

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination as Director of Finance
Governor's Message No. 502.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering my nomination as Director of Finance.

I was appointed to this position over a half year ago. At the time, the severity of the impending social, economic, and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were not yet understood but addressing the virus and its consequences is now the top priority of the Department of Budget and Finance.

The State is fortunate to have many experienced, knowledgeable, and industrious leaders, public servants, and residents that took the State out of the last recession to what was until recently a relatively strong financial position. The work the Legislature, the Administration, and Hawaii's residents and taxpayers did to shore up reserves and address liabilities may allow us to stave off the worst state budgetary consequences we would otherwise need to endure. There is a lot of work ahead and many difficult choices will need to be made. My education and background will allow me to do my part and engage in our collective efforts to determine where Hawaii needs to go and how we will get there.

During my recent six year tenure as Executive Director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), a State agency with over sixty employees and total assets of \$1,338,689,302 and a total net position of \$1,229,239,061 as of June 30, 2019, I was responsible for the Hula Mae Multi-family Tax-exempt Bond program, the rental housing revolving fund (formerly known as the rental housing trust fund) program, and the dwelling unit revolving fund program. By their nature, these financing programs required significant interaction with the Department of Budget and Finance. I also oversaw the federal and State low-income housing tax credit program and the State general excise tax exemption for certified or approved housing projects.

As the first chair of the State Rental Housing Trust Fund Commission, I was involved with bringing the rental housing trust fund (now known as the rental housing revolving fund) program from legislation, through rulemaking, to implementation. During my tenure as Executive Director, working collaboratively with the Legislature and the Administration, HHFDC made rental housing revolving fund awards totaling close to \$500,000,000 to help finance approximately 4,000 badly needed low-income rental housing units in the State of Hawaii. About 1,500 rental housing revolving fund financed units were also completed during this period. As of June 30, 2019, the rental housing revolving fund was the single largest fund at HHFDC with a total net position of \$782,849,148.

I also served as the chair of the 2001-2003 State Tax Review Commission.

I have a Master of Science in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Laws (in Taxation) from the New York University School of Law. I am a certified public accountant with a permit to practice in the State of Hawai'i and an inactive member of the Hawai'i State Bar Association. Before becoming the executive director of HHFDC in 2013, I practiced as a tax accountant or tax attorney in Hawaii for forty years.

My strengths in the workplace include an accounting and legal background, organizational and administrative skills, experience leading and facilitating the work of State agencies, a working knowledge of public finance in the State of Hawai'i, an understanding of Hawai'i taxes, and the demonstrated ability to manage and reorganize a sixty employee State agency over a period of six years.

Having been the Director of the Department for over six months, I believe that the Department has been fortunate to have experienced staff who have served the State through many administrations. They supported the achievement of the highest bond ratings in the history of the State as a result of responsible budgetary practices and debt management. Their combined institutional knowledge is invaluable and is routinely shared within the Executive Branch and with the Legislative Branch upon request. The Department needs to ensure the retention of this knowledge to see the State through the current COVID-19 pandemic.

As of the beginning of this legislative session, the stated vision of the Department was as follows:

- To be recognized and respected as a leader in prudently developing the State's budget and protecting the State's finances to ensure the sustainability of important public services, including healthcare and pension benefits to State government employees; and

- To be the best organization in the development and administration of public financial resources.

At that time, the goals of the Department were as follows:

- Working collaboratively with stakeholders to produce a thoughtful, well developed, and balanced budget that meets Hawaii's needs while maintaining sufficient reserves;
- Optimize returns on available funds;
- Maximize the receipt, while maintaining sufficient controls over the use of federal funds;
- Effectively manage debt;
- Improve the funding status of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawaii and the Hawaii Employer Health Benefits Trust Fund towards eliminating each program's unfunded liabilities;
- Provide effective legal services while managing caseloads effectively;
- Provide excellent customer service to all stakeholders; and
- Provide a nurturing and rewarding work environment for the Department's team.

Should I be confirmed as Director, I plan to honor the above vision and goals subject to the pressing constraints imposed by the projected \$2,300,000,000 revenue shortfall facing the State for the current biennium. The Department is currently working on:

- Implementing general fund cost saving measures throughout State government;
- Updating of the State's financial plan;
- Preparing for the State's next general obligation bond issue;
- Preparing the budget for the next biennium (which without federal aid could be more challenging than the current biennium);
- Evaluating how best to utilize the Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility as authorized by the Legislature this session; and

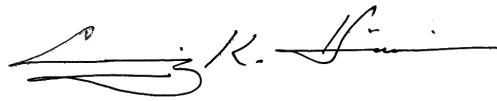
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
July 1, 2020
Page 4

- Modernizing the State Financial System with DAGS and ETS in order to more efficiently track State expenditures and budget variances.

