

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0604
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JODI YAMAMI,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: 5/12/2020 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) supports the nomination of
3 Ms. Jodi M. Yamami to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators (Board) for
4 a second consecutive term.

5 Ms. Yamami has worked in the Department, Environmental Management Division, Safe
6 Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) for over twelve years in an engineering position that provides
7 direct support to the Board. Her duties entail the implementation and administration of a
8 drinking water operator certification program. As such, she makes recommendations to the
9 Board on developing and administering regulations and procedures for certifying or rescinding
10 the certification of operators and provides technical assistance in response to operators' requests.

11 Ms. Yamami has served consecutive terms on the Board in the past, representing the SDWB
12 interests well. Her service has fulfilled the statutory requirement that a member of the SDWB be
13 represented on the Board. Ms. Yamami's willingness to serve another consecutive term will be
14 of great benefit to the Public Water System Operator Certification Program while at the same
15 time, continue the fulfillment of the statutory requirement.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH
919 ALA MOANA BLVD., ROOM 308
HONOLULU, HI 96814-4920

In reply, please refer to:
File: SDWB
GM604.AZLetterOfSupport.docx

May 5, 2020

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
415 South Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
[via CPHTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov only]

Dear Senator Baker:

**SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 604:
NOMINATION OF JODI M. YAMAMI TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the nomination of Ms. Jodi Yamami to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators. My name is Ann Zane. I am an environmental engineer and her supervisor in the Compliance Section of the Safe Drinking Water Branch, Department of Health. I previously worked in the operator certification program after it was initiated by statute in 1991.

Jodi is an environmental engineer hired in 2007 by our branch to run the operator certification program. She had mechanical engineering design experience with Kaiser Electronics and also experience running a supplier certification program. She has brought many beneficial changes to the program such as: integration of the database linking operator data to continuing education unit data, creation of electronic files to improve program efficiency, re-evaluation of the suitability of the different grade levels of operators, and streamlining many of the procedures. She developed the operator certification information on the branch website to improve outreach to the operators with current certification and those seeking certification. She has provided technical support to many of the operators who call with questions on the certification process, and she interacts well with them.

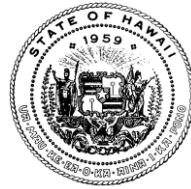
There is a requirement in statute that one of the five members of the board of certification is from the Safe Drinking Water Branch. Jodi has demonstrated an exceptional capability to improve the program. She brings a wealth of private work experience which has already been used to make our program more efficient. She would be a valuable member of the board in our efforts to continue to protect the health and environment for all people in Hawaii. I strongly recommend approval of her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann T. Zane".

Ann T. Zane, P.E.
Supervisor, Compliance Section
Safe Drinking Water Branch

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
415 South Beretania Street, Room 230
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Dear Senator Baker:

**SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NUMBER 604:
NOMINATION OF JODI M. YAMAMI TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the nomination of Ms. Jodi M. Yamami to the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.

My name is Joanna Seto, Engineering Program Manager of the Safe Drinking Water Branch. It is our branch's responsibility to safeguard public health by protecting Hawaii's drinking water and assuring that owners and operators of public water systems provide safe drinking water to the community. We achieve this mission in part through the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators, as established by Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 340F and regulated by Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 11-25.

The Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 340F-4(a)(2) requires that one of the five members of the board of certification be from the Safe Drinking Water Branch. Ms. Yamami has worked in the branch for over twelve years in an engineering position that provides direct support to the Board. Her duties entail the implementation and administration of the drinking water operator certification program. She makes recommendations to the Board on developing and administering regulations and procedures for certifying or rescinding the certification of operators and provides technical assistance in response to operators' requests. I have observed the board at their meeting and believe that it is because of Ms. Yamami's dedication to her work and extensive preparation that the meetings run smoothly and efficiently.

Ms. Yamami has served consecutive terms on the Board in the past, representing the Safe Drinking Water Branch's interests well. We appreciate her willingness to serve another consecutive term because it will be a great benefit to the Public Water System Operator Certification Program.

I strongly recommend approval of her nomination.

Sincerely,


JOANNA L. SETO, P.E., CHIEF
Safe Drinking Water Branch

Jodi Yamami
GM 604
Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators

Thank you for the opportunity to present myself. Here are responses to your questions. Please let me know if I should submit this via other means.

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators?
My position in the Department of Health Safe Drinking Water Branch is responsible for the implementation and administration of a drinking water operator certification program, and my duties include making recommendations to the Board. Per HRS Chapter 340F, Mandatory Certification of Public Water System Operators, one individual on the Board should be from the Safe Drinking Water Branch, and my service would fulfill this requirement.
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators?
The duties of the Board are to carry out the provisions of HRS Chapter 340F, Mandatory Certification of Public Water System Operators, which contributes to the Safe Drinking Water Branch's mission to safeguard public health by assuring that operators of public water systems provide safe drinking water to the community. Each Board member has the responsibility to ensure the integrity of the operator certification program.
- (3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.
I have been in my current position which is responsible for the implementation and administration of a drinking water operator certification program for nearly 13 years. Since I also provide technical assistance in response to drinking water operators' requests, I understand the challenges from both an operators' perspective as well as the regulatory position. Therefore, I can give fair-minded input to critical Board decisions.
- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
I hope to ensure the integrity of the drinking water operator certification program.
- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators.
 - 1) I listen first in any situation and that should help me to make decisions with knowledge from all positions.
 - 2) I thoroughly research all issues before coming to conclusions which should provide fair assessments.
 - 3) My perspective of the water industry from a regulatory viewpoint is not compromised because I have no affiliation with any water purveyor.
- (6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators member.
Prior to working in the Safe Drinking Water Branch, I worked for a defense corporation that designed and manufactured cockpit displays for military aircraft. I coordinated all

Jodi Yamami

GM 604

Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators

supplier certification activities to produce a core group of suppliers that could be depended upon to manufacture quality product for military fighter aircraft that provided a means of defense for our nation. The fundamental basis for the development of that supplier certification program is very similar to the drinking water operator certification program that the Board resides over. I will be able to apply my knowledge and experience toward using good judgement in making decisions to maintain the standards set for the certification of public water system operators.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board of Certification of Public Water System Operators? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest, however if any should arise, I understand the procedures of the Board as they are dictated in HAR Chapter 11-25, Rules Relating to Certification of Public Water System Operators, as concurrence of a majority of all members shall be necessary to make any action of the Board valid.

Jodi Yamami

808-586-4263

Department of Health/Safe Drinking Water Branch

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