

GM725

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELANIE MATSUI, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Report Title: Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: LBR

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by</u> <u>Date</u>	Status Text
4/3/2018	S Received.
4/3/2018	S Referred to LBR.
4/9/2018	S The committee(s) on LBR has scheduled a public hearing on 04-17-18 2:45PM in conference room 414.

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.

GM725

TESTIMONY OF
MELANIE S. MATSUI

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Hearing Time: 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 414
State Capitol

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English, and the members of the Senate Committee on Labor: thank you for this opportunity to provide you with background information for your consideration of my reappointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board ("Board").

I was born and raised in Wahiawa, Hawaii, where I graduated from Leilehua High School. Thereafter, I attended Eastern Oregon State College for two years, before transferring to Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in English. I also graduated from the Willamette University College of Law, with a Juris Doctor degree.

During my 15 years in private practice, with three firms, I worked in the field of workers' compensation with attorneys who have shared with me their knowledge of, and passion for, that area of law. I also practiced in the field of civil litigation with attorneys who are well-respected and experienced, and who have graciously taken me under their wings. Such experiences have allowed me to understand both civil and administrative proceedings.

Since September 1, 2008, I have been a member of the Board, where I have worked with parties and attorneys in initial conferences, settlement conferences, and status conferences, and participated in deciding trials and motions. I have applied the workers' compensation laws and rules to the cases on appeal and deliberated with the other Board members to make determinations on various issues.

During my tenure, the Board faced difficult times during the economic recession, which included staff reductions. The Board also endured staffing challenges through the retirements of several career employees and Board members. Upon these reductions and retirements, the cumulative years of experience of the Board and staff fell dramatically. This affected the office's productivity and "institutional knowledge," which we endeavor to maintain.

TESTIMONY OF MELANIE S. MATSUI
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR
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Page 2

However, because of these challenges, I had the opportunity to learn a great deal about nearly every aspect of the office's operations, and to help where I could. This has given me a broader and deeper understanding of the services provided by our office.

My experiences over the last 10 years will also assist the Board as we move forward with the Department of Labor's Disability Compensation Division's workers' compensation modernization. I have been involved in these efforts since the beginning and I look forward to the implementation of a modern system for all stakeholders in workers' compensation.

I firmly believe that having impartial, fair, and objective decision-makers is the cornerstone of our legal system. I am committed to ensuring that the Board meets this basic expectation. I look forward to continuing my role in properly and consistently applying the laws to provide quality service to workers' compensation claimants and their employers as well as in cases of boiler and elevator safety.

I believe that my experience and genuine passion for the area of workers' compensation and for all participants provide me with a solid foundation for the position of a Board member. I ask for you to support my nomination for reappointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you very much.

Melanie S. Matsui

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR



DANNY J. VASCONCELLOS
CHAIR

MELANIE S. MATSUI
MEMBER

MARIE C. LADERTA
MEMBER

LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD
KEELIKOLANI BUILDING
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 404
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-8600

April 9, 2018

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: **GM 725 - Support for confirmation and reappointment of
MELANIE S. MATSUI as a Member of the Labor and
Industrial Relations Appeals Board**

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

As a former staff attorney and current executive officer of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (Board) with over 28 years of service at this agency, I have worked under the tenures of 7 board members and 5 chairpersons, providing legal, administrative, and legislative support to the Board.

I believe that I am in a uniquely qualified position to attest to the leadership, legal acumen, successes, and value that Ms. Melanie Matsui has brought to the Board during her tenure.

Hawaii Revised Statutes § 371-4 declares that "because cumulative experience and continuity in office are essential to the proper handling of appeals under workers' compensation and other labor laws, . . . [it is] in the public interest to continue board members in office as long as efficiency is demonstrated."

The following list of major accomplishments and contributions demonstrate Ms. Matsui's efficiency and effectiveness as a member of this Board and provide ample reasons to confirm her appointment for another term:

· In 2008, in her second month on the job, Ms. Matsui used existing lotus notes software to create a networked electronic calendar to keep track of Board trials, conferences,

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April 9, 2018

Page 2

and meetings. Prior to that, the Board used a manual 3-ring binder paper calendaring system.

- Ms. Matsui can be credited for helping to reduce a backlog of decisions from an average of 155 cases for the period of 2008 to 2011 to an average of 59 for the period of 2011 to 2015. She has been and continues to be the most productive writer on the Board, drafting a majority of the agency's decisions.


- From 2012 to 2015, Ms. Matsui led a project to procure and implement an electronic document management system to digitize paper case files. At the Department of Labor, she was an early adopter of paperless initiatives and technology to streamline the appeals process and improve efficiency and productivity.

- In August 2017, Ms. Matsui's skills as a fair and thoughtful adjudicator and efficient administrator were recognized when she was invited by The National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada to lead and facilitate discussions with newly appointed administrative law judges from across the country on issues relating to case management and administrative law.

As the above list demonstrates, Ms. Matsui has been instrumental in eliminating the Board's outdated business processes, promoting policies for a more stream-lined appeals process, and implementing innovative technological solutions to allow the Board to work better and faster.

Ms. Matsui has also established herself to be a thoughtful, prepared, and fair adjudicator who understands the legal issues from both sides and the implications of rulings to potential future cases.

Ms. Matsui understands people and cares about how the Board's decisions impact the injured worker, as well as employers and businesses in our community. She is disciplined, hard-working and will above all do what is right. I am confident that she will continue to serve with honor, integrity, and distinction.


Lily O.C. Ling
Executive Officer

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR



DANNY J. VASCONCELLOS
CHAIR

MELANIE S. MATSUI
MEMBER

MARIE C.L. LADERTA
MEMBER

LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD
KEELIKOLANI BUILDING
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 404
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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April 6, 2018

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF the Confirmation of
Melanie Matsui to the Labor and Industrial
Relations Appeals Board GM725**

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Labor Committee:

I strongly urge your confirmation of Melanie Matsui to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Matsui since my appointment to the Board three years ago.

From the day I started at the Board, it was evident that operations ran seamlessly with an energetic and high performance staff. At the helm of this staff was Melanie Matsui, blazing new trails, with a carefully thought-out plan, navigating the Board from paper operations into the digitized world. Ms. Matsui deserves the lion's share of the credit for the successful implementation of the Board's ambitious electronic document management system which began about three years ago. It was clear early on that Melanie Matsui was an essential player in sustaining the modernization of Board operations.

Her technological skills are only a supplement to her key role as adjudicator and decision-maker in workers' compensation appeals. Ms. Matsui has been a practitioner in the area of workers' compensation most of her career. On the adjudication side, she has developed unique skills in distilling complex issues, and making decisions that are fair to both injured workers and employers.

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The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
April 6, 2018
GM 725

Ms. Matsui is an individual who is willing and able to tackle anything she is tasked with. She is an extremely focused, conscientious individual with high integrity. Ms. Matsui's devotion to her work at the Board is unsurpassed.

Sincerely,
Marie C.L. Laderta
Member



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Labor
Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 2:45 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

**Re: Governor's Message 725, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION
AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS BOARD, GUBINATORIAL NOMINEE, MELANIE
MATSUI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON 6/20/2028**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** the confirmation of Ms. Melanie Matsui to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board for a term to expire 6/30/2028.

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.

As the longest serving board member, Ms. Matsui has served the Appeals Board well with her experience, professionalism and level headedness. We support Ms. Matsui's confirmation to another term to Appeals Board as she is not only duly qualified for the position but her appointment will allow her to continue to make a positive contribution to Hawaii's Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals board based on her broad knowledge and understanding of the industry.

We are confident that she 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 her nomination.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for Ms. Matsui's nomination.

LBRtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Nomination of Melanie S. Matsui to the Labor and Industrial Relations
Appeals Board; GM No. 725

Dear Senator Tokuda and Committee Members:

My name is Glenn Matsumoto, President of Haleiwa Jodo Mission. My hometown is Haleiwa. I graduated from Waialua High School and attended Japanese school until my senior year at Haleiwa Jodo Mission. My parents owned the M. Matsumoto Store, now better known as Matsumoto Shave Ice and taken over by my brother Stanley after my parents passing.

I retired from NAVFAC Hawaii in 2015 as a civil engineer and my wife also retired as a public school special education teacher in 2015. We married in 1980, bought a home in Pearl City, and raised two children. When my son was a sophomore at Pearl City High School and required community service work, I took him to Haleiwa Jodo Mission to accomplish this requirement. I continued to help the church at their monthly Kokua Day. After several years I was asked to be part of the Board of Directors. When our former president stepped down, I became president in 2016.

Melanie's mother is a member of the Kawamura family who worshipped and donated a lot of their time to the church. This is how I got to know Melanie who is also a board of director church member. Like most Buddhist churches the problem is dwindling membership with the passing of our elderly and dedicated members. Melanie's support and dedication to the church is much appreciated. As a result of Melanie's contribution and insight we have accomplished a lot. Besides being in charge of the YBA organization, every year she coordinates our scholarship program, Fall Craft Fair, Bon Dance lantern registration, and helps plan the annual state conventions.

Melanie Matsui is a dedicated and reliable person who will be invaluable to the appeals board. She is intelligent, dedicated, honest, and objective. She studies and evaluates all the data thoroughly and perseveres diligently until the work is completed. You will have no regrets in accepting her nomination.

If you have any questions I can be reached at e-mail address matsumotg005@hawaii.rr.com or call me at (808) 455-3570.

Very Respectfully,

Glenn A. Matsumoto

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Alexandra Demille
Michelle A. Goldman
Charm C. Ghazale
Gregory E. Christie
Dana Amich
John M. Mahood
Nicholas P. Ward
Michelle Kowalski

April 4, 2018

The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda
State Senate Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 725 AND RE-CONFIRMATION OF MELANIE MATSUI TO LIRAB

Dear Chair Tokuda:

Aloha. I am writing in strong support of the re-confirmation of Melanie Matsui. I have known Melanie going back to my days in the mid-1990s when we practiced workers' compensation law in Honolulu. While I represented Kailua and Kaneohe in the State House of Representatives, I also was a lawyer for injured workers. Melanie represented the defense. Though we were on opposing sides before the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB), it was a pleasure litigating and settling cases with her. She is a true professional who knows the law and has a heart filled with aloha.

More recently, until my retirement from the State of Hawaii in December 2014, we served many years together adjudicating workers' compensation appeals as members of LIRAB. Melanie is an exceptional administrative law judge. The Governor reappointed her because of her expertise, judicial temperament, and track record. She exhibits impartiality, courtesy, compassion, humility, and common sense. Melanie has served with distinction. Therefore, I respectfully urge her re-confirmation.

