

GM852

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board Of Public Accountancy, Gubernatorial Nominee, GABRIEL LEE, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

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

Friday, April 15, 2016
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 852.

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. 852, regarding the **reappointment** of Gabriel Lee to the Board of Public Accountancy ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Lee's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Lee has served on the Board as a public member since July 6, 2012. As one of two public Board members statutorily required, Mr. Lee has proven to be a valuable member of the Board who is counted on to articulate the point of view of the public consumers of public accounting services. He conscientiously prepares for meetings and actively participates in discussions and deliberations. Since his appointment, Mr. Lee has attended 42 of the 46 scheduled meetings.

For the past 18 years, Mr. Lee has been employed as Executive Vice President, Commercial Markets, for American Savings Bank, where he is the division manager overseeing corporate banking, commercial banking, commercial real estate, cash management and international services. Mr. Lee has also served as Vice President and Commercial Banking Officer at First Hawaiian Bank, and was a Vice President and Pacific Marketing Director at Bancorp Leasing of Hawaii. As an individual who works frequently with accounting professionals, Mr. Lee is uniquely qualified as a public member to bring a corporate customer perspective to the Board.

Mr. Lee also has a strong history of community service, including but not limited to his current involvement as a board member of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (2015 to 2017 as Chairman), Boy Scouts of America, Diamond Head Theater (2005 to 2008 as Chairman), and Retail Merchants of Hawaii. Mr. Lee's familiarity with board processes and governance issues provide an excellent foundation for his participation as a strong and capable public member of the Board. His demonstrated commitment, motivation, business background, education, and professional experiences continue to greatly assist the Board in its regulatory oversight of the profession.

The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Lee's reappointment to the Board of Public Accountancy, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Health

**Friday, April 15, 2016 at 9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 852 CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, GABRIEL LEE**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") is in **strong support** of Mr. Gabriel Lee's confirmation and appointment to the State Board of Public Accountancy.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Mr. Gabriel Lee's vast knowledge and experience makes him an excellent choice to continue serving the State Board of Public Accountancy. Mr. Gabriel Lee is the Executive Vice President and Division Manager at American Savings Bank.

His leadership and commitment to our community is strong, and serves on many boards including Boy Scouts of America - Aloha Council, Retail Merchants of Hawaii, Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (Chairman 2015 to 2017), Diamond Head Theatre (Chairman 2005-2008), and Saint Louis School (Chairman 2012 to 2013), and Catholic Charities Family Services.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this nomination of Mr. Gabriel Lee.

Gabriel
Lee

State Board Of Public Accountancy
April 7, 2016

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

As a commercial banker, I have over 30 years of experience in dealing with certified public accountants in conjunction with the preparation of financial statements for financial analysis related to loan requests, and in negotiating loan terms and conditions with the Chief Financial Officers and Controllers of customers. We rely on the accuracy of financial statements to make decisions.

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

To review the qualifications of applicants for licensure and to adopt rules designed to maintain a high standard of licensing for the protection of the consumer.

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

In conjunction with Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO), the Board decides on disciplinary action against licensees including fine, suspension, or revocation for any violation of the licensing law or rules of the Board.

(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.

With a true understanding on how businesses work in conjunction with financing, I have been able to broaden my expertise to the management of people, as the manager of the Commercial Markets division at American Savings Bank, and externally utilizing a quality network of business associates to connect people to generate business and help the community.

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

The Board and the Legislature need to pass a Mobility bill. Hawaii is the only State in the U.S. that does not have Mobility for certified public accountants.

Gabriel
Lee

State Board Of Public Accountancy
April 7, 2016

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

Trustworthy, Considerate, and Responsible. I am a good listener with high business acumen and not afraid to make suggestions and decisions.

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

Board experience of governance on the Board of Directors of the following: Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (2015 to 2017 as Chairman), Board of Public Accountancy, Boy Scouts of America - Aloha Council, Diamond Head Theatre (2005 to 2008 as Chairman), Retail Merchants of Hawaii, Waialae Country Club. Prior Boards include Catholic Charities Family Services (2003 to 2004 as President), Hawaii Dental Service (2004 to 2008 as Chairman) and Saint Louis School (2012 to 2013 as Chairman).

- (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?

Occasionally certified public accountants that I am associated with need ratification of their CPA Permit to Practice, and I recuse myself from that decision.