

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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March 23, 2017

To: The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair,  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2017  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: GM567 Confirmation of Ian Kitajima to the Workforce Development Council**

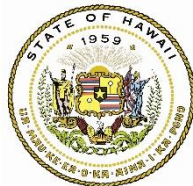
On behalf of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, as well as myself personally, this testimony is provided in strong support for the appointment and confirmation of Ian Kitajima to the Workforce Development Council.

Ian Kitajima has international experience, technological and social media savvy, and a strong business background. Ian's extensive history of speaking engagements, such as at TEDxHonolulu and the Shidler College of Business, combined with his impressive business and technology background, make him an outstanding candidate for the Workforce Development Council.

I strongly urge his confirmation.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS  
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
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March 23, 2017

To: Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Chair and  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director  
Workforce Development Council

RE: GM 567 Advise and Consent, Nominee Ian Kitajima as a Member of the Workforce  
Development Council  
Hearing: Thursday, March 23, 2017, 10:00 a.m., Room 016

POSITION: Strong Support

Good morning Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor. I am Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) testifying in strong support of Ian Kitajima's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2019 (GM 567). Mr. Kitajima 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 advises the Governor and Legislature on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for employers and employees.

Also, the WDC is responsible for the administrative oversight and implementation of a federally mandated initiative, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 or WIOA. WDC is tasked with strategic planning and developing the infrastructure for a seamless common intake and referral system at the American Job Centers (or One-Stop Centers) so job seekers and employers can maneuver through the workforce system efficiently and receive employment, education, training and support services throughout the State. It's a "no wrong door" approach to workforce development.

Mr. Kitajima is Director of Corporate Development at Oceanit. He is responsible for commercializing and corporate venturing for Oceanit's award winning innovations, products, and services. He is an Oceanit founding member for Hoana Medical, Nanopoint, and Ibis Networks.

Mr. Kitajima's extensive experience in the private sector as Director of Corporate Development, Marketing Director, Social Media Strategist, and as a startup entrepreneur will bring out-of-the-box and innovative thinking and strategies that will enhance the work of the WDC.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Mr. Kitajima as a member of the Workforce Development Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Mr. Kitajima's nomination.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 567 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, IAN KITAJIMA**

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** the confirmation of Mr. Ian Kitajima to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ 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.

Ian Kitajima is a strong supporter of technology industry growth in Hawaii, implementing innovative approaches to stimulate creative thinking among his staff at Oceanit, a company known for delivering breakthroughs by developing solutions that are unconventional yet evolutionary. He is responsible for corporate development and commercialization of Oceanit's products and services, and possesses the desire to consistently think "out-of-the-box." We believe that Ian's experience both in business and the community will help the council in its efforts to develop the workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this nomination.

**Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson

Thursday March 23, 2017  
10:00 am  
State Capitol, Room 016

GM 567: Confirmation of Ian Kitajima, Hawaii Workforce Development Council

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Mr. Ian Kitajima's nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

During the past six years, I have served together with Ian on the board of The Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation. Ian is a visionary leader who cares about preparing our youth for the job demands of the future. As a result of his influence, many of our most innovative Foundation initiatives focus on preparing students for the day when artificial intelligence and robotics will either alter or replace many of the jobs that currently exist today.

As an example, Ian is the leader behind Hawaii's Design Thinking movement. You can find Ian every summer teaching a Design Thinking Bootcamp to teachers, students and school administrators. The Foundation is a co-sponsor of this annual event because it teaches students how to use human-centered strategies and empathy to unlock their imaginations and seek new possibilities. In other words, Design Thinking develops human skills that machines do not possess and therefore cannot replace.

Ian is also involved in developing coding skills to teachers, students and administrators using programmable model cars. Countries such as South Korea will soon be teaching coding to students as a mandatory school curriculum. Ian does not want Hawaii to be left behind so you can find him on the weekends organizing coding workshops so our students get the best training and support in the field of coding and computer programming.

In summary, Ian is both a visionary and community leader who inspires others by his selfless actions. I can't think of anyone more qualified to serve on the State Workforce Development Council. I humbly ask that the committee look favorably upon his nomination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth T. Hiraki



March 21, 2017

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor  
Senator Gilbert SC Keith-Agaran  
Senator Karl Rhoads

Testimony in Support of Governor's Message 567  
Nominating Ian Kitajima as a Public Member, At-Large  
Workforce Development Council

Aloha.

You would be hard pressed to find someone more capable, more dedicated, and more active than Ian Kitajima in the pursuit of creating Hawaii's future workforce.

His energetic and ambitious pursuit of comprehensive public-private partnerships and constant drive for innovation across all economic sectors bring a dynamic perspective on how we can prepare not just today's workers, but tomorrow's as well.

It's been a privilege for me to witness Ian's work in connecting Hawaii's tech industry with education, as he's invested innumerable hours in helping students, teachers, and administrators become Design Thinkers. By helping to prepare Hawaii's most important resource – students who will become our entrepreneurs, employees, and policymakers – he's made an indelible contribution to our future workforce.

It's this kind of selfless pursuit, beyond the common purview of his role at Oceanit, that has made Ian an easy choice for the many accolades he's received, including Hawaii Business Magazine's Twenty for the Next Twenty in 2015. He is that rare individual always looking for solutions where everyone benefits and that's something we need today more than ever. I urge you to confirm Ian as a member of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Respectfully,

Matthew A Nagato  
Founder, Lumos Media

Memo to: Chair Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee on judiciary and Labor

From: Puanani Burgess

Lead Designer and Facilitator of the "Building the Beloved Community" Process and Practice

Wai'anae, O'ahu, Hawai'i, ph. 808 630-7260

Date: March 21, 2017

Re: GM567 Support Ian Kitajima to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council

Aloha Kakou:

Mr. Kitajima and I work as part of a team with staff at multiple levels and divisions in the Department of Public Safety. He, along with his Oceanit colleague have made available to them the process and practice of Design Thinking which really addresses and opens up for discovery, practice, discussion and commitment, to the 5 key goals of the Workforce Development Council's Unified State Plan that "supports strong collaboration, is regionally sensitive. and aligns, coordinates and integrates workforce services to meet the needs of employers and employees in order to cultivate a prospering economy," (pg. 2)

Mr Kitajima and Oceanit by working with organizations such as DPS, DOE, KSBE, HACBED (Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development and community organizations, "provide programs to populations with barriers to employment." (WDC Goal 2)

I respectfully and enthusiastically urge you to confirm Mr. Kitajima as a member of the Workforce Development Council and am available to answer any questions you may have. Mahalo for your consideration of my comments.

PUANANI BURGESS