Mahalo mui loa,



BY: D. ALEXANDER PENDLETON
Attorney at Law / Partner

**Child Litigation/
Subrogation Dept.**
Scott A. Star
Tahmeena I. Ahmed
Lexus A. Larres
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SHOPO

April 9, 2018



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Malcolm Lutu

VICE PRESIDENT
(Vacant - TBD)

TREASURER
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Don Faumuina

DIRECTORS AT LARGE
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(Vacant - TBD)

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Robert Cavaco

HAWAII CHAPTER CHAIR
Todd Pataray

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Christopher Calio

MAUI CHAPTER CHAIR
Mark Vickers

FAX: 808-587-7220

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **GM NO. 725: Reappointment of the Honorable
Melanie Matsui to the Labor & Industrial Relations
Appeals Board**

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair English, Honorable Committee Members:

I write this letter in strong support of the Honorable Melanie Matsui's nomination for reappointment to another term on the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board ("LAB").

I am the President of the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers ("SHOPO"), which is the public-sector union that represents all of our county police officers serving throughout the State of Hawaii. As a police union, we pay particular attention to the appointments to the LAB since many of our officers appear before the board for injuries they have suffered in the line of duty. Some of these injuries are very serious given the circumstances of our daily duties and the volatile and violent situations we encounter every day on the job.

Our review and evaluation of a person applying for a position on the LAB is based on several factors, including but not limited to intelligence, legal knowledge and experience, integrity, judicial temperament and diligence. We use our evaluations to determine whether we will support, oppose or remain neutral on a particular nominee. We take our evaluations and recommendations seriously, as we know that the position we take on a nominee could negatively impact that person's chances for confirmation.

As the largest public law enforcement labor organization in Hawaii, I voice our unequivocal and strong support for Ms. Matsui's nomination as she has a track record of being exceptionally qualified to continue serving on this very important board. This is a very important Board that can decide the health and welfare, including the financial fate of a Claimant if an erroneous decision is made by the LAB. In her position as a current board member, many of our police officers have appeared before her to have their worker's compensation appeals decided. The comments and feedback we have received about Ms. Matsui have been overwhelmingly positive.

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1717 Hoe Street
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Ph: (808) 847-4676 "84 SHOPO"
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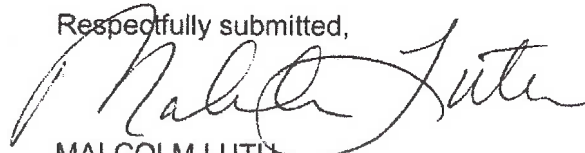
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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1708
Lihue, Hawaii 96766
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The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Labor
Re: GM NO. 725: Reappointment of the Honorable Melanie Matsui to the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeals Board
April 9, 2018
SHOPO Testimony, Page 2 of 2

Ms. Matsui possesses the highest levels of judicial intelligence, detailed knowledge of the worker's compensation arena, personal integrity, diligence and a work ethic that has made her an outstanding board member. Our officers have also commented about how Ms. Matsui made them feel comfortable with the proceedings that have the tone and feel of a formal court trial, her respectful yet down to earth approach, and her focus to make the right decision through her questioning of witnesses and diligent review of the evidence. She is balanced in her approach on the issues, has a calm demeanor and exhibits compassion and an understanding for those who come before the board who find themselves in very difficult and trying circumstances. As police officers, we strive for the highest levels of integrity and ethics and take comfort in knowing that Ms. Matsui is of a like mind and practice. With her sense of fairness, humility, sharp legal mind, broad legal knowledge and even keeled judicial temperament, we believe Ms. Matsui is an excellent choice to continue serving and will continue to do an outstanding job on the LAB.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this applicant and sincerely hope Ms. Matsui will receive your committee's approval and re-appointment.

Respectfully submitted,



MALCOLM LUTU
SHOPO President

LEONG KUNIHIRO BENTON & BROOKE

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Linda Zichittella Leong (1948-2004)

April 5, 2018

The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda
State Senate Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: GM 725 (CONFIRMATION OF MELANIE S. MATSUI TO THE
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD)**

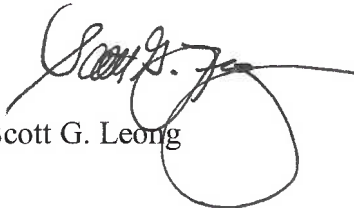
Dear Chair Tokuda:

Our law firm exclusively handles workers' compensation cases before the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (hereinafter "Board"). As such, we have handled cases in which Melanie Matsui has either been an advocate for a client or a member of the Board. Our experience in dealing with Ms. Matsui as a Board member has been positive, her knowledge of the law is unimpeachable, and we believe she possesses the judicial demeanor that makes her approachable and effective. Further, as a former practitioner in the workers' compensation field, she understands the issues, the medical evidence and arguments, the valuation of cases for settlement purposes, as well as the practical implications of the Board's decisions.

Based on the above, we are writing to unequivocally support the confirmation of Ms. Matsui for another term on the Board.

