

GM763

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board Of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, NELSON LAU, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: State Board Of Public Accountancy

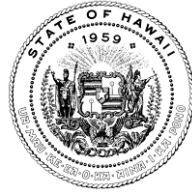
Description:

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

Wednesday, April 13, 2016
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 763.

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 testimony on Governor's Message No. 763, regarding the **reappointment** of Nelson K.M. Lau to the Board of Public Accountancy ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Lau's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Lau has been licensed as a certified public accountant ("CPA") in Hawaii since July 28, 1989, and is the managing partner of the Honolulu office of KPMG LLP. As the audit partner, he has more than 25 years of experience in providing professional audit services to Hawaii clients in the financial services, public utilities, airlines, state and local government, educational institutions, and not-for-profit sectors. Mr. Lau's CPA license is current, active, and in good standing, as is his firm's permit to practice.

Mr. Lau has served on the Board as an interim appointee since July 30, 2010, and was appointed to a full term as a CPA member on July 1, 2011. He is an extremely reliable member and has attended all of the 60 scheduled Board 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 25 years of professional experience in certified public accounting, Mr. Lau contributes to the breadth of information that the Board finds invaluable when making its decisions. The Board recognizes and acknowledges Mr. Lau's expertise and contributions to the profession and to the Board, and has appointed him to key committee positions throughout his first term of service, and has elected him as the Board's Chairperson for each of the past three years.

The Department believes that Mr. Lau's interest and commitment in serving on the Board, his experience in the profession, and desire to contribute to the community will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

The Department strongly supports the confirmation of Nelson K.M. Lau to the Board of Public Accountancy, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: gordon@kkdly.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM763 on Apr 13, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, April 06, 2016 12:47:10 PM

GM763

Submitted on: 4/6/2016

Testimony for CPH on Apr 13, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gordon Ciano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known Nelson for over 25 years in both a professional and social setting. He is the true professional. Committed to the industry. The fact he is the Office Managing partner of KPMG Honolulu is also evidence that how others think of him. As a former State of Hawaii Board of Accountancy member I know Nelson is the type of person who is needed on the Board. As he is the current chair of that Board gives you an idea of how the current Board members think of him. He is a leader with compassion and a sense of fairness. I strongly recommend that Nelson be approved for another term on the State of Hawaii's Board of Accountancy.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Mr. Michael Tanaka, CPA
775 Kinalau Pl., #1709
Honolulu, HI 96813

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

April 13, 2016
9:30 AM
Conference Room 229

**In Support of GM 763, Relating to the Nomination of
Nelson Lau to the State Board of Accountancy**

Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani, and Committee Members:

My name is Michal Tanaka, CPA, and I support GM 763, for the nomination of Nelson Lau to the State Board of Accountancy. I am currently a principal with a local Hawaii CPA firm and have been with the firm for over 30 years. I was also a board member and past President of the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants.

I have known Nelson throughout my professional career. He clearly has the leadership skills, experience and integrity that is needed to serve on the State Board of Accountancy. We in the profession are constantly busy, but I appreciate that Nelson takes the time to listen, understand the issues, and makes decisions based on sound judgement for the good of the profession. We are fortunate that someone with his experience and abilities is willing to serve another term.

Please support GM 763 and nominate Nelson Lau to the State Board of Accountancy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,



Terri Fujii
919 Kahena Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

To: Senate Rosalyn Baker, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Terri Fujii,

Date: April 5, 2016

Re: **Testimony in Support of GM 763, Relating to Nomination of Nelson Lau to the State Board of Public Accountancy**

I am writing today in my capacity as a certified public accountant, licensed in the State of Hawaii to express support for Nelson Lau's nomination to the State Board of Public Accountancy.

I have known Nelson since our high school days and have always found him to be level headed and dedicated. He has been very successful in his career, now serving as the office managing partner of the Honolulu office of KPMG. His position as office managing partner has given him the opportunity to see the profession from different aspects, as a CPA in public practice, from the viewpoint of his clients, and as a businessman running a practice in Hawaii.

He has shown his support and dedication to the public accounting profession by spending the time to serve on the State Board of Public Accountancy, and willingness to serve a second term. Serving on the Board takes considerable time, and the Board needs a person like Nelson to continue to help guide the profession.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Nelson Lau's nomination to the State Board of Public Accountancy.

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

The Board of Public Accountancy plays an important role in making sure the consumer is protected by having qualified professionals serve our public. My background as a practicing Certified Public Accountant who is well versed in the requirements of the profession and regulations provides me the needed skill and knowledge to carry out the duties of the board.

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

Members of the Board of Public Accountancy are responsible to make sure that qualified professionals serve our public. In carrying out this responsibility, we review applicants to make sure they are qualified, as well as monitor existing licensees to make sure they practice within the State's requirements. We also look at recent developments and changes in the industry to stay abreast of the impact to the professionals.

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

With my knowledge of the industry and regulatory requirements, I will continue to ensure that the consumer is provided with qualified professionals.

- (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.

I have been fortunate to have spent the last few years on the Board and close to 30 years in the industry and will continue to utilize this knowledge in expertise in carrying out the responsibilities of the Board.

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

During my term, I will oversee the implementation of the peer review requirements of the profession, which will be in place for the first time for firm permits to practice renewals in 2017. I will continue to work to address matters that become before the board in a thorough and timely manner.

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

I am experienced in the industry with close to 30 years as a practicing CPA. My tenure on the Board has provided me great insight into the issues faced by the public and practicing CPAs. I also have a thorough understanding of the regulations impacting this profession at the State and national levels.

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

I have been involved with past enforcement actions addressing practices of CPAs and have a good working relationship with RICO to make sure the interest of all parties are looked after in a responsible manner.

- (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?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest.