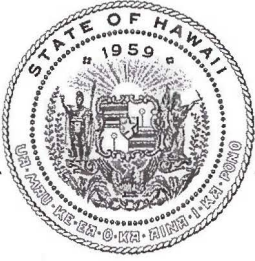


GM 766

Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board Of Directors Of The Natural Energy Laboratory Of Hawai'i Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM MIELCKE, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

TESTIMONY



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
Luis P. Salaveria
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

before the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

Thursday, April 14, 2016

2:45 pm

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

GM 766

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
WILLIAM F. MIELCKE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2018.**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is pleased to present testimony in strong support of Mr. William Mielcke to be considered for the NELHA Board of Directors. He has a long history of contributing to the economic development of West Hawaii and as a successful businessman. He is very qualified and has the ability to fill this important position.

Mr. Mielcke has a strong background in corporate management, marketing, real estate and property management. His private sector experience contributes to the board's ability to evaluate new opportunities, strategic direction and objectives. Mr. Mielcke has played a key role in the development of West Hawaii for the past 55 years. In this regard, NELHA needs

Directors who can see the “big picture” and have a broad vision to understand how the pieces of our economic future fit together. Mr. Mielcke possesses these skills.

We have found that creating strong public-private sector partnerships are essential to success, especially in the areas of land development and strategic policy. Mr. Mielcke’s experience and viewpoint in this area, especially as a resident of the Island of Hawaii, will be an important addition to the NELHA Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony for GM 766.

Testimony of William F. Mielcke

Before the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy
Thursday, April 14, 2016 2:45pm. State Capitol, Room 229
RE: GM766

Aloha Chair Inouye and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to be considered to serve on the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority Board of Directors and to give back to the community some of the many benefits I have received living in Hawaii.

I have been a resident of Hawaii for the past 55 years and have had the privilege to participate and witness the West Hawaii region grow in its development and feel that my background in the visitor industry and resort development provide me with the knowledge to understand the steps necessary to lay the foundation for sustainable long-term growth.

In that context I have watched, with great interest over the past 35 years, NELHA grow from a single research building on Keahole Point into the economic engine it is today. I think the focus on marine science and clean energy is a perfect fit for West Hawaii and the green "sustainable" aspect of the technology park is a perfect complement to the existing visitor industry properties along the Kona-Kohala coastline.

NELHA has significant potential for the future and has sometimes been referred to as the "diamond in the rough". If confirmed, I will be committed to serving on the board and dedicating my time and experience to assist NELHA realize its full potential.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.