



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 641 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, EDWARD RICHARDSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2022**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** the nomination and confirmation of Edward Richardson to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 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 members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

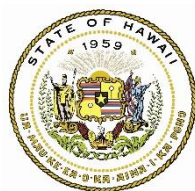
Major General Edward Richardson served as Hawaii's fifteenth adjutant general from 1991-1999, prior to which he held a number of leadership roles, including 199th Fighter Interceptor Squadron command, Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) chief of staff and HIANG commander. He implemented joint Army/Air Guard and State Civil Defense planning, training and emergency response exercises, which were tested during Hurricane Iniki relief operations in 1992.

Since his retirement, General Richardson has served as a valued member of numerous organizations. As an advisor to the Chamber's Military Affairs Council ("MAC"), General Richardson's input has been critical to the success of the MAC as a liaison between the community, state and local government, and the military. Additionally, General Richardson has been serving as a member of the Workforce Development Council since his appointment in 2017, and the Chamber believes that he is more than qualified to continue to serve on this council.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this nomination.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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March 28, 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 641 Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council for a
term to expire June 30, 2022

Hearing: March 28, 2019; 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room 224

POSITION: 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 support of Edward Richardson's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2022.

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.

This is a re-appointment for Mr. Richardson to serve another term on the WDC. He has been an active member of the board having served as Chair of the Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee and member of the Executive Committee. The military committee has been meeting regularly and includes transition service managers and coordinators representing nearly every branch of the military. Discussion has focused on issues such as recruitment of veterans and their spouses at the Department of Education and post-secondary levels, Commercial Driver's License (CDL) licensing process and skills test, employer outreach, impact of cost of living in Hawaii, ways to develop a smoother transition program for outgoing veterans, and availability of

registered apprenticeship programs. Committee members shared of existing programs such as Hire Vets Medallion Program, SkillsBridge, and were briefed on employment laws such as Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA) and Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

Under WIOA law and US Department of Labor-funded job training programs, outgoing military personnel are provided priority of service, as well as eligible spouses, for employment, training, and placement services at the American Job Centers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

GM-641

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 11:18:42 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan S. Hayashi	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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

My name is Alan Hayashi, Vice Chair of the Workforce Development Council. *I rise in very strong support of the re-appointment of MGen Ed Richardson.*

MGen Richardson has been instrumental in creating an effective WDC bridge with the Military and Veteran communities. His committee meetings are well attended by the various Military Service liaisons and great interest has been developed in informing the Military of Hawaii based jobs and opportunities for their spouses.

I support the re-nomination of MGen Ed Richardson to a position on the Workforce Development Council and humbly ask your support. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Aloha, Alan Hayashi

LATE

GM-641

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 2:33:53 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/28/2019 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward V. Richardson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chairman Taniguchi, Vice Chairman Ihara, Senator Gabbard, Senator Chang, and Senator Fevella,

Good Afternoon, I am Edward V. Richardson and I am submitting my name for your consideration to serve on the State Workforce Development Council. I have previously served on the Council from September 2016 thru June 30, 2018 when my term expired. I am aware of the importance of having a well-trained, skilled and productive workforce and was impressed with the time and effort that is being made by volunteers on the WDC and the personnel in the State Department of Labor.

As a member of the Workforce Development Council, I had been chosen to serve as the Chairman of the Military and Veterans Committee. The military trains its people to do a multiple of things, many of which transforms into good jobs in the community. Aircraft mechanics, ship repair, communications and computers, and cyber skills are good examples. Military personnel are good workers, dependable and loyal.

And there have been several changes that have been made recently that benefits those transitioning personnel in the military that want to work in the community where they will be discharged. With their commanders approval, they can go to work and train for a company or organization six months prior to being discharged. Efforts are being made to allow training and licences gained in the military to be transferable to civilian qualifications.

Military spouses can also be a very important part of Hawaii's workforce. Many are qualified school teachers, or experienced nurses, or computer specialists. I believe that previous residency requirements for military spouses have been lifted.

But the competition for transitioning service personnel have been unbelievable. Over 200 major companies from the mainland come to Hawaii every year to offer jobs to our service personnel. The Transition Summit held in October of each year at Schfield Barracks, Pearl Harbor/Hickam and Kaneohe MCBH brings top job recruiters from top companies and mainland state governments to sign up workers for jobs in every city and town on the mainland.

I believe that many transitioning service personnel would like to stay in Hawaii to work but our high cost of living along with our shortage of affordable housing is a major deterrent.

I believe that I can be of help on the Workforce Development Council by working collaboratively with the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's Military Affairs Council, the various service commands in Hawaii and the transition offices from the various services to support our service personnel. Helping those veterans start off on the right foot would help many from been homeless; but much more work needs to be done with our already homeless and unemployed veterans.

Thank you very much for your kind attention. I am ready for any of your questions.