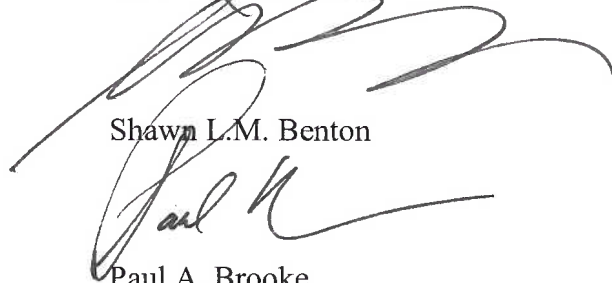
Very truly yours,

LEONG KUNIHIRO BENTON & BROOKE


Scott G. Leong



Gary N. Kunihiro



Shawn L.M. Benton



Paul A. Brooke



Colette H. Gomoto

SGL:sss

xc: Melanie S. Matsui

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April 9, 2018

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 725
Reappointment of Melanie Matsui, Esq. to the
Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Governor Ige:

I am writing to endorse the reappointment of Melanie Matsui, Esq. to the Labor and Industrial Relations Board ("LAB") based on my appearances before the LAB. Without a doubt, Attorney Matsui commands the respect of those who have appeared before her as she is one of the most competent LAB members I have encountered throughout my nearly seventeen years of practice in the area of workers' compensation.

Board Member Matsui is not only knowledgeable of workers' compensation law and cases, but is also extremely adept at clarifying issues and positions so that all parties, including pro se claimants, fully understand the matters being addressed as well as the procedural and legal posture of the case. When a question arises as to the interpretation of an issue, rule or statute, it is Board Member Matsui who restates the matter in simple language and requests confirmation from the parties that they understand the relevant topic.

Board Member Matsui is also an excellent facilitator in resolving appeals. She works strenuously to help parties reconcile their differences and offers options for an expedient and fair disposition of matters on appeal. I recall a case in which the parties were so far apart that I did not believe that settlement was achievable. However, her creative approach and recommendations led to the amicable resolution

of the appeal without the necessity of a trial. Above all, Board Member Matsui treats all parties fairly and with the utmost dignity and respect.

I strongly recommend and urge the reappointment of Board Member Matsui to the Labor and Industrial Relations Board as her knowledge of the law, analytical skills, communication abilities, and professional demeanor are irreproachable.

Respectfully submitted,



SYLVIA K. HIGASHI, ESQ.

LEROY T. KUWASAKI, JR.
Attorney At Law, A Law Corporation

P. O. Box 892737
Mililani, Hawaii 96789
Telephone: (808) 523-6171
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Date: April 11, 2018
To: Labor Committee Chair, Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Fax No. 1 808 587 7220

RE: Retention of Melanie Sayuri Matsui To The
Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Tokuda:

My name is Leroy Kuwasaki, Jr. I am and have been a practicing attorney for longer than forty years. During my years in practice, I came to know Melanie Matsui and asked her to join my law firm. Several years later, Melanie Matsui was appointed to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board where she has served since approximately 2008.

This letter is respectfully submitted to the Senate Labor Committee, in order to provide supportive testimony for the extension of Melanie Matsui's membership on the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Many thanks for your kind attention. If further information is required of me, I can be contacted at the mailing address and phone number shown above or through the email address provided below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leroy T. Kuwasaki Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leroy T. Kuwasaki Jr.
Fax: 808 523-6172
Email: ltkuwasakijr@hawaii.rr.com

Please call 808 523-6171 if you have not received 1 page(s) (including this one cover sheet).

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CHONG, NISHIMOTO, SIA, NAKAMURA & GOYA

ANN H. ARATANI
ROBERT A. CHONG
STEPHEN G. DYER
PATRICIA T. FUJII
STEVEN L. GOTO
KENNETH T. GOYA
RYAN I. INOUBE
GAIL M. KANG
DOROTHY P. H. MEISNER
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LAUREN A. SUGAI
PHILIP S. UESATO
MICHAEL J. VAN DYKE
J. THOMAS WEBER
DIANE W. WONG

RODNEY S. NISHIDA (1949-2004)

April 12, 2018

Via E-Mail: lbrtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda:

The undersigned lawyers of *Chong, Nishimoto, Sia, Nakamura & Goya* are members the employment law division of the firm with the emphasis of our practice on workers' compensation law. A significant amount of our cases involve matters which are litigated on appeal before the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Our combined trial experience before the Board dates back several decades.

We fully support without any reservations the confirmation of Governor David Ige's nomination of **Melanie S. Matsui** to serve on the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board for a term that expires June 30, 2028.

Now with 10 years of past experience under her belt serving as a member on the Board since September 2008, Ms Matsui has proven she is fully capable of doing an excellent job. We believe she is perhaps one of the best qualified jurists in our legal community to serve another term. She *has earned the respect* from both the defense (employers') and claimants' [injured workers'] bar as a dedicated, diligent, fair, and always prepared Board member. She is always willing to work with the parties to attempt to amiably resolve claims to avoid costly litigation. She knows and appreciates the practice of workers' compensation law in Hawaii and understands the nuances of the litigation which has made her an effective Board member. We are confident she will continue to be an effective and contributing member on the Board with the same resolve.


Notwithstanding Ms. Matsui's past legal experience coming from the defense side of the fence before joining the Board in 2008 which many thought would pre-dispose her to being more conservative in her rulings, the history of her decisions on appeal have proven otherwise. She has instead attempted to take a position of fairness for both sides. She makes a

Senator Jill Tokuda
April 16, 2018
Page 2

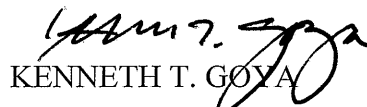
sincere effort to assist the litigants through the appellate process and attempts to make certain the parties have exhausted the possibility of settlement before a trial de novo. While Ms. Matsui certainly exhibits compassion and patience when appropriate, she knows when to stand firm when justice demands control. She does not hesitate to exercise a certain level of sternness to maintain civility and professionalism at both pre-trial proceedings and during trials. As practicing lawyers who frequently appear before her, she has earned our complete respect and support.

