor—in my previous terms on the Chiropractic Board and MVRB I worked on reviewing and revising the statutory and administrative laws to make the consistent with modern practice.
- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member. Vice-Chair/Member: State Board Of Chiropractic Examiners;
Chair/Member: State Motor Vehicle Repair Board
Director (current): Hawaii State Bar Association.
President/Secretary: Prevent Child Abuse HI
President/VP/Secretary/Director (current): Friends Of Hickam AFB
- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? No. How would you overcome conflicts of interest?
Disclosure and recusal.