

**GM-562**

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 11:34:48 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/21/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan S. Hayashi	Testifying for Workforce Development Council, Board Vice Chairman	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts:

My name is Alan S. Hayashi, Vice Chairman of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) Board, and am testifying in strong support of Karen Wong to become a member of the WDC Board.

Karen brings extensive knowledge of the sector she represents and will be valuable in contributing sector information during the WDC Board's deliberations on many workforce matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Aloha, Alan S. Hayashi

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**JOSH GREEN**  
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/>

February 21, 2019

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

From: Allicyn Hikida Tasaka, Executive Director  
Workforce Development Council

RE: GM 562 Gubernatorial Nominee Karen Wong to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council for a term to expire June 30, 2022

Hearing: February 21, 2019; 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room 224

POSITION: Strong Support

Good afternoon, Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts. I am Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) testifying in strong support of Ms. Karen Wong's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. Ms. Wong would fill a slot reserved for a workforce sector member in the category of disability and training representation on the Council.

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. The agency 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. The WDC is administratively attached to the DLIR.

Ms. Wong is Vice President of Administration for Lanakila Pacific, an organization that provides valuable employment and job training for people with disabilities. She has served in leadership positions in both the non-profit and for-profit businesses such as Ballet Hawaii, OnCare Hawaii, People Attentive to Children (PATCH) and as a Certified Public Accountant has worked with First Hawaiian Bank, Waterhouse, Inc., and Deloitte & Touche. Additionally, she has volunteered her services as Treasurer with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii, PATCH, The Immigrant Center, among others.

Upon her appointment to the WDC, Ms. Wong has regularly attended board meetings and accepted the role of Vice Chair of the Finance Committee where she has reported the budget to the board members and attended the Executive Committee in the absence of the Chair.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Ms. Wong as a member of the Workforce Development Council where she will be a welcome addition to the leadership team sharing her strong administrative experience, understanding of training and the job skills necessary for those with barriers to employment, as well as contribute her wealth of background in financial and auditing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Ms. Karen Wong.



1809 Bachelot Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
Tuesday, February 19, 2019

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

From: Rona Yagi Fukumoto, President and CEO  
Lanakila Pacific

RE: GM 562 Gubernatorial Nominee Karen Wong to the Workforce Development Council for a  
term to expire June 30, 2022  
Hearing: Thursday, February 21, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m., State Capitol Room 224

POSITION: Strong Support

Good afternoon Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts. I am Rona Yagi Fukumoto, President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific testifying in strong support of Karen Wong’s confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. If confirmed, Karen would fill a slot reserved for a private sector member on the Council.

Lanakila Pacific is a non-profit organization that builds independence for thousands of people living challenged lives. Our programs and services enable individuals with cognitive, physical and age-related disabilities to reach their potential, while fostering self-sufficiency and promoting community inclusion.

Karen Wong is the Vice President of Administration for Lanakila Pacific. She was previously Lanakila Pacific’s VP of Workforce Resources, and has over 25 years of experience in accounting, finance, and management of both profit and non-profit organizations. Karen currently oversees the operations of our finance, human resources, IT, and facilities departments.

In her role as VP of Workforce Resources, Karen tirelessly advocated for opportunities for people with disabilities to be included in competitive employment. In our social enterprises which include catering and school lunches, custodial and landscaping services, as well as screen-printing and embroidery, 75% of direct labor hours were performed by employees with significant disabilities. Karen is committed to ensuring opportunities for inclusion for those with disabilities in the workforce. This commitment, along with her vast experience in management and administration, makes Karen a great fit on the Council.

**Lanakila Pacific Board**  
Scott Nahme, *Chair*  
Carl Hinson, *Vice Chair*  
Kristi O’Heron, *Secretary*  
Dwayne Takeno, *Treasurer*  
Bob Toyofuku  
Suzanne Kaulukukui

JoAnn Yosemite  
Savan Patel  
Tom Hutton  
Maria Borje-Bonkowski  
Sherri Yim  
Paige Choy  
Dawn Hirano  
Frank Ho

**Foundation Board**  
Ryan Yamamoto, *Chair*  
Cleo Brown, *Vice Chair*  
Alton Murakami,  
*Treasurer/Secretary*  
Bill Kern  
Ed Sugimoto

Jackson Nakasone  
Jodi Endo Chai  
Scott Kavanaugh  
Mike Robinson  
Bryan Kapeckas  
Emmit Kane


**President and CEO**  
Rona Yagi Fukumoto



I respectfully urge you to confirm Karen as a member of the Workforce Development Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for Karen Wong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rona Yagi Fukumoto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rona Yagi Fukumoto  
President and CEO

TESTIMONY BY DEREK MIZUNO  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
ON  
**GM 562**  
RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
**KAREN WONG**

February 21, 2019

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of Karen Wong to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. I have known Ms. Wong since 2012 when we worked together for two years at Waterhouse, Inc. During that short period of time, I developed a great amount of respect for Ms. Wong as a co-worker, manager and person. With her background in accounting, Ms. Wong understood the financial aspects of the job which led her to make sound business decisions for the company. In addition, her management style allowed staff to learn and grow under her leadership. Staff were provided with responsibilities commensurate with their skills but also that challenged them to grow and develop. She maintains a high level of integrity and ethics even in difficult circumstances.