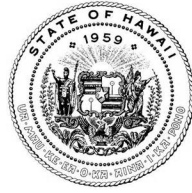
The Department looks forward to working collaboratively with the Legislature to redesign State government in order to effectively deal with a COVID-19 world.

Thank you again for your consideration of my nomination, and please do not hesitate to call me at (808) 586-1519 if you have any further questions.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig K. Hirai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Craig K. Hirai
Director of Finance



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

July 1, 2020
9:30 a.m., Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of
Governor's Message 502

Submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, Craig Hirai

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Craig Hirai to serve as the Director, Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Hirai has a wealth of experience in both the private sector as a tax attorney and consultant and most recently within State government, serving as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation. Mr. Hirai also has recently served as a co-chair to the Hawai'i Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development and has volunteered his time to a number of organizations over his career including the Hawai'i Association of Realtors, Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants, Hawai'i Community Reinvestment Corporation, and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy.

Mr. Hirai was admitted to the Hawai'i State Bar and is a Certified Public Accountant and a licensed Real Estate Broker. He also is American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Certified in Financial Forensics.

With State finances being severely impacted by COVID-19, Mr. Hirai's experience and expertise will be needed to navigate the coming years. I'm confident that he will excel in his leadership at the Department of Budget and Finance. Together, we can emerge from this critical time to build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
COLONEL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 502
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
CRAIG K. HIRAI

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL,
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY,
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

JULY 1, 2020

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Kieth-Agaran and Members of the Committee.

I respectfully request your **SUPPORT** in confirming the appointment of Gubernatorial Nominee Mr. Craig K. Hirai to serve as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Hirai has exceptional academic expertise and practical experience in the finance arena. He has nearly 50 years of service in the public and private sectors and has extensive experience and expertise in law, real estate and accounting. He has also been an effective leader for the state as the Executive Director at the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation for over 6 years and has been instrumental to the Department of Defense in the progress of one of our largest and most important projects, the Hawaii State Veterans Home.

Mr. Hirai is also an exceptional contributing member to our community where he has donated his time to over a dozen different organizations. He is an ideal cabinet member that brings a wealth of intelligence, experience and leadership with a broad foundation in both the public and private sectors having held licenses and/or certifications in law (Hawaii Bar - inactive), accounting (CPA) and real estate (Broker) in the State of Hawaii.

Most importantly, Mr. Hirai is an exceptional human being with high moral character and integrity. He is someone you can trust to do what is right for the State of Hawaii and its people, and he will provide needed vision and leadership to advance our State forward.

Thank you for your consideration and this opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 502 in **SUPPORT** of Craig Hirai.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE WAYS AND MEANS
JULY 1, 2020
9:30 A.M.
AUDITORIUM

Governor's Message NO. 502

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

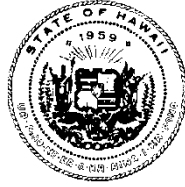
Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM502. As the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds it is critical that the State's finances are well-managed. Mr. Hirai's extensive experience in matters of finance and law in the State evidences his suitability for the task. He has over 40 years of experience in public accountancy and has been a bar-certified attorney in Hawaii since 1978. Mr. Hirai has acted as owner/operator for his accountancy firm, Craig K. Hirai, CPA, LLC, and served as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation from 2013-2019. His broad experience and knowledge of the State's economy and financial standing recommends him as the State's chief financial officer. The Department is in strong support of the nomination of Craig K. Hirai Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of
DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

July 1, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of

G.M. 502

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CRAIG K. HIRAI, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.**

HHFDC ***strongly supports*** the nomination of Craig K. Hirai as Director of Finance. We believe he is eminently qualified for this important position and urge the Committee to advise and consent to his nomination.

Over the past several years, I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Hirai, first while he was the Executive Director of HHFDC, and now in his current position at Budget and Finance. His extensive professional experience, collaborative nature, and strong sense of duty to public service will serve him well in his new position.

Under Mr. Hirai's leadership, HHFDC worked with the private and non-profit sector to complete a little over 4,600 affordable units and another 2,500 more housing units under construction. He was able to work closely with the legislature on dedicating record amounts of funding to affordable housing. Over the past 5 years, he collaborated to secure \$528 million -- over half a billion -- to help build more affordable units.

He was also successful in working with the legislature on expanding HHFDC's DURF program to include financing regional infrastructure and mixed-use residential projects to help projects begin and to leverage affordable housing opportunities in transit-oriented-development and transit-ready development areas.

