

GM567

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, gubernatorial nominee, JASON ITO, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.
Report Title: Hawai'i Workforce Development Council
Description:
Companion:
Package:
Current Referral: LBR
Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by</u> <u>Date</u>	Status Text
2/20/2018	S Received.
2/20/2018	S Referred to LBR.
3/6/2018	S The committee(s) on LBR has scheduled a public hearing on 03-13-18 2:45PM in conference room 229.

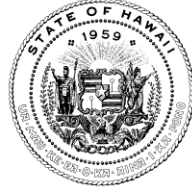
S = Senate | **H** = House | **D** = Data Systems | **\$** = Appropriation measure | **ConAm** = Constitutional Amendment

Some of the above items require Adobe Acrobat Reader. Please visit [Adobe's download page](#) for detailed instructions.

GM567

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIJO
DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

www.labor.hawaii.gov

Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099
Email: dliir.director@hawaii.gov

March 9, 2017

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair,
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2018
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Leonard Hoshijo, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

GM 567 Jason Yoshitaka Ito to Serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair , and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leonard Hoshijo and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). I support the nomination of Mr. Ito to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. Mr. Ito's extensive experience in the hospitality industry and his record of community service and achievement have prepared him well to serve on the Council.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Ito to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. where, if confirmed, he will provide valuable perspective and service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Ito.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8630 Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

March 12, 2018

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Labor

From: Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director
Workforce Development Council

RE: GM 566 Advise and Consent, Nominee Jason Ito as a Member of the Workforce
Development Council for a term to expire June 30, 2018

GM 567 Advise and Consent, Nominee Jason Ito as a Member of the Workforce
Development Council for a term to expire June 30, 2022

Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 2:45 p.m., Room 229

POSITION: Strong Support

Good afternoon Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English and members of the Committee on Labor. I am Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) testifying in strong support of Jason Ito's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2018 (GM 566) and for a term to expire on June 30, 2022 (GM567). Mr. Ito would fill a slot reserved for a workforce 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.

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. Ito is Director of Administration, Labor and Community Relations for Kyo-ya Management Company, Ltd. He has over 33 years of experience in the hospitality industry.

When he worked at Starwood hotels, he collaborated with Kamehameha Schools to develop an internship program, Kapili Oihana Internship Program, in which over a three-month period, six college students worked through various hotel departments and focused on a specific area of interest to learn the backend of what is required to operate a hotel.

A workforce analysis identified maintenance staff would be retiring over the next five to six years. In anticipation of the retirements, Mr. Ito worked with Unite Here Local 5's Hotel and Restaurant Industry Employment and Training Trust to rejuvenate their apprenticeship program and as a result were able to add eight new maintenance trade positions to cover the anticipated gap. Apprenticeship programs for food and beverage positions are being planned.

These are the types of partnerships and collaboration that the WDC encourages to provide students hands-on opportunities and fill skill gaps and upskill the workforce.

Since Mr. Ito submitted his application of interest to serve on the WDC, he has been attending board meetings to keep updated on the issues and initiatives being worked on. He serves as a member of the Employer Engagement and Youth Services committees.

We anticipate Mr. Ito will be a very active participant with the Council and be able to offer his expertise on issues relating to the workforce in the hospitality industry.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Mr. Ito as a member of the Workforce Development Council where he would be able to put his vast knowledge and skills of the hospitality industry to good use at the Council.

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



March 8, 2018

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair and
Member of the Committee on Labor

From: Cyrus Oda, SVP & CFO
Kyo-ya Management Company, Ltd.

RE: GM 567 Advise and Consent, Nominee Aloha Workforce as a Member of the Workforce
Development Council
Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 2:45 p.m., Room 229

POSITION: Strong Support

Good afternoon Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English and members of the Committee on Labor. I am Cyrus Oda, Senior VP and Chief Financial Officer of Kyo-ya Management Company, Ltd., testifying in strong support of Jason Y. Ito's confirmation to the Workforce Development Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2022 (GM 567). Jason Ito would fill a position reserved for a private sector member on the Council.

Kyo-ya Management Company, Ltd. and its affiliates, Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts, LP, Kyo-ya Kaiulani, LLC, and Kyo-ya Ohana, LLC, owns and asset manages hotels including the Sheraton Waikiki, The Royal Hawaiian, the Moana Surfrider, the Sheraton Princess Kaiulani, the Sheraton Maui Resort in Kaanapali Maui and the Palace Hotel in San Francisco California. In total, these hotel and supporting operations have a workforce of 3,000 employees, 2,550 of them in Hawaii.

