

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN H. TASAKA
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8630 / Fax: (808) 586-8674
Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

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 764 Gubernatorial Nominee Sean Knox to the Workforce Development Council for a term to expire June 30, 2018
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 Sean Knox's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2019. Mr. Knox would fill a slot reserved for a private sector 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. Knox is the President of Hawaii Employment Services, Inc. (dba HiEmployment) and was previously the owner and President of POI Employment, LLC. He has over fifteen (15) years of experience in professional staffing in Hawaii. Under Mr. Knox's management HiEmployment has grown to exceed \$12 million in revenue, increased staff to 22, and placed 1,800 employees in 2014. HiEmployment currently has locations on all major islands and places employees in the agriculture, construction, office professional, hospitality, technical, and education sectors.

Mr. Knox's experience working with both employers and potential employees will be valuable to

WDC as WIOA places more emphasis on engaging employers across the workforce system to align training with needed skills and matching employers with qualified workers.

In this critical year, WDC has been preparing the Hawaii WIOA 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 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. Knox 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.



To: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Suzanne Skjold, Executive Director, Hawaii Literacy

RE: GM 764: Nominee SEAN K. KNOX as a Member of the Workforce Development Council

Hearing: Friday, April 14, 2016 at 9:30am

POSITION: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor. I am Suzanne Skjold, Executive Director of Hawaii Literacy, submitting testimony in strong support of Sean K. Knox's confirmation to the Workforce Development Council.

I truly cannot think of a better candidate than Sean. As the President and owner of a successful business in the human resources and employment services sector, Sean will bring invaluable experience and expertise in workforce needs and priorities of the private sector and in the current skills and training needs of the workforce seeking employment. This dual perspective will bring great value to the Council's work.

From my role as Executive Director of Hawaii Literacy, where Sean has served as a Board member since 2007, and as Chair of several Committees, including Policy & Personnel, I can share firsthand the great value Sean would bring as a member of this Council. I have seen Sean consistently fulfill every one of the nine expectations listed for Council members. These include, among others, providing expertise, sharing a wide range of connections, providing strategic direction, getting to know the people and work of an agency, and remaining an active, prepared member.

Sean is very intelligent and thoughtful, and his counsel is sought by our Board and leadership on strategic direction and implementation of our agency's work. Sean excels at placing possible courses of action into a bigger picture. He prioritizes meeting attendance, arrives prepared, and is actively engaged in the work and mission. His cooperative spirit, insights, and commitment to action bring positive outcomes. Sean seeks to make a meaningful difference in the Board's work and his 'can-do' attitude motivates other members to achieve more as well.

Sean is very well connected to many sectors of our community, and from all I have met through Sean in the past eight years, is extremely well respected as a business owner, community leader, and person. Sean is a natural "connector" and takes the time to introduce people from different sectors who may be aligned. He has also taken the time to learn about our agency and programs in detail, getting to know staff and volunteers and visiting numerous program sites.

I am honored to lend my full support to the selection of Sean K. Knox for the Workforce Development Council and believe his service on the Council will benefit the state's workforce development efforts and future opportunity for both businesses and employees in Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Suzanne Skjold
Executive Director
Hawaii Literacy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 9:58 AM
To: JDLTestimony
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM764 on Apr 14, 2016 09:30AM*

GM764

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.

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



April 11, 2016

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Letter of Recommendation: KNOX, Sean K.
Hearing Date: April 14, 2016 - GM 764

Dear Governor Ige,

It is an honor to express my support for the nomination of Sean K. Knox to the Workforce Development Council. Having worked side by side with Sean for the last 6 years, I know him to be an individual of strong character and excellent work ethic.

Sean and I became business partners in 2010. Together we formed Hawaii Employment Services, dba HiEmployment. Under Sean's direction, a small "mom and pop" staffing agency has now grown to \$15 million in revenue, internally employs 22 internal staff, and provides employment opportunities to thousands of workers. In under 6 years, Sean and HiEmployment have been recognized as winners of the BBB Torch Award (2013), PBN Fastest 50 growing companies in Hawaii (2013, 2014), and PBN Best in Small Business (2012, 2014).

He has developed an agency that supports our clients as well as job seekers. One of the programs he organized matches individuals incarcerated in Kauai Community Correctional Center with work release opportunities. He has also held resource fairs at the Federal Detention Center of Honolulu. Another program Sean has nurtured is a bi-weekly job fair where the Honolulu Institute for Human Services brings prospective employees, many of whom are homeless, to our office for employment reviews and job opportunity discussions.

Beyond his business responsibilities, he is a passionate contributor to the community. Sean is directly responsible for creating and encouraging participation in the bi-annual Hawaii Group Blood Drive. He is also very involved with Hawaii Literacy and other non-profit organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Sean in his nomination to the Workforce Development Council. He is a valued member of the Hawaii Group team and I am confident he will be a successful contributor to the Workforce Development Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SM", written over a white background.

Scott Meichtry
Chairman & CEO

The Hawaii Group, Inc.

Topa Financial Center, 745 Fort Street, Penthouse, Honolulu, HI 96813
P 808.695.2222 F 808.695.2353 W www.thehawaiigroup.com