

# GM509

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN UEKAWA, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board

Current Referral: CPH

**Testimony of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Friday, March 29, 2019  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 509, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOHN UEKAWA,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kedin Kleinhans, and I am the Executive Officer of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Mr. John Uekawa's interim appointment to the Board as an industry member.

Mr. Uekawa has served on the Board as an interim appointee since July 18, 2018. He attended his first board meeting on October 16, 2018, and has attended all of the three scheduled board meetings. Mr. Uekawa actively participates in meeting discussions and demonstrates he is prepared for the matters on the Board's agendas.

Mr. Uekawa has served as the general manager and president of New City Nissan in Honolulu since 1995. He is also dedicated to his community, having served on multiple boards of directors for schools and non-profits and as the Maryknoll Schools softball coordinator for 13 years.

The Board believes that Mr. Uekawa's interest in serving on the Board, experience in the profession, and desire to contribute to the community will enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



John Uekawa, President  
Dave Rolf, Executive Director

**LATE**

HADA TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT  
of GM509

Relating to the Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee John Uekawa  
To Serve as an Industry Member of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board  
for a term to expire 6-30-2020  
Presented to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
at the Public Hearing, 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 28, 2019  
Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee:

The members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association (HADA), Hawaii's franchised new car dealers, appreciate the opportunity to offer **strong support** for the confirmation of Mr. John Uekawa to serve as an industry member of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, for a term to expire 6-30-2020.

Mr. Uekawa is the current serving president of HADA and is eminently qualified to to serve on the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board. He has served as the general manager / president of New City Nissan from 1995 to the present.

In 2016, HADA members named Mr. Uekawa the Hawaii State Dealer of the Year.

Also in that year he was named the Monsignor Charles A. Kekumano Award recipient.

His dealership has won the Nissan Global Award (1 year) and the Nissan Award of Excellence (5 years).

The members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association consider it a privilege to provide our highest recommendation for the confirmation of Mr. Uekawa.

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Rolf

For the Members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association





BENJAMIN A. KUDO  
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**LATE**

March 28, 2019

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

From: Benjamin A. Kudo  
Ashford & Wriston  
999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM-509 – Consideration and confirmation to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN UEKAWA - **SUPPORT**.  
Hearing date: Friday, March 29, 2019  
Hearing time: 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and the support of your Committee members on the appointment of Mr. John Uekawa to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board.

I have known Mr. Uekawa for over 25 years. His many years of service in the automotive industry has given him the ability and experience to be an excellent member of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board. He is a person of high integrity, compassion and intelligence and has the capability to meet the challenges of this position. Mr. Uekawa will faithfully carry out his responsibilities as a member of the Board.

Based on the foregoing, I recommend with no reservation your favorable consideration of Mr. John Uekawa for the aforementioned position. He is a person who will prove to be worthy of your support.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully urge your Committee's support to confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON  
  
Benjamin A. Kudo

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**Dr. Franklin T Kudo**  
400 Hobron Lane #3010  
Honolulu, HI 96815

March 27, 2019

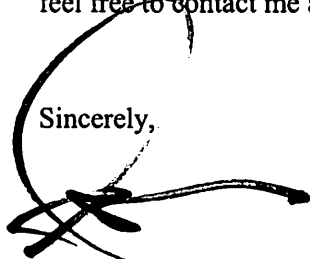
Hawaii State Legislature  
Hawaii State Capital  
Honolulu, HI 96813

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this testimony for Mr. John Uekawa (GM509) who is a candidate for the Hawaii State Motor Vehicle Licensing Board. I have known Mr. Uekawa for approximately 27 years both personally and professionally. When I first met John in 1992 he was the Mazda Dealer Operations Manager and provided new vehicle support to the automotive dealership group that I served as President. In 1995 I selected John to serve as my General Sales Manager for New City Nissan in Honolulu, HI. During that time John has proven himself to be an excellent businessman and a man of integrity. His competitive drive to achieve brought New City Nissan to garner five (5) Nissan Award of Excellence and a Global Excellence Award from Nissan USA which is only given to the top 30 dealerships in the US. Currently John serves as a shareholder and General Manager/President of New City Nissan as well as the owner of a new Nissan dealership to open in Kapolei. He has served on the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association (HADA) for 22 years as a director and officer, and has also served on the Nissan National Dealer Advisory Board for eight years and the Nissan Regional Dealer Board for 9 years, serving six years as its Chairman. Additionally, his dedication to his family and to the community was recently honored when John received the Monsignor Charles A Kekumano Award in 2016. John is an active board member of the Variety Schools, Honolulu Zoo, St. Anthony School and Easter Seals.

There is no question that John has extensive experience in the automobile business both in retail and wholesale operations as well as serving in many leadership positions in industry organizations and the community. He is an exemplary leader in the automotive business and has the necessary credentials to be a member of the Motor Vehicle Licensing Board. If you have any further questions about John please feel free to contact me at 808-341-3480 or [fkudo@hawaii.edu](mailto:fkudo@hawaii.edu)/[dooter1910@aol.com](mailto:dooter1910@aol.com).

Sincerely,



Dr. Franklin T Kudo  
Chairman & CEO, New City Nissan  
Professor of Accounting, University of Hawaii – West O`ahu