We believe Governor Ige has made a wise and excellent decision by nominating Ms. Matsui to serve as a member of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board until June 30, 2028. We urge you and your Committee on Labor to confirm her.

Very truly yours,



ROBERT A. CHONG



KENNETH T. GOYA



J. THOMAS WEBER



PHILIP S. UESATO



LAUREN A. SUGAI

RAC:dmo

GALLAGHER KANE AMAI

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J. PATRICK GALLAGHER
JOELLE SEGAWA KANE
JACQUELINE W. S. AMAI
LEAH M. REYES

ERIN I. MACDONALD
KATHERINE Y. KOGA
CATHY S. JUHN
KAMALOLO K. KOANUI-KONG
MICHELLE H. TAKAHASHI

In Memoriam
JEFFREY Y. HIGASHI

April 16, 2018

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
Chairperson
Senate Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Governor's Message 725 - Confirmation of Appointment of
Melanie S. Matsui, Esq., to the Labor and Industrial Relations
Appeals Board, State of Hawaii**

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Please consider this letter in support of MELANIE S. MATSUI for appointment as a Member of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, State of Hawaii.

I have known Ms. Matsui since the mid-90s when we were both associate attorneys at Kessner Duca Umebayashi Bain & Matsunaga and our practice areas overlapped with the defense of workers' compensation claims. From then, Ms. Matsui's commitment and dedication to her clients, the firm, and the community at large were evident and commendable.

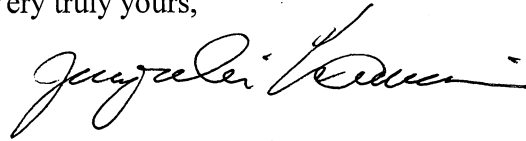
The focus of my practice continues to be the defense of workers' compensation claims and I regularly appear before the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Ms. Matsui's significant contributions and positive influence upon the Board during her first term as a member are readily apparent in its decisions and operations. I believe that the wealth of experience and knowledge that Ms. Matsui brought with her and gained from her first term will continue to enhance the Board's depth and flexibility and support its administration of the workers' compensation system in an efficient and just manner. There is no question that Ms. Matsui will continue to fulfill the responsibilities of a board member with all of the fairness, professionalism, and respect that she is known for.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of her appointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Re: GM 725
April 16, 2018
Page 2

Thank you for this opportunity and your time in this regard.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacqueline W. S. Amai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jacqueline W. S. Amai

April 9, 2018

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
Senate Committee on Labor
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

GM 725 – Testimony in Support of Confirmation and Reappointment of
Melanie S. Matsui as a Member of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Dear Senator Tokuda, Vice-Chair J. Kalani English, and Members of the Committee:

I write to advocate confirmation and reappointment of Melanie S. Matsui to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board ("Board").

I worked in the specialty area of workers' compensation for some 45 years, including service as Chair of the Board for seven years until my retirement in December 2013. I worked directly with Ms. Matsui for five years as a quasi-judicial colleague and also as a private practitioner and adversary, although our firm affiliations differed.

Although several years have passed since I retired, I believe that I can provide a fair and accurate assessment of Ms. Matsui's capabilities and can readily stand in full support of her confirmation and reappointment.

Rather than providing a purely academic resume-like list of Ms. Matsui's background and work at the Board while I was Chair, your evaluation of her would best be served if you knew some of the special skills she possesses. Of course, as a practitioner in the field and a longtime member of the Board, she possesses the familiarity, skills and special acumen to deal with other private practitioners, the Board's staff and with personnel of other related State agencies. Also worthy of particular mention, she provided the Board with well-reasoned drafts of decisions for review, comment and revision. She worked tirelessly and with boundless energy. Her writing skills are superb. I daresay decision-making by the Board would have been much less doable without her special drive and efforts.

While the ability to grind out work is good for productivity in any court-like entity, Ms. Matsui was able to handle it and multiple other tasks with creativity and enthusiasm. She augmented and built office systems regarding calendar and case control and added to the Board's computer assets to maximize productivity even further. Her special aptitude and technical expertise in dealing with computers in general is something I came to envy. Ms. Matsui was frequently consulted and her technical knowledge tapped to the Board's benefit in all matters of information technology. She thus filled a knowledge and experiential gap that benefitted the whole Board.

Ms. Matsui's talents and expertise immeasurably enabled the Board to accomplish other tasks related to the Board's legislative, budget and other administrative functions.

From her days as a private practitioner in law firms of various sizes, Ms. Matsui has also devoted time and personal energy to serve in leadership positions in her church. She has selflessly served in those positions, sharing her broad knowledge with all concerned without diminishing her achievements and performance of her private practice and duties with the Board.

Above all, it cannot be overlooked that she is a genuinely good person who can contribute to guiding the Board in developing directional goals that are understandable and optimally fair.

Roland Q.F. Thom,

Former Chair (Ret.),
Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

SESNITA A.D. MOEPONO
P.O. BOX 17638
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

APRIL 16, 2018

Senate Committee on Labor

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Kalani J. English, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Member
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Member
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Member

RE: GM 725 – Gubernatorial Nominee Melanie Matsui to the Labor & Industrial Relations Appeal Board (LIRAB)

It is with great pleasure that I submit my testimony in support of Ms. Matsui's Gubernatorial nomination to the Labor & Industrial Appeals Board. I have known Ms. Matsui for the past six years as a colleague at the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR). She is a hard worker and has spear-headed LIRAB's venture into the digital world. She also volunteers for DLIR events, i.e. Food Bank, Aloha United Way, Employee Recognition, etc.