I believe that Ms. Wong's various experiences in for profit and not for profit industry, as well as her deep passion for developing and training employees will bring significant value to the Hawaii Workforce Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To: Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

From: Coreen K. Lee, Ed.D

RE: GM 562 - Gubernatorial Nominee Karen S. Wong to the Workforce Development Council  
for Term to expire June 30, 2022

Hearing: February 21, 2019, 3:00 PM in Conference Room 224 of the Hawaii State Capitol

Position: **Strong Support**

Good afternoon Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee on Labor. I am Dr. Coreen K. Lee testifying in **strong support** of Karen S. Wong's confirmation to the Workforce Development Council (WDC) for a term to expire on June 30, 2022.

With extensive proficiency in financial and personnel management, Ms. Wong has over 25 years of management experience in Hawai'i. She currently serves as the Vice President of Administration of Lanakila Pacific overseeing finance, human resources, facilities and IT departments; and previously as their Vice President of Workforce Resources, with oversight duties of the social enterprise divisions.

Ms. Wong has a diverse and comprehensive professional background to bring to the WDC, in both profit and non-profit organizations. Prior to her tenure at Lanakila Pacific, Ms. Wong has held notable positions at First Hawaiian Bank as Vice President & Manager of Wealth Management Service; Waterhouse Inc. as Senior Vice President of their properties division as well as oversight of the Waterhouse Charitable Trust; Executive Director at People Attentive to Children in Hawaii (PATCH); Controller of Waikiki Business Plaza, Inc and Vice President of Finance for Child & Family Services.

Staying active and connected in our community, Ms. Wong has served as Board of Director at organizations including, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Hawaii, The Immigrant Center and Saint Francis Hospice.

Ms. Wong is notably humble and "behind the scenes" in her efforts to improve organizational systems and services. She cares with a passionate perspective, that is fair and solution finding to almost every situation. I respectfully urge you to confirm Ms. Wong as a member of the Workforce Development Council, where she can continue her efforts to positively impact others.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Karen S. Wong.

## Kathy Nishimoto

808.291.0740 | Nishimoto.ohana@hotmail.com

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February 19, 2019

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Labor

From: Kathy Nishimoto, M.Ed

Re: GM 562 Gubernatorial Nominee to the Workforce Development Council for a term to expire June 30, 2022.  
Hearing: Thursday, February 22, 2019 @ 3:00 pm, State Capitol Room 224

POSITION: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Labor. I am Kathy Nishimoto, testifying in strong support of Karen Wong's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2022.

I have known Ms. Wong for over 15 years as a mentor, direct supervisor and valuable community resource. Ms. Wong has a unique background as she brings the perspective of a CPA with profit and non-profit experience. As my supervisor, she modeled her expectations, and provided me with opportunities to grow and learn from my mistakes. We have both since moved to different organizations and through the years, she continues to be a phone call away to guide and support my professional development.

Ms. Wong has an amazing work ethic and attention to detail. She has an out-of-the box creativity that guides her problem solving and aids her success in strategic planning and re-organization.

I highly recommend the confirmation of Karen Wong as member of the Workforce Development Council. Should you have any questions, I would be happy to provide you any additional details on my testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or email. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Karen Wong.



**GM-562**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 2:51:44 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/21/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marian Tsuji	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM 562 Karen Wong for Workforce Development Council

Good afternoon, Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the committee. It is my honor to strongly support the nomination of Karen Wong to the Workforce Development Council.

As the former President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific, I hired Karen as our Vice President for Workforce Development. This program trains and employs individuals with disabilities in various work areas. It is Lanakila's largest program and includes Food Service, Grounds and Custodial Maintenance, and Custom Products. Karen's administrative background in finance and human resources, combined with her operational experience in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors, made her a great candidate. She quickly proved her worth, re-organizing the department and streamlining operations, enabling her managers to grow their respective program areas.

Karen will bring that same skill and expertise to the Workforce Development Council. Her administrative skills will be useful in overseeing the federal dollars allocated to the state; and as an employer of individuals with disabilities, she will bring a different perspective to the Council.

Karen is hard working and the kind of person who puts 200% into any job she takes on. The WDC will benefit from a member like her. I strongly support her nomination.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Marian E. Tsuji