Prior to joining the government sector, Mr. Hirai was a successful tax attorney, certified public accountant, and realtor. Despite his busy career, he was committed to public service – serving on several public boards including the Rental Housing Trust Fund Advisory Commission for which he chaired, the Board of the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii, and the Board of Public Accountancy. His wealth of expertise in these fields will serve him well in overseeing the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of this nomination.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



RONA M. SUZUKI
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION
DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone: (808) 587-1540 / Fax: (808) 587-1560
Email: Tax.Directors.Office@hawaii.gov

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Rona M. Suzuki, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT of GM 502**

Date: July 1, 2020

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Place: Auditorium, State Capitol

The Department of Taxation (Department) strongly supports GM 502 and the confirmation of Craig Hirai as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Hirai has been serving as the Director of Finance since December 2019. In that time, he has worked with the Department of Taxation (DOTAX) on tax revenue issues impacting the budget.

Prior to his appointment as the Director of Budget and Finance, he worked with DOTAX in his role as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation on issues such as the Low-income Housing Tax Credit.

I am confident that Mr. Hirai will serve the people of Hawaii effectively as the Director of Finance. His knowledge of financial matters coupled with his integrity will enable him to lead the State through this difficult time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 502 and the confirmation of Craig Hirai as the Director of Finance.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



THOMAS WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KANOE MARGOL
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
and members of the Senate Committee of Ways and Means
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 502, Consideration and Confirmation of Mr. Craig Hirai as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Craig Hirai to serve as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance for a term to expire December 5, 2022.

Mr. Hirai has extensive experience in financial management, auditing and reporting and tax law. As a tax attorney with several corporations, a certified public accountant of his own CPA firm, and an executive director for the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation, Mr. Hirai is uniquely qualified to support the Department of Budget and Finance's policy issues, budget development and the monitoring and oversight of its various agencies. Since his appointment as Department of Budget and Finance Director on January 16, 2019, Mr. Hirai has served as a Trustee of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and has demonstrated an immediate ability to grasp the difficult and complex financial issues facing the ERS, the Executive Branch and the State generally. He has provided strong leadership, guidance and management in this vital role. Mr. Hirai brings invaluable professional, public and private sector experience. I have personally worked very effectively with Mr. Hirai since his appointment and believe he will excel in this job.

It is for these reasons and others too numerous to list that I urge the Committee to confirm Mr. Hirai as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

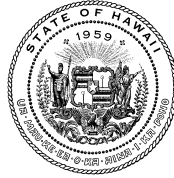
Sincerely,

Thomas Williams
Executive Director
Employees' Retirement System



Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020, 9:30 A.M.
AUDITORIUM, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 502

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **CRAIG K. HIRAI**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 502. I support the nomination of **MR. CRAIG K. HIRAI** to the position of Director for the Department of Budget and Finance.

I've known Mr. Hirai for over 20 years while he did work in the private sector. Mr. Hirai has always been very professional and really knows his "tax issues". His credentials are outstanding, and I know he will give the State of Hawaii one hundred percent of his time and efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, July 1, 2020
9:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Auditorium

in consideration of
GM 502
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of
Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance,
Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG HIRAI,
for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee.

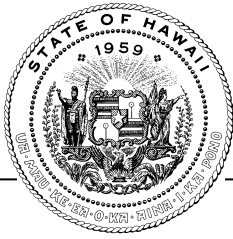
I **support** the appointment of **Craig Hirai** to serve as the Director of Finance, Department of Budget & Finance (B&F).

Since 2019 Craig has been the acting Director of Finance for the Department of Budget & Finance. Prior to this position, he was the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation for six years.

I have worked with Craig since I became a member of the Senate in 1988. He has always been honest, direct and willing to solve complex problems. Given what we must do in the next two years, he will lead B&F with integrity as we all work together to navigate Hawai'i's future.

For these reasons, I support his confirmation as the Director of Finance, Department of Budget & Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, July 1, 2020
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Auditorium
In consideration of
GM 502
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the
Director of Finance for the Department of budget & Finance,
Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI,
for a term to expire on 12-05-2022.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

I respectfully ask your **support** for the confirmation of **Craig Hirai** as Director of Finance.

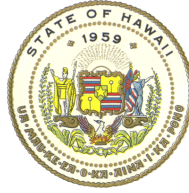
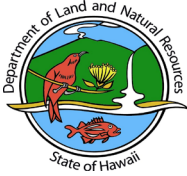
I had the good fortune to work with Craig for eight years while he served as the executive director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

As Hawaii struggles with the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency and huge economic recovery challenges, Craig is the best person to serve as the Finance Director and work with the Legislature to protect Hawaii's government finances, so that the Legislature can protect Hawaii's most vulnerable households. Craig has a strong history of public service in addition to a long career in the private sector as an attorney and a CPA.