Jason Ito is the Director of Administration, Labor and Community Relations for the Kyo-ya group of companies. He spent the past 30 years with Kyo-ya in various management positions and during the more recent years had oversight of all our employees both union (UNITE HERE Local 5 in Hawaii and Local 2 in California) and non-union staff and managers. Jason have been involved in many programs to enhance the skills and service levels of our associates, have worked with our local union to develop an apprenticeship program to develop our younger maintenance associates in preparation of our increasing number of retirees, and have worked with business partners such as Kamehameha Schools to develop a summer internship program for high school students to promote a better understanding and appreciation of the hospitality industry.

I respectfully ask your confirmation of Jason Ito as a member of the Workforce Development Council. He will be a dedicated and knowledgeable contributor to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Jason Ito's nomination.



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018 AT 2:45 P.M.

**GM 566 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JASON ITO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2018**

**GM 567- SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JASON ITO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2022**

CHAIR TOKUDA AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I'm writing in support of Jason Ito, nominee to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Mr. Ito is the Director of Administration, Labor & Community Relations at Kyo-ya Management Company, Ltd. His 33+ years in the hospitality industry and comprehensive work experience has lead him into key projects including, Kapili 'Oihana, HARIETT and NFL Play 60. These projects throughout has allowed him to gain a deep appreciation of the diverse skills and training requirements for the workforce to be successful.

Jason and I have been friends and business associates for over 20 years. He has shown me his willingness to be a leader and of accepting responsibility in any task that he has undertaken. Having exposure in the hospitality industry, Mr. Ito has a unique perspective not shared by many. That combined with his personal drive and pursuit of excellence, his deep sense of commitment and broad base of experience make him an excellent choice to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

I am confident that Mr. Ito would be a valuable asset to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council and I ask for your support of his nomination.

Kelvin K. Shigemura
Vice President

March 9, 2018

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Labor

From: Harris Chan, Area Vice President,
Marriott International, Hawaii & French Polynesia

RE: GM 567 Nominee Jason Y. Ito as a Member of the Workforce Development Council

Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 2:45 p.m., Room 229
POSITION: Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English and members of the Committee on Labor. I am Harris Chan, Area Vice President for Marriott International, Hawaii & French Polynesia, testifying in strong support of Mr. Jason Ito's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2022 (GM 567). Mr. Ito would fill a slot reserved for a private sector member on the Council.

As Director of Administration, Labor and Community Relations for Kyo-ya Management Company, Mr. Ito oversees a workforce of more than 3,000 Kyo-ya associates here in Hawaii. He has extensive experience in the hospitality industry as Kyo-ya is the steward of historical treasures Moana Surfrider, A Westin Resort & Spa, The Royal Hawaiian, a Luxury Collection Resort and three of the largest Sheraton properties in the islands.

Mr. Ito has been able to steer Kyo-ya's vision of developing the next generation of employees through a variety of innovative initiatives such as the successful Kapili 'Oihana Internship for college students in partnership with Kamehameha Schools; as well as the HARIETT Apprenticeship (Hotel and Restaurant Industry Employment and Training Trust) with UNITE Here Local 5. In addition, Mr. Ito's work with dozens of charitable organizations gives him a tremendous perspective on the ever-changing needs of our community.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Mr. Ito as a member of the Workforce Development Council, where he would bring a voice from Hawaii's most vital industry to the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Mr. Ito's nomination.





Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop Street, Suite 1530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
t (808) 523-8802
f (808) 521-6141
www.strykerweiner.com



To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Labor

From: Neal Yokota, President and CEO
Stryker Weiner & Yokota Public Relations, Inc.

RE: GM 567
Nominee Jason Ito as a Member of the Workforce Development Council
Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 2:45 p.m., Room 229

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English and members of the Committee on Labor,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of the appointment of Jason Ito as a member of Workforce Development Council.

I have been personally acquainted with Jason and have worked with him in various capacities for more than a decade.

Jason is a highly respected member of Hawaii's visitor industry. His knowledge and experience in Hawaii's leading industry, and one of our state's largest employment sectors, will bring an important perspective to the Workforce Development Council. In addition, he has been directly involved in several workforce development and training programs over the years at Kyo-ya Hotels and Resorts, and Starwood Hotels and Resorts. He understands the importance, and the challenges of developing effective training programs that benefit both employees and employers.

Jason also has been a conscientious and involved member of our community. He has volunteered in numerous leadership roles in a variety of non-profit and community-based organizations such as the Honolulu Zoological Society, the Historic Hawaii Foundation, Palama Settlement and the Waikiki Improvement Association.