Ms. Matsui has been on LIRAB for over nine years. Her institutional knowledge and experience will continue to serve LIRAB and the community well.

Aloha,


Sesnita Moepono

From: [Scott Devenney](#)
To: [LBR Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Melanie Matsui's confirmation
Date: Sunday, April 8, 2018 11:28:07 AM

I have worked as a hearing officer at the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (“Appeals Board”) for the last six and a half years, and I am personally familiar with how much Melanie Matsui has strengthened the Appeals Board during her first term. This is to voice support for Melanie Matsui being confirmed as a member of the Appeals Board for a second term.

Melanie works harder than anyone at the Appeals Board, and she is the glue that holds the Appeals Board together. I am glad she was nominated by the governor, and I hope she is confirmed for another term.

Scott R. Devenney
Sent from my iPad

From: [Ann Watanabe](#)
To: [LBR Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on behalf of Melanie Matsui
Date: Monday, April 9, 2018 10:33:09 AM

Attn: Jill N. Tokuda

Dear Ms. Tokuda:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit an email in support of Melanie Matsui. I have known Melanie S. Matsui for over 20 years. I am currently employed by Kaimuki Christian School as a teacher and administrator. However, prior to my work with Kaimuki Christian School, I was a practicing attorney for nearly 15 years and an associate attorney then partner at Rush Moore (formerly, Rush Moore Craven Sutton Morry and Beh), handling civil litigation and workers' compensation cases. During this time, I became well acquainted with Melanie and her work as a workers' compensation attorney. I have no doubt that Melanie is the best person to be a member of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board, and I urge that she be confirmed as such.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or comment. Thank you for your kind consideration of the foregoing.

Yours truly,
Ann K. Watanabe

--

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9

From: [Ley, Rock B](#)
To: [LBR Testimony](#)
Subject: GM725: Gubernatorial Nominee MELANIE S. MATSUI, for reappointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board for 2018-2028
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 4:18:31 PM

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Senate Committee on Labor, and committee members
FR: Rock B. Ley, Staff Attorney, Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB)
DATE: April 11, 2018

RE: Confirmation hearing for LIRAB reappointment nominee MELANIE S. MATSUI, on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 2:45 p.m.

It is with great pleasure that I highly recommend your confirmation of Ms. Matsui for a second term as a Board Member of LIRAB. I have the privilege of working with Ms. Matsui, and I am familiar with her many contributions to LIRAB's proceedings. Ms. Matsui has a keen knowledge of workers' compensation law, she is an excellent writer of LIRAB decisions, and she works tirelessly to assist the LIRAB Chair with the many administrative functions of LIRAB. Of great assistance to LIRAB's operation, Ms. Matsui is very knowledgeable about computers, and she has spearheaded the electronic modernization of LIRAB's document filing and retrieval system. Ms. Matsui is a dedicated public servant, and she has the judicial temperament needed to adjudicate cases that come before this quasi-judicial appeals board.

Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Matsui's reappointment.

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 2:36:29 PM

Testimony for LBR on 4/17/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David J. Mikonczyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am an Attorney with 33 years of experience in handling worker compensation cases in Hawaii on behalf of injured workers. I have known Melanie for a considerable period of time both as an adversary practitioner and in appearances before the LIRAB. She is hard working and honest. At the LIRAB she is very proficient and has been very instrumental in resolving claims at settlement conferences and is very dedicated. I can not say I agree with all the LIRAB decision but I do believe she listens to arguments and provides due consideration. I do support her continued participation as a Board member.
Respectfully submitted David J. Mikonczyk

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 9:23:47 AM

Testimony for LBR on 4/17/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathalie Pettit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Melanie Matsui to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB) for another term.

I have the pleasure of appearing before Ms. Matsui in my capacity as a workers' compensation practitioner. During this time, I have come to know and respect her a great deal. Her intellect is keen and I am impressed by her command of the law and familiarity with the issues. Yet, it is not her distinguished resume and experience on the LIRAB that stand out the most to me, but her kindness, compassion, service to others and commitment to reach a just result. I cannot think of a better combination of qualities for a LIRAB member who must decide the fate of injured workers and employers alike.

Thank you for your consideration and service to our community.

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/14/2018 9:48:32 AM

Testimony for LBR on 4/17/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JANICE FUKUDA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There has been notable progress in the improved efficiency and consistency since Melanie Matsui's appointment to the Labor Appeals Board. I strongly support her reappointment.

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/14/2018 10:06:31 AM

Testimony for LBR on 4/17/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacey Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a 34-year-old working professional and I have know Melanie Matsui on a personal level for most of my adult life. I feel it is extremely important to have someone of her integrity, honesty and intelligence on the Labor Appeals Board. Please know that labor issues are important to my generation and I strongly urge you to confirm her reappointment.

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/14/2018 10:25:29 AM

Testimony for LBR on 4/17/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
glenn fukuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Although I am currently retired I spent most of my career in retail management. During this time I had to deal with a variety of employment situations and I felt compelled to testify in support of Nelanie Matsui's reappointment to the Labor Appeals Board. I have known her personally and professionally for over 20 years and feel she is the best candidate for reappointment.

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF REAPPOINTMENT OF MELANIE S. MATSUI
TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD**

April 14, 2018

Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Labor
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
State Capitol -- 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 414
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message No. 725: Confirmation of Labor and Industrial Relations
Appeals Board Nominee Melanie S. Matsui for term to expire 6/30/2028
Hearing Date and Time: April 17, 2018 at 2:45 p.m.

