

# GM 702

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators, Gubernatorial Nominee, JODI YAMAMI, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH  
919 ALA MOANA BLVD., ROOM 308  
HONOLULU, HI 96814-4920

In reply, please refer to:  
File: SDWB

Baker02\_GM702Support.docx

March 31, 2017

Senator Rosalyn Baker  
Hawaii State Capitol, room 231  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
[via [cphtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:cphtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov) only]

Dear Senator Baker:

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 702: NOMINATION OF JODI M. YAMAMI  
TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM  
OPERATORS

Thank you for the opportunity to support the nomination of Ms. Jodi Yamami to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.

Since October 2007, Ms. Yamami has been an environmental engineer in the Safe Drinking Water Branch where she is responsible for the branch's operator certification program. She has been instrumental in making many improvements to the program and continues to develop and implement new efficient processes. In addition, she proctors the semi-annual statewide certification exams and interacts with over 600 water distribution system operators and water treatment plant operators.

Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 340F-4(a)(2) states that the Board shall consist of five members, of which "one individual [is] from the state agency responsible for the State's safe drinking water program." Ms. Yamami has been nominated to comply with this statute.

I strongly recommend that Ms. Yamami be approved as a member on the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.

Sincerely,

JOANNA L. SETO, P.E., CHIEF  
Safe Drinking Water Branch



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH  
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Dear Senator Baker:

SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 702: NOMINATION OF JODI M. YAMAMI  
TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM  
OPERATORS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the nomination of Ms. Jodi Yamami to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators. My name is Ann Zane. I am an environmental engineer and supervisor of the Compliance section in the Safe Drinking Water Branch, Department of Health. I had worked in the operator certification program in the past after it was initiated by statute in 1991.

Ms. Yamami is an environmental engineer hired by our branch to run the operator certification program in October 2007. She has mechanical design experience with Kaiser Electronics and also experience in running a supplier certification program. She has brought many beneficial changes to the program such as: integration of the database linking operator data to continuing education unit data, creation of electronic files to improve program efficiency, re-evaluation of the suitability of the different grade levels of operators, and streamlining many of the procedures used. She has developed the operator certification information on the branch website to improve outreach to the operators with current certification and those seeking certification. She has provided technical support to many of the operators who call with questions on the certification process, and interacts well with them.

There is a requirement in statute that one of the five members of the board of certification is from the Safe Drinking Water Branch. Jodi has demonstrated an exceptional capability to improve the program. She brings a wealth of private work experience which has already been used to make our program more efficient. She would be a valuable member of the board in our efforts to continue to protect the health and environment for all people in Hawaii. I strongly recommend that her nomination be approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann T. Zane".

Ann T. Zane, P.E.  
Supervisor, Compliance Section  
Safe Drinking Water Branch

**GM702**

**Jodi Yamami: Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators**

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

Per Chapter 340F-4 HRS, one individual on the Board should be from the state agency responsible for the State's safe drinking water program. Currently, Ann Zane is serving on the Board in this capacity on an interim basis. My becoming a member of the Board would continue the presence of the Safe Drinking Water Branch.

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

The Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators is responsible for setting and maintaining the standards for certification of personnel who operate public water systems in order to protect public health. Board members must make decisions in accordance with the rules set forth in HAR Chapter 11-25 with the understanding of the principle of protection of public health.

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

Each Board member's role is critical in achieving the mission established by the Department of Health which is to protect and improve the health and environment for all people in Hawaii. Specifically, the water systems and treatment plants that provide the water we drink can only be operated by personnel certified by this 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.**

My position in the Department of Health Safe Drinking Water Branch is responsible for the implementation and administration of the drinking water treatment plant operator and distribution system operator certification program. I currently make recommendations to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators on developing and administering regulations and procedures for certifying or rescinding the certification of operators and the approval of Continuing Education Units. My duties also include renewing operator certifications, developing and conducting statewide training for operators, and providing technical assistance in response to operators' requests. I have always worked closely with the Board and also served two consecutive terms on the Board in the past.

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

I hope to be able to apply my knowledge and experience toward using good judgement in making decisions to maintain the standards set for the certification of public water system operators. I have seen first hand on sanitary surveys of public water systems, the importance of the role of the public water system operator. Their duties are essential in producing the drinking water the water system provides for the public. As a member of the Board, I hope that my efforts would ensure that only capable and responsible operators become certified in order to achieve the mission of the Department of Health.

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

The three qualities that would best distinguish me for consideration would be: (1) that my prior engineering experience in the aerospace design and manufacturing field of fighter aircraft which provided a means of defense for our entire nation can be applied in the interest of protecting public health, (2) I have a fresh perspective of the water industry from a regulatory view that is not compromised because of affiliation with any water purveyor, and (3) finally, my appointment would fulfill the statutory requirement that one member of the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators also be from the state agency responsible for the State's Safe Drinking Water Program.

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

Besides serving two consecutive terms in the past on the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators, I can utilize the knowledge from a past engineering job with a company that designed and manufactured cockpit displays for military aircraft. I coordinated all supplier certification activities including policy development, training, commodity team orientation, and business review coordination. These certification activities produced a core group of suppliers that could be depended upon to manufacture quality product on a consistent basis. Since these products were used in fighter aircraft that not only protected the pilots during operations, but also provided a means of defense for our entire nation, only those certified suppliers could receive contract awards. The decisions I made during the course of my experience were based on the underlying principle of the protection of our nation. This experience will benefit me when making decisions on this Board in an effort to protect public health in Hawaii.

**(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?**

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest, however if any should arise, I understand the procedures of the Board as they are dictated in HAR Chapter 11-

25-13, as concurrence of a majority of all members shall be necessary to make any action of the Board valid.