I am confident that Jason would be a valuable asset to the Workforce Development Council and strongly endorse his nomination.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal Yokota", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Neal Yokota
President & CEO

Mr. Rick Egged

March 5, 2018

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Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Senate

March 9, 2018

Subject: GM 567 Advise and Consent, Nominee Aloha Workforce as a Member of the Workforce Development Council

Strong support of Mr. Jason Ito's nomination

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair English:

My name is Brian Nishida, Founder & CEO of Step Stone Business Development and Chairperson of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce. I would like to submit testimony in strong support of Mr. Jason Ito's nomination to the Workforce Development Council (WDC).

I have gotten know Mr. Ito through our work together as volunteers at the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce (HJCC), one of Hawaii's largest business organizations and one with a storied 118-year history of helping to build commerce and economic development in our community.

Mr. Ito holds the position of Vice Chair at HJCC, and as result we have worked closely together, particularly to transform our organization. I have seen first-hand his executive level acumen, empathy and ability to effectively gain results from volunteers, who are busy with their daily duties and lives. Having served on the State Commission on Water Resource Management, I know how critically important these traits are for accomplishing beneficial results.

The sustainable future of Hawaii's economy and society is dependent upon the quality and mindset of our workforce. No longer is it sufficient to view our most important resource, people, as simply a tally of jobs or as skilled 'warm bodies' solely needed to create profit. Instead, developing a workforce that understands, embraces and is effective at bringing the Triple Bottomline value proposition to Hawaii businesses and organizations is critical.

Mr. Ito has repeatedly demonstrated this approach to people development throughout his career and most certainly in his work at the HJCC. His insightfulness has led to the creation of HJCC programs that help to develop young members, who are up and coming contributors to society.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Mr. Ito as a member of the Workforce Development Council where he would bring his executive leadership and many years of practicing the development of the whole person, to the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Ms. Workforce's nomination.

Sincerely,
Brian C. Nishida
Founder & CEO: Step Stone Business Development
Chair of the Board: Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce



HAWAII LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Senate Committee on Labor

GM566 & GM567:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, JASON ITO

Dear Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Labor:

On behalf of the nearly 700 members of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private-sector visitor industry organization, it is my pleasure to support the nominations of Jason Y. Ito to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, for the remainder of this fiscal year and for a four-year term to follow.

Mr. Ito is eminently qualified to serve on the board and will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to achieving the council's goals. As a long-time executive with the Kyo-ya Management Company and other major local resorts, he is well-versed in the challenges facing our workforce and what we must do to help our residents compete in a global economy. His acumen in human resources, training, and other elements of business operations should enable him to make immediate and invaluable contributions to fulfilling the goals of the organization.

The visitor industry is keenly interested in the development of a skilled workforce to sustain and grow this core element of the state's economy. The HLTA and its members are engaged in supporting various programs to recruit, train, and retain employees in diverse career fields, and we are confident that Mr. Ito, as a representative of the travel and tourism sectors, can offer fresh insights and perspectives on achieving the council's vital mission.

Jason Y. Ito will make a welcome addition to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, and I thank you for your consideration of his nominations.

Sincerely,

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

BARBARA A. PETRUS

FIRST HAWAIIAN CENTER, SUITE 1600 • 999 BISHOP STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DIRECT DIAL:
(808) 547-5792

MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3196
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801

INTERNET:
bpetrus@goodsill.com

TELEPHONE (808) 547-5600 • FAX (808) 547-5880
info@goodsill.com • www.goodsill.com

March 8, 2018

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

Re: Nominee Jason Ito as a Member of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council (GM
566 and 567)

Position: Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English and members of the Senate Committee on Labor. I am Barbara Petrus, a partner at Goodsill Anderson Quinn & Stifel (Goodsill), testifying in strong support of Jason Ito's confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council for the terms expiring June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2022.

Goodsill is law firm based in Honolulu, Hawai'i and primarily works with local business leaders, as well as mainland and international clients and often consults on matters relating to businesses in Hawai'i. With a long history in the community, Goodsill currently has 60 attorneys and has serviced many industries including financial and healthcare institutions, as well as the hospitality industry. I am the practice group leader for Goodsill's Labor and Employment Law practice group and have practiced in the area of labor and employment law in Hawai'i since 1982.

Jason Ito, Director of Administration, Labor and Community Relations for Kyo-ya Management Co, Ltd., is not only responsible for labor and community relations, he also is actively involved with the business community as exemplified through his memberships in various hospitality industry organizations including Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association, Historic Hawai'i Foundation, and Waikiki Improvement Association.