I strongly urge you to recommend confirmation of Craig as Director of Finance.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, July 1, 2020
9:30AM
State Capitol Auditorium**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 502
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
CRAIG HIRAI
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 502 nominating Craig Hirai as the Finance Director for the Department of Budget and Finance for a term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022.

Craig Hirai will bring his experience as a CPA, auditor and tax attorney to the Department of Budget and Finance. In addition, he served as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation for three years.

Mr. Hirai has also served as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit Oriented Development, the Chair of the State Rental Housing Trust Fund Advisory Commission, and the Chair of the State Tax Revenue Commission as well as many other community boards.

Mr. Hirai's experience will be crucial as Hawaii faces the economic results of the Covid19 pandemic. Hawaii will need his experience at Budget and Finance as we all move into uncharted waters of both great economic need and an opportunity to revise Hawai'i's outsized dependence on tourism.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's support of Governor's Message 502, nominating Craig Hirai as the Finance Director for the Department of Budget and Finance.

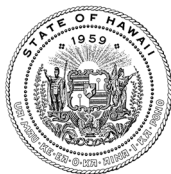
SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 502

Wednesday, July 1, 2020
9:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CRAIG K. HIRAI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Craig Hirai to the position of director of the department of budget and finance. I currently work with Craig in my capacity as deputy director of budget and finance on many issues. Craig acts in an efficient and transparent manner and works effectively toward finding the best options and solutions to the many issues of our State.

In Craig's relatively short time with the department of budget and finance, he is already consistently adding value. Craig's approach includes ensuring that he understands the matter at hand and the context. He does not hesitate to ask questions so that he and others have a good understanding of what is being discussed and is able to provide a unique perspective. He works well with the staff and has shown that he is able to improve the work product of the department and get things done in a timely manner.

Craig is very highly qualified and well suited to assume the leadership role with the department of budget and finance. Therefore, I highly recommend that he be confirmed as the director for the department of budget and finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

ANDREW T. GARRETT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

June 29, 2020

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
For Hearing on Thursday, July 1, 2020
9:30 a.m., State Capitol, Auditorium

By

RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

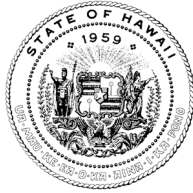
Governor's Message 502: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Craig K. Hirai as Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Hirai over the past year on a multitude of matters as colleagues within the Ige administration. I have found him to be a dedicated and knowledgeable public servant who is well suited to design the state's financial response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Hirai's background and extensive experience in both the public and private sectors will be a great asset as he leads the Department of Budget and Finance during these trying times.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governors Message 502 and Craig K. Hirai.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
July 1, 2020

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 502
Gubernatorial Nominee Craig K. Hirai

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of Mr. Craig K. Hirai, nominee for the director of finance for the Department of Budget and Finance. He currently serves as the department's interim director and prior to that was the executive director of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation since 2013.

Mr. Hirai's knowledge and experience as a tax attorney and certified public accountant, along with the skills he gained as executive director will greatly benefit the department as well as the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nominee.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

GWEN S. YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, Suite 501, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: gems.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 587-3868
Fax: (808) 587-3896

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau, Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Auditorium

in consideration of **GM NO. 502**
Confirmation of Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance,
Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Governor's Message 502, for Gubernatorial Nominee, Craig K. Hirai, as Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance ("B&F").

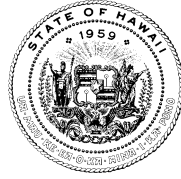
Mr. Hirai brings to B&F extensive experience and knowledge as a Certified Public Accountant and a Juris Doctorate. He has also demonstrated his leadership, effectiveness and financial acumen, having served as Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation for over six years.

