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GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN H. TASAKA
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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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 765 Gubernatorial Nominee Sheryl Nojima, Ph.D., PE 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 strong support of Dr. Sheryl Nojima's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2018. Ms. Nojima would fill a slot reserved for a private sector business 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.

Dr. Nojima, President of Gray, Hong, Nojima, and Associates (GHN) is responsible for environmental and civil services of the firm. She is currently the principal-in-charge for regulatory/permitting assistance, preparation of environmental impact statements and assessment, hydrologic and drainage studies, and civil sitework. As the managing partner of GHN she is also responsible for the firm's business development and administration.

Dr. Nojima's experience and knowledge of the engineering and construction industries as well as her involvement with numerous civil projects and environmental reviews will be valuable in

providing guidance to the council on the current and future needs of these industry sectors.

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 Dr. Nojima as a member of the Workforce Development Council where she would be a valuable asset and will bring a fresh perspective to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.



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April 12, 2016

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date: April 14, 2016, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 016

Honorable Senators Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair; Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Subject: **GM 765, Advise and Consent, Nominee Sheryl Nojima as a Member of the Workforce Development Council**

Position: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii (ACECH) represents more than 70 member firms with over 1,500 employees throughout Hawaii. ACECH member firm projects directly affect the quality of the water we drink and the food we eat; the safety of our buildings, highways, bridges, and infrastructure; and the quality of the environment in which we work and play.

Hawaii is at a critical juncture, and it is essential that we develop sustainable strategies that will aid in the development of local talent. We strongly support Sheryl Nojima's nomination as a member of the Workforce Development Council. She will be an active contributor in helping guide the state's education and workforce development strategies that will provide the skill sets needed to drive innovation and business growth in Hawaii.

In addition to serving on our Board of Directors for the past decade, Ms. Nojima has been an active member of several of our City and State liaison committees. She has experience in both the private and public sectors and also has a unique background having worked with many undergraduate engineering students as an Assistant Dean of Engineering, as well as a mentor in the Civil Engineering capstone design course at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF HAWAII

Robin M. Lim, P.E.
President



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April 12, 2016

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date: April 14, 2016, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 016

Honorable Senators Gilbert Keith-Agran, Chair; Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Subject: **GM 765, Advise and Consent, Nominee Sheryl Nojima as a Member of the Workforce Development Council**

Position: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Keith-Agran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

Hawaii is at a critical juncture, and it is essential that we develop sustainable strategies that will aid in the development of local talent. We strongly support Sheryl Nojima's nomination as a member of the Workforce Development Council. She will be an active contributor in helping guide the state's education and workforce development strategies that will provide the skill sets needed to drive innovation and business growth in Hawaii.

I got to know Ms. Nojima while serving on the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii's Board of Directors for the past few year. Ms. Nojima has also been an active member of several of our City and State liaison committees. She has experience in both the private and public sectors and also has a unique background having worked with many undergraduate engineering students as an Assistant Dean of Engineering, as well as a mentor in the Civil Engineering capstone design course at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Corey Matsuoka'.

Corey Matsuoka, P.E., PMP, LEED AP
Email: cmatsuoka@ssfm.com

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Thursday, April 14, 2016, 9:30AM,
Room 016, State Capitol**

Testimony in Support of GM 765

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council (WDC) Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERYL NOJIMA, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

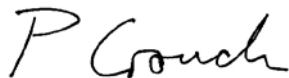
I am Peter Crouch, Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) testifying in strong support of Dr. Sheryl Nojima's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

Dr. Nojima has been President of Gray, Hong, Nojima & Associates since 2009. She has served on the UHM Engineering Dean's Council since 2007 and has been active on the Council's Executive Committee since 2010. She became Vice Chair of the Council in 2013 and is our current Chair.

Through Dr. Nojima's previous association with UH, current association through the Dean's council, and her leadership role in the American Council of Engineering Companies, she has an impressive and extensive knowledge of the workforce issues facing engineers in Hawai'i. Given the importance of the engineering profession to the health and security of Hawai'i's current and future economy, engineering and workforce issues are of paramount importance. Dr. Nojima is extremely qualified to be a member of the WDC and I recommend her to you.

Thank You.

Personal Written Testimony Presented by:



Peter Crouch, Dean
College of Engineering
University of Hawaii at M•noa
4/11/16