I have worked with Jason Ito for many years related to labor and employment matters. Jason has tremendous appreciation for understanding and incorporating the workforce perspective. He recognizes the benefits of being proactive and anticipating the challenging changes to Hawaii's workforce landscape.

I respectfully and heartily request that Jason Ito be confirmed as a member of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council. His years of experience in the hospitality industry and as an active member of the local business community will be invaluable to the Council.

March 8, 2018
Page 2

I thank the Senate Committee for allowing me to provide testimony in support of Jason Ito's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Petrus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Barbara A. Petrus

BAP:HHK



March 9, 2018

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Labor

**RE: GM 566 and GM 567 Advise and Consent,
Nominee Jason Ito as a Member of the Workforce Development Council**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 2:45 p.m., Room 229

POSITION: Strong Support

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English and members of the Committee on Labor:

My name is Earl Fusato, Executive Director of Palama Settlement and I am writing in strong support of Jason Ito's confirmation to the Workforce Development Council (WDC) for a term to expire on June 30, 2018 (GM 566) and a term to expire on June 30, 2022 (GM 567). Mr. Ito 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.

Mr. Ito is the Director of Administration, Labor and Community Relations at Kyo-ya Management Co., Ltd. He has extensive and comprehensive work experience in the hospitality industry including automating food and beverage operations; consolidating four reservation operations; leading complex projects including implementing Total Quality Management Project and Y2K Mitigation and Contingency Plans for various Starwood Hotels.

Mr. Ito has served as a Trustee and Officer of Palama Settlement for the past three years. His contribution to Palama has been extraordinary and most giving. He has provided meaningful guidance and input as we develop programs that will benefit our youth as they complete their schooling and prepare to enter the job market. He serves as a role model for our youth, as a local who has achieved professional success in our community and now gives back through continued involvement in the neighborhood.

Mr. Ito's experience also extends to other community service that relates to the needs of Hawaii's workforce. He has worked with both Kamehameha Schools on a college hotel internship program and with Local 5's Hotel and Restaurant Industry Employment and Training Trust's (HARIETT) apprenticeship training program related to its hotel maintenance staff.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Mr. Ito as a member of the Workforce Development Council so he may offer his many years of management knowledge and experience to the Council.

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

Very truly yours,

Earl Fusato
Executive Director, Palama Settlement



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Labor
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 2:45 P.M.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

Re: Governor's Messages 566 & 567, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jason Ito, for a term to expire 6/30/18 & 6/30/22

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** the confirmation of Mr. Jason Ito's nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing 2,000+ 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 its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Mr. Ito has over 35 years experience working within the hospitality industry and has built an incredible career, ultimately leading to his current position for Kyo-ya Management Co., where he serves as Director, Administration, Labor & Community Relations. In his position, one that he has held for over nine years, Mr. Ito has coordinated a variety of successful community partnerships, including one with Kamehameha Schools on a college internship program, and with Unite Here Local 5 to rejuvenate the apprenticeship program, which added eight new maintenance trade positions to support the initiative.

Mr. Ito is duly qualified for the position and we believe he will make a positive contribution to Hawaii's Workforce Development Council based on his extensive experience. His knowledge and understanding of the industry will serve the Workforce Development Council well.

We are confident that he will execute his duties with integrity, fairness, and with a collaborative approach as demonstrated through his work and successful community partnerships. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of his nomination.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for Mr. Ito's nomination.

March 8, 2018

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair and
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Labor

From: Nona Tamanaha

RE: GM 566 & GM567 Advise and Consent, Nominee Aloha Workforce as a Member of the
Workforce Development Council

POSITION: Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English and members of the Committee on Labor. I am Nona Tamanaha, testifying in strong support of Jason Ito's confirmation to the WDC for term(s) to expire on June 30, 2018 (GM 566) and June 30, 2022 (GM567). Mr. Ito 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.

I had the honor of working with Mr. Ito for many years while employed with Starwood Hotels and Resorts, Worldwide, Inc. He has always been someone who has been involved in community organizations and championed the development of our employees and was supportive of mentoring individuals in the workplace and in the community. As the Director, Administration, Labor and Community Relations for Kyo-ya Management Company, Ltd., Mr. Ito has extensive work experience in the hospitality industry. Kyo-ya employs a diverse workforce and is committed to the development of their employees and provides many opportunities for development of individuals in the community through their partnership of high school and college students from our local learning institutions. Mr. Ito serves on the board of many community organizations.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Mr. Ito as a member of the Workforce Development Council where he would bring his many years of hospitality experience and his community connections to your committee.

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