Additionally, Mr. Hirai provides sound governance and strong leadership as a statutory Member of the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority, advocating on behalf of and providing alternative financing for the underserved ratepayers in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and offer support and comments for Governor's Message 502.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR., CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
HEARING ON JULY 01, 2020 AT 9:30 AM IN THE AUDITORIUM

IN SUPPORT OF

GM502

for consideration and confirmation as the Director of Finance, Department of Budget
and Finance,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **CRAIG K. HIRAI**,
for a term to expire 12-05-2022

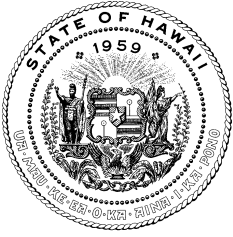
June 29, 2020

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

It is an honor to provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Craig K. Hirai as the Director of Finance of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Hirai's background and professional credentials confirm how very well-qualified he is for this appointment. Since 2013, he has served as Executive Director, State of Hawaii – Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation, and from 2016-2019, ex-officio co-chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit-Oriented Development. He has over 30 years of experience as a tax attorney and CPA, which informs his volunteer work. Serving on numerous boards and committees he has been Chair of the State Rental Housing Trust Fund Commission; Chair of the State Tax Review Commission; Chair of the Board of Directors of the Tax Foundation of Hawaii; Chair of the Professional Ethics Committee of the Hawaii Society of CPAs; and Member of the Ethics and Strategic Issues Committee of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, to name a few.

We salute his public service and respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination. We thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5TH Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 | energy.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

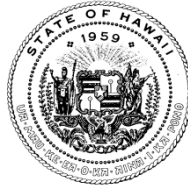
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, July 1, 2020
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Auditorium

In SUPPORT of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 502, CRAIG K. HIRAI
As the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance
(Written Testimony Only)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of the appointment of Mr. Craig Hirai as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Hirai is eminently qualified to serve as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. His extensive experience in finance and law in both the private sector and government enables him to execute the budget in a fiscally responsible way to achieve the State's priorities, foremost among which include the COVID recovery, housing, and infrastructure. Mr. Hirai understands development cycles, finance, and the infrastructure necessary to create thriving communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097**

July 1, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Auditorium

G.M. 502

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation **strongly supports** Craig Hirai as the Director of Budget and Finance.

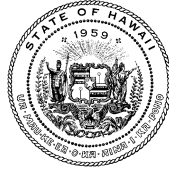
Mr. Hirai earned his BS at the University of Southern California and his MS and MBA from the University of Pennsylvania and his JD from Hastings College of Law.

For many years, tax law became his specialty during his career in the private sector. In 2013, he became the Executive Director of Hawaii Housing Finance Development Corporation to provide safe and sanitary housing for low-income residents of Hawaii.

Having overseen affordable housing finance and development in Hawaii and as co-chair of Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit Oriented Development. The DOT appreciates his understanding for sustainable development which is the integration and relationship between transportation and land use. Mr. Hirai's extensive experience in finance and planning knowledge, along with his administrative skill set will serve our state well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

JULY 1, 2020, 9:30 A.M.
AUDITORIUM, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 502

SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CRAIG K. HIRAI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON
ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 502. I support the nomination of Mr. Craig K. Hirai to the position of Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Hirai has served as the Interim Director of Finance for the Department of Budget of Finance since December 2019. He was also the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation from 2013 to 2019. During the same time period, Mr. Hirai has had his own public accountancy business. In addition, he has served on numerous public boards on the state and national levels.

Mr. Hirai's commitment to public service as well as his professional experience in the public and private sectors makes him an ideal candidate to continue to serve as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance. His dedication to serving the public has repeatedly been demonstrated by his willingness to actively engage in creative solutions that combine the strengths of multiple agencies across all sectors, including federal, state, county and private sector partners. I've had the opportunity to work with Mr. Hirai at HHFDC and B&F

over the past 15 months, more particularly for DAGS projects such as the Liliha Civic Center in Iwilei, Kahului and Wailuku Civic Centers on Maui, the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District on Oahu, the statewide Transit Oriented Development and Transit Ready Development programs, and the Hawaii Veterans Long Term Care Facility on Oahu. I know he is an individual with integrity, fortitude, and veracity who will serve the people of Hawaii well as our Budget and Finance Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
COLONEL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 502
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
CRAIG K. HIRAI

PRESENTATION TO
THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

COL STEPHEN F. LOGAN
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL,

JULY 2, 2020

Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee.

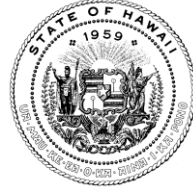
I respectfully request your **SUPPORT** in confirming the appointment of Gubernatorial Nominee Mr. Craig K. Hirai to serve as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance.

Mr. Hirai is an exceptional choice to lead the Department of Budget and Finance. His academic background and experience are beyond reproach with nearly 50 years of service in the public and private sectors and extensive expertise in law, real estate and accounting. Mr. Hirai has also been invaluable to the Department of Defense, directly contributing to the progress of one of our most important CIP projects, the Hawaii State Veterans Home. His ideas have helped to keep this \$90 million project moving forward by provide opportunities to secure needed land in Kapolei in his former capacity as the Executive Director at the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

Mr. Hirai is also an exceptional contributing member to our state. He has donated his time to dozens of different organizations. He brings intelligence, experience and leadership with a broad foundation in both the public and private sectors. However, Mr. Hirai most enduring qualification is he is an exceptional human being. He has high moral character and integrity and is someone who will do what is right for the State of Hawaii and its people.