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor,

I submit this testimony in support of Melanie S. Matsui for reappointment as a member of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Ms. Matsui has dedicated approximately a decade to the enhancement and improvement of the Labor and Industrial Relations Board through her years of workers' compensation insurance legal knowledge, technological improvements at the Board, and efforts to allow all parties to be equally heard at Board proceedings.

Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 371-4 states that both cumulative experience and continuity in the office are essential to the proper handling of appeals under workers' compensation law and other labor laws and that it is in the public interest to continue board members in office as long as efficiency is determined. Within the decade, Ms. Matsui is the only Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board member to serve out a full term of appointment and she is currently the Board member with the most years of service on the Board. Thus, I believe that it is in the best interests of the State that Ms. Matsui be confirmed to a ten year term.

Having Ms. Matsui on the board for another ten (10) year term will allow our community to continue to receive thorough, balanced, and fair legal determinations based on the Hawaii appellate court rulings and guidance as well as a Board that seeks to improve efficiency, service, and resolution of appeals in a timely manner. Ms. Matsui offers our community a fair and objective legal analysis of workers' compensation claims. She does not succumb to the proclivities of her prior insurance defense legal background and not only strives but also maintains a balanced approach to the review of the facts in each claim and application of the statutes, administrative rules, and case law of Hawaii's appellate courts. Therefore, I humbly request that you confirm Ms. Matsui's reappointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Very truly yours,

Karen Tashima

GLENN SHIMABUKURO



April 5, 2018

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Chair, Senate Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board (LIRAB)

Dear Senator Tokuda:

I am writing to you in support of Melanie Matsui's reappointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board.

I have been in the insurance industry for 38 years and have known Ms. Matsui since she started her legal career. She began in private practice and has dedicated the last 10 years serving on the Appeals Board. She has served with distinction and will continue to do so, if reappointed.

She is intelligent, diligent, hard-working and most importantly is a person with much integrity.

She has shown her qualities over the past 10 years of service and will only improve over the next 10 years. Her reappointment will assure a continuation of thoughtful and timely decisions.

Your consideration is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Shimabukuro'.

Glenn Shimabukuro

LBR Testimony

From: Jennifer Yusi <jyusi@rmhawaii.com>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 1:00 PM
To: LBR Testimony
Subject: GM725

Categories: Processed

I am writing in support of the nomination of Melanie S. Matsui for reappointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I am a specialist in workers' compensation defense and have appeared in front of the Board many times and have had numerous dealings with Ms. Matsui. She is diligent, conscientious, ethical, and knowledgeable. For those reasons, I support her nomination. Thank you.

Jennifer M. Yusi, Esq.
Rush Moore LLP
A Limited Liability Law Partnership
Pacific Guardian Center, Mauka Tower
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
JYusi@rmhawaii.com
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DENNIS W.S. CHANG

Attorney at Law, A Limited Liability Law Corporation

WORKERS' RIGHTS – LABOR LAW
WORKERS' COMPENSATION
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
LABOR UNION REPRESENTATION
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BODILY INJURIES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

TO: COMMITTEE ON LABOR
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Stanley Chang, Member
Brian T. Taniguchi, Member
Les Ihara, Member

FROM: Dennis W. S. Chang, Attorney-at-Law

DATE: Tuesday, April 17, 2018

TIME: 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: GM 725 Confirmation of **Melanie S. Matsui** as
Member of Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board

Without hesitation, I **support** the confirmation of Melanie S. Matsui as a member of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board's ("LIRAB"). As a current member, she has proven superb qualifications and has capably fulfilled her ongoing responsibilities. She is a wise logical selection with her intellect, maturing legal skills, and fair, balanced, and objective view and application of the law. We need to embrace her as an exceptional asset devoted to public service.

She is dedicated and shares responsibility for LIRAB's transformation into as a more transparent and more efficient agency. As the current senior board member, she brings experience, continuity, and special knowledge. She has the required command of the law, old-fashion hard work, compassion, and integrity. She is evolving and is dedicated to a collaborative transformation. Together she, Chair Danny Vasconcellos, and member Marie C. Laderta share LIRAB's mission to serve as exemplary public servants and nurture the changes needed to promote public confidence in the agency's help and delivery of services.

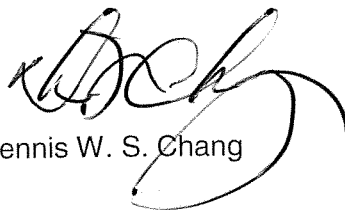
At this critical period, she brings honesty, flexibility, continuity and effectiveness, and unselfish willingness to share and accept responsibilities. This is the most outstanding, talented, professional, experienced, and knowledgeable LIRAB *quasi-judicial* board ever assembled in my 40-years of practice in this area. By her confirmation, LIRAB also avoids the expected delays, abrupt changes, and other uncertainties during a transition of a new and unexperienced appointee. She complements other devoted and compassionate voices of Chair Vasconcellos and member Laderta, seasoned and respectable attorneys whom I have supported and continue to support. The appointment and confirmation process of a member is refreshing and, hopefully, will continue in selecting for confirmation a deserving individual, a proven talent, experienced with

a special superior command of the needs of injured workers in a unique workers' compensation ("WC") process. We need her vast expertise and experience and textbook example of traits and character as the most qualified individual and her swift confirmation.

