

# GM533

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY HUTCHINSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

**Report Title:** Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants

**Current Referral:** CPH

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

For almost 30 years I have benefitted from the efforts of a number professional boards; including the Hawaii Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants. I view the opportunity to serve on the board as partial recompense for all that others have done on my behalf.

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

1. Administration of the requirements of HAR Chapter 11-61
2. Facilitate training/educational opportunities for current and future operators
3. Insure that competent individuals are in control of the state's treatment facilities

The overriding responsibility is to protect the public health and public investment in wastewater treatment facilities.

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

The proper operation of wastewater treatment facilities is one of the most important protections afforded to the consumer. Without wastewater treatment plants our waters would be unusable for recreation (and other uses) by tourists or residents.

- (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.

I am currently a licensed Wastewater Operator in three states and a licensed Engineer in two states. My education includes degrees in Business (with a finance concentration) and Environmental Engineering. I was on the board of the Nevada Water Environment Association that recruited and selected the majority of the board members for the Nevada Wastewater Operator Certification Board. My work experience includes working at over 9 wastewater treatment facilities in three states.

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

Improving the passing rate on the operator exams would be my first priority. This needs to be accomplished through improved training rather than by lowering the testing standards. The operator position is becoming a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) career and we need to provide training to facilitate this transformation.

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

1. Good listener: Willing and able to listen to all sides of an issue prior to coming to a position or decision.
2. Consistent, analytical decision maker: The decisions that are made are the same for all in similar circumstances. The decision is made are logical and based on defensible grounds.
3. Cost-effective: The board needs to take all costs into consideration when making recommendations or decisions.

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

I have been involved with the Waialua High School robotics program for the past 8 years. I would like to see some of the students that I have met in this program and other schools select wastewater treatment as a career path. These students have a STEM background that makes them excellent candidates for future positions in the wastewater treatment field.

(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?

The Hawaii community of wastewater operators is relatively small. I can foresee instances where decisions affecting individuals or groups that I am affiliated with will occur. In those instances I would acknowledge the relationship and possibly recuse myself from the debate and/or decision.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM533**

**GM533, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO  
THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
GARY HUTCHINSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2019**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 7, 2018  
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports the Governor's nominee,
- 3 Mr. Gary Hutchinson, to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater
- 4 Treatment Plants (Board). Mr. Hutchinson's confirmation will allow the Board to continue to
- 5 operate and perform its duties required under Chapter 11-61, Hawaii Administrative Rules, entitled,
- 6 "Mandatory Certification of Wastewater Treatment Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants."
- 7 Mr. Hutchinson currently works as a Wastewater Plant Engineer for the City and County of
- 8 Honolulu (CCH). He has over 22 years of wastewater treatment plant experience. He holds a
- 9 Grade 4 wastewater treatment plant operator certificate. He has Bachelors of Science degrees in
- 10 Business Administration/Industrial Engineering and Environmental Engineering. Mr. Hutchinson
- 11 will serve in the capacity of the representative from the Hawai'i Water Pollution Control
- 12 Association.
- 13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 3/6/2018 10:05:59 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2018 10:00:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja       | Testifying on behalf of<br>OCC Legislative<br>Priorities Committee,<br>Democratic Party of<br>Hawai'i | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

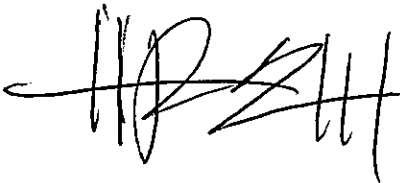
To whom this may concern,

I would like to recommend Mr. Gary Hutchinson to be a member of the Wastewater Board of Certification. I have known Mr. Hutchinson for 6 years serving as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor at the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant for the City and County of Honolulu. He is currently working as an engineer for the Technical Service Branch for the City and County of Honolulu and holds Wastewater licenses in the states of Nevada, California and Hawaii.

While I was working as an operator here at the Sand Island Treatment Plant, Mr. Hutchinson mentored operators and trained them to be good stewards. I am currently serving as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor at the Sand Island Treatment Plant. Please consider Mr. Gary Hutchinson to become a member of the board of certification.

Thank you,

Herman R. Ellis III

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HRE III', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the left.