I humbly ask for your support in his confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration and this opportunity in allowing me to testify on Governor's Message 502 in SUPPORT of Craig Hirai.



LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, July 1, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Auditorium**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 502, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CRAIG K. HIRAI,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Mr. Craig Hirai to serve as the director of finance for the Department of Budget and Finance, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

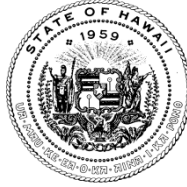
I have found Mr. Hirai to be highly competent, detail-oriented, and collaborative in his approach, and he has demonstrated the skills and temperament needed to effectively lead the Department of Budget and Finance.

By way of background, Mr. Hirai has served as the director of finance since December 2019. Prior to that appointment, he was the executive director of the Hawaii

Housing Finance and Development Corporation. For over 40 years, Mr. Hirai was a prominent tax attorney, certified public accountant, and realtor. Despite his demanding and varied career, Mr. Hirai served on numerous public boards, including chairing the commission that implemented the State of Hawaii Rental Housing Trust Fund program, as well as the interim commission that promulgated administrative rules for the trust fund program.

Mr. Hirai's extensive professional experience in finance matters, outstanding integrity, and deep commitment to public service will enable him to oversee the Department of Budget and Finance and to navigate the State toward economic recovery during these unprecedented times.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Hirai's nomination.



REVISED TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

July 1, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Auditorium

G.M. 502

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation **strongly supports** Craig Hirai as the Director of Budget and Finance (B&F).

Mr. Hirai earned his BS at the University of Southern California and his MS and MBA from the University of Pennsylvania and his JD from Hastings College of Law.

For many years, tax law was his specialty during his career in the private sector. In 2013, he became the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance Development Corporation to provide safe and sanitary housing for low-income residents of Hawaii.

Having overseen affordable housing finance and development in Hawaii and as co-chair of Hawaii Interagency Council for Transit Oriented Development makes him well-suited for the position as he brings a know-how combined with a reasoned perspective to address the complex issues facing our State budget and to keep B&F moving in a positive direction. The DOT appreciates his understanding for sustainable development which is the integration and relationship between transportation and land use.

Mr. Hirai's extensive experience in finance and planning, along with his administrative skill set will serve our state well. We valued his recommendations and judgment and found him to be a person who strongly believes in collaboration and common sense. His wide range of experiences gives him a level of expertise and insight B&F will surely benefit from.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LATE

SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO
DEPUTY 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: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

July 1, 2020

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Anne Eustaquio, Deputy Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: G.M. No. 502 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Anne Eustaquio, and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in strong support of Governor's Message 502, Gubernatorial Nominee, Craig K. Hirai, as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F).

Mr. Hirai has demonstrated that he has the leadership and experience to lead B&F. As the Director of B&F, Mr. Hirai is responsible for maintaining the fiscal and budgetary health of the State by planning, directing, and coordinating the development of the State's plans and strategies relative to cash management, investments, and bond financing. Mr. Hirai's prior service as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation as well as his legal and accounting background demonstrate his extensive knowledge in budgetary matters and commitment to investing in programs and projects for the benefit of citizens.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Hirai to serve as the Director of B&F so that he may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Hirai.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

LATE

**Testimony of James S. Tabe,
State Public Defender**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

June 29, 2020

GM 502: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, Craig K. Hirai

Hearing: July 1, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I fully support the nomination of Craig K. Hirai as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. The Office of the Public Defender is administratively attached to the Department of Budget and Finance. Due to this administrative association, I have had an opportunity to work with Mr. Hirai in the seven months.

Mr. Hirai's wealth of experience in accounting and finance in the public and private sector has prepared him well for this critical position as Director of Finance. Thus, he is well-versed in the issues which face the state and can provide tremendous leadership with respect to budgetary matters.

Mr. Hirai has shown a genuine interest in the operations of the Office of the Public Defender and has devoted the time to learn about the issues which face our office. Moreover, having received his Juris Doctor from University of California Hastings College of the Law and his Masters of Law (L.L.M.) from New York University, Mr. Hirai is quite familiar with the mission of the Office of the Public Defender, which is distinctly different from the other agencies in the Department of Budget and Finance. I am confident that Mr. Hirai will serve the department and the State of Hawai'i with distinction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in this matter.