My strong and unequivocal support is made with much deliberation and more than four decades of professional relationships with most past and current LIRAB members. I decided on an informed decision, will not remain silent, and use this rare opportunity to make a contribution to the LIRAB as an institution we cherish as becoming a model agency and legacy.

Thank you for allowing me to wholeheartedly endorse Melanie S. Matsui's confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis W. S. Chang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dennis W. S. Chang

THE SENATE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
LEGISLATURE

Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Sen. J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Hearing: Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Place: Room 414, State Capitol

**TESTIMONY OF LOWELL K.Y. CHUN-HOON
RE: GM 725, REAPPOINTMENT OF MELANIE MATSUI
TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

I am pleased to support the appointment of Melanie Matsui to the position as a member of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board. I have practiced in the area of workers' compensation and appeared before the Board itself for some forty-one years. My practice also encompasses the representation of two public sector and one private sector union. I served as opposing counsel in several cases involving Ms. Matsui, prior to her appointment to the Board.

An ideal Board member of the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board should possess qualities of integrity, intelligence, and empathy. Ms. Matsui possesses each one and all of these traits.

In all of my many dealings with Ms. Matsui, she has impressed me with her calm, even-handed, and reasoned presence. Both in private practice and as a current member of the Board, she consistently demonstrated a thorough grounding in our workers' compensation statute and is invariably well-prepared. In settlement conferences, she is practical and makes constructive suggestions for the resolution of claim, and I, for one, have always appreciated her adeptness at claim evaluation, and I have found her evaluations and recommendations to be highly useful. She is able to maintain a positive outlook in the midst of seemingly intractable problems, and this an invaluable asset in area of legal practice whose subject matter inherently involves the attempt to overcome injury, disability, and pain.

I would also observe that on some occasions I have disagreements with Ms. Matsui's decisions. She has ruled against my position on occasion, as is inevitable, given the volume of cases we both handle. However, I raise this point to illustrate a trait of hers that has become increasingly rare in our national discourse—the ability to have reasoned disagreements, with other points of view yet maintain respect. From my own

perspective, this capacity to have reasoned disagreements is very valuable for adjudicators and litigants alike and enhances the rule of law itself//

Ms. Matsui is also easy to work with because of her high level of competence, her quick comprehension of arguments, and because as a personality type she is friendly, pleasant, straight forward, and welcoming. These are attributes that have served her well as contested claims can be fraught with emotion, where pro se litigants must be handled with patience and compassion, and where the Board's workload requires the adjudication of a high volume of claims.

For all these reasons, I endorse Ms. Matsui's reappointment and urge the Committee on Labor and Public Employment to confirm her reappointment.

KING, NAKAMURA & CHUN-HOON

Lowell K.Y. Chun-Hoon

LATE

GM-725

Submitted on: 4/16/2018 11:10:23 PM

Testimony for LBR on 4/17/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blaine W. Fujimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair English, and Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony **in support** of Member Melanie Matsui's reappointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board ("LIRAB"). The hearing on this matter is scheduled for April 17th, 2018 and I respectfully request your consideration of this testimony.

In the course of my practice as a specialist in workers' compensation ("WC") defense before the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, I've had the opportunity to appear before Ms. Matsui in her capacity as Member of the LIRAB. In addition to being extremely knowledgeable from her years of experience as a WC practitioner and Member, her analytical and personal skills and professional demeanor make her a highly effective claim evaluator and communicator. Finally, she is ethical, friendly and approachable which serves her well amongst her colleagues, parties and counsel.

For these reasons, I support Ms. Matsui's reappointment to the LIRAB. Thank for your consideration.

Blaine W. Fujimoto, Esq.

OSHIMA, ITOMURA & FUJIMOTO

841 Bishop Street, Suite 2104

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 538-0040

Facsimile: (808) 599-3620

E-mail: bfujimoto@oifhawaii.com

LATE

OSHIMA, ITOMURA & FUJIMOTO ATTORNEYS AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION

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DARLENE Y.F. ITOMURA
BLAINE W. FUJIMOTO

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April 17, 2018

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Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice-Chair
State Senate Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 725 CONFIRMATION OF MELANIE MATSUI TO THE LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS APPEALS BOARD

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair English, and Honorable Committee Members:

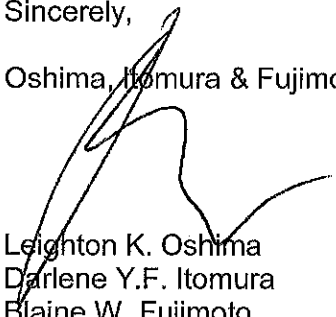
Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Member Melanie Matsui's reappointment to the Labor and Industrial Relations Appeals Board ("LIRAB"). The hearing on this matter is scheduled for April 17, 2018 and we respectfully request your consideration of this testimony.

In the course of our practice in workers' compensation ("WC") defense before the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, we've had the opportunity to appear before Ms. Matsui in her capacity as Member of the LIRAB. In addition to being extremely knowledgeable from her years of experience as a WC practitioner and Member, her analytical and personal skills and professional demeanor make her a highly effective claim evaluator and communicator. Finally, she is ethical, friendly and approachable which serves her well amongst her colleagues, parties and counsel.

For these reasons, we support Ms. Matsui's reappointment to the LIRAB. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Oshima, Itomura & Fujimoto



Leighton K. Oshima
Darlene Y.F. Itomura
Blaine W. Fujimoto
Matthew K. Wong