Sincerely,



James S. Tabe



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Acting Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, July 1, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room Auditorium

In consideration of
GM502
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, CRAIG K. HIRAI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide this letter in **support** of the confirmation of Mr. Craig Hirai as the Director of Budget & Finance. Craig brings a wealth of knowledge to B&F through his past experience as Executive Director of HHFDC and the private sector. Craig always asks the right questions and is very helpful and collaborative in getting to the right answers. I look forward to working closely together in the years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and I encourage your favorable vote on his behalf.



Hawaii Association of Public Accountants

P.O. Box 61043
Honolulu, HI 96839

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
Auditorium

Strong Support of GM 502 and Craig K. Hirai, CPA as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Association of Public Accountants (HAPA) STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 502 and the confirmation of Craig K. Hirai as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance. HAPA is a statewide organization consisting primarily of small to mid-sized Hawaii CPA firm owners and managers located throughout Hawaii.

I am the current President of HAPA, and I have known Craig K. Hirai for over 20 years while serving with him on the HAPA Board. Craig has served on various committees for HAPA over the years, and has contributed greatly to our organization as he has extensive education and experience both as a CPA and as an attorney in the State of Hawaii.

Craig brings with him many years of public accounting experience in areas such as audit, tax, and management consulting. Craig also served as past chairman of the Hawaii State Tax Review Commission. With Craig's experience and knowledge in accounting, tax and law, makes him fully qualified to serve as director of Dept. of Budget and Finance. Hawaii needs a person with his qualification to serve in these uncertain times.

The Hawaii Association of Public Accountants strongly supports GM 502 and respectfully asks you to confirm Craig K. Hirai as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for considering the above.

Brian M. Iwata, CPA

HAPA State President



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

LATE

DATE: June 29, 2020

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Mihoko Ito and Gary Slovin

RE: **GM502 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022**
Hearing Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room: Auditorium

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I offer testimony in support of Craig Hirai's appointment as director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Craig has had a long and varied career that has been characterized by experience that well qualifies him to be the Budget and Finance Director. In his work at HFDC, he has demonstrated his ability to manage complex issues and deliver results. In his long career as an attorney, he exhibited competence and an ability to put his own ego and interests aside to meet goals and objectives. For a director to possess both extensive private and government experience is too rare. An understanding of both areas brings needed skills and inspires confidence in the decisions made by government. Craig's skills are particularly important and of value in this position in these times because of the obvious complexity of the unprecedented challenges Hawaii faces.

I know he will do Hawaii proud as the new director of Budget & Finance and I urge you to confirm him to that position.

Mahalo,

Mihoko Ito,
Managing Partner

Gary Slovin,
Partner

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER



An Agency of the State of Hawaii
July 1, 2020

ROSS I. YAMASAKI
CHAIRMAN, STADIUM AUTHORITY

SCOTT L. CHAN
MANAGER

RYAN G. ANDREWS
DEPUTY MANAGER



TESTIMONY
OF
SCOTT L. CHAN, STADIUM MANAGER
STADIUM AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
ON
July 1, 2020, 9:30 A.M.
Capitol Auditorium
G.M. 502

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of the appointment of Mr. Craig K. Hirai as the Director of Finance.

Over the past several years, I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity and pleasure of working with Mr. Hirai in his capacity as Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation and in his present capacity as the Director of Finance. The Stadium Authority and I have benefitted greatly from his wealth of business experience and knowledge that he has brought to the table on every occasion. In my business interactions with Mr. Hirai, I have experienced his wealth of knowledge, expertise, and professionalism, including his commitment to being resolution-oriented.

As such, I respectfully ask for the Committee's favorable consideration in confirming gubernatorial nominee, Mr. Craig K. Hirai as the Director of Finance for a term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Mr. Craig K. Hirai.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: June 26, 2020

TO: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Rick Tsujimura

RE: **GM502 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG K. HIRAI, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022**
Hearing Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room: Auditorium

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

I offer testimony in support of Craig Hirai's appointment as director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

We have known each other for many years, and in many different hats. For years we worked together on life insurance issues, and more currently, until this latest appointment, on affordable housing projects. I have worked with him as both an accountant and as an attorney, and I can vouch for Craig's no nonsense, transparent nature. What you see is what you get.

I know he will do Hawaii proud as the new director of Budget & Finance and I urge you to confirm him to that position.

TESTIMONY BY DEREK MIZUNO
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT WAYS AND MEANS
ON
GM 502
RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
CRAIG K. HIRAI

July 1, 2020

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of Craig K. Hirai to be the Director of Finance of the Department of Budget and Finance. During Craig's short tenure at Budget and Finance, he has been transparent and has opened lines of communication through daily telephonic meetings with the division heads about COVID-19, legislative, budget and human resource matters. He is open to suggestions and concerns of the division heads. I believe that Craig's financial and legal background, experience in State government and deep passion for serving the citizens of the State will bring significant value to the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-502

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 11:34:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/1/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray Kamikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Craig Hirai's nomination as Finance Director and urge his approval.

I am a tax attorney who has worked with Craig over the decades on mutual client matters when he was in private practice and then on behalf of clients when Craig was Executive Director of HHFDC. Craig not only has a firm grasp of technical legal and tax issues, but also is an excellent administrator. Both of these qualities would serve Craig well as Finance Director. We need someone with Craig's background and qualifications to guide the state's budget process in these uncertain times.

Thank you for your consideration.

GM-502

Submitted on: 6/29/2020 10:16:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 7/1/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
CRAIG KUGISAKI	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in SUPPORT of Craig Hirai, the nominee for Director of Budget and Finance.

I have known Mr. Hirai for over 40 years in a professional capacity. He is trained as a CPA and attorney, and is a knowledgeable, serious, deliberate and cautious professional. Mr. Hirai is very well qualified, and temperamentally suited, for the position as Director of the Department of Budget and Finance.

Craig Kugiski

Testimony of

GARY Y. MIYASHIRO, CPA

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, July 1, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CRAIG K. HIRAI, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Governor's Message 502.

I **strongly Support** the nomination of Craig K. Hirai as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity and not on behalf of any organization. I believe Craig possesses the wealth of experience and steadfast integrity for the Director of Finance position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of this nominee.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Miyashiro', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Y. Miyashiro, CPA

GM-502

Submitted on: 6/29/2020 3:12:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/1/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Hunsaker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in support of Craig Hirai's nomination as Finance Director.

I have known Craig for over 20 years, both personally and professionally. In both these capacities, Craig has always exhibited the highest ideals in both character and integrity. I believe him to be well respected in the financial, business and legal community and also among those friends who we have in common.

I believe Craig would be an excellent Finance Director, and I wholeheartedly support his approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

GM-502

Submitted on: 6/29/2020 4:59:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 7/1/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K. Piltz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

RE: GM 502 Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance, Gubernatorial Nominee Craig K. Hirai, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022

I strongly support the nomination, consideration and confirmation of Craig Hirai as the Director of Finance for the Department of Budget and Finance.

Craig understands public financing and works tirelessly to ensure that public policy issues are addressed in a manner that benefits both public and private interests. He has integrity and understands that balance is a necessary component when dealing with policy issues. He has vast knowledge of public financing, tax issues, and the law and is very well regarded by colleagues both locally and nationally.

Mr. Hirai brings stability to the Department of Budget and Finance, especially during this very stressful time and will be a very valuable asset to both the Department, as well as to you, members of the Legislature. I strongly urge you to confirm Craig Hirai as the Director of Finance to the Department of Budget and Finance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Piltz

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz:

This is a letter in support of Craig Hirai's appointment as Director of Finance.

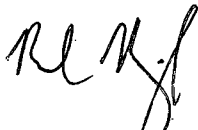
I have known Mr. Hirai for over twenty-five years and first worked with him when he was Chair of the then Rental Housing Trust Fund. He has had a long private sector career as a certified public accountant and tax attorney with a history of public service involvement.

Mr. Hirai has extensive experience working with the Legislature and is familiar with State government and its programs. For the past six years, he was Executive Director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation and has gained working knowledge of agency budgeting and management practices.

Mr. Hirai is intelligent, competent, experienced and hardworking. In the past six months as Director, he has consistently demonstrated his sound judgment, administrative ability, and ability to work with and manage people.

I believe that Mr. Hirai possesses the experience and necessary skills to make an excellent Director of Finance. I urge the Senate to confirm his appointment.

Sincerely,



Neal Miyahira
Administrator
Budget, Program Planning & Management Division
Department of Budget and Finance

LATE

GM-502

Submitted on: 6/30/2020 1:07:13 PM
Testimony for WAM on 7/1/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice Takahashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I **strongly support** Craig K. Hirai as Director of Finance.

I've known Craig for over 20 years and have worked for him for nearly 10 years. He has the necessary knowledge and ability to head the Department, particularly during these challenging economic times. Additionally, his honesty and strength of character makes him an ideal candidate for this important position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

GM-502

Submitted on: 7/1/2020 10:25:08 AM
Testimony for WAM on 7/1/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne Kauhi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: