

## **Testimony of the Contractors License Board**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Tuesday, May 12, 2020  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 638, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE CONTRACTORS LICENSE BOARD,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOSEPH O'DONNELL,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021**

### **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Candace Ito, and I am the Executive Officer of the Contractors License Board (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Mr. Joseph O'Donnell's appointment to the Board as a public member.

Mr. O'Donnell has been an interim member since July 1, 2019. He has been employed by the Ironworkers Union Local 625 for 30 years and is currently the financial secretary-treasurer and business manager.

Mr. O'Donnell has a history of public service, having served on the Department of Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Liaison Committee from 1988 to 1991, the Hawaii Commission on National and Community Services from 1998 to 2002, the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division Advisory Committee from 2005 to present, and the Honolulu Liquor Commission from 2011 to present.

Mr. O'Donnell attends meetings regularly and continues to learn the Board's laws, rules, procedures, and protocols. His commitment to attending meetings, history of public service, and interest in serving on the Board will further awareness of the Board's purpose and the role of a public member.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



May 12, 2020

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate

Re: Support for GM 638 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOSEPH O'DONNELL, for a term to expire 06-30-2021

Aloha:

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club (PKHCC) **SUPPORTS** the nomination of Mr. Joseph O'Donnell to be confirmed to the state Contractors License Board. PKHCC was organized to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry and objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry, and the professional fields of enterprise. Mr. O'Donnell is qualified to serve on the board, having demonstrated sound business judgement, good moral character, open-mindedness, and critical analytical thinking skills in his dealings with our organization. These skills would be a great addition to the Contractors License Board whose purpose, in part, is to "...grant licenses to ... contractors" and "...the protection of the general public" (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 444-4 Powers and Duties of the Board).

Mr. O'Donnell has more than 50 years of experience in the constructions trades as a non-contractor and is knowledgeable about public health and safety serving as the Business Manager/Financial-Secretary Treasurer for the Hawai'i Iron Workers Local Union 625. Our organization has worked alongside Mr. O'Donnell and Local 625 on many projects for the betterment of Hawai'i. While we have disagreed at times on legislation, we have strived to find common ground on how best to move forward, together. Recently, one area of mutual advocacy is in the creating of a half mile buffer zone between any waste disposal facility and schools, homes, or hospitals. Through working with Mr. O'Donnell on this effort and our past experiences, we believe he will ensure that the safety of the public is top priority in any decisions he makes while serving on the board and will consider the most vulnerable in our communities – including our kūpuna. Mr. O'Donnell would serve our state well on the Contractors License Board. We support his confirmation.

Ke Aloha'āina,

Anthony Makana Paris  
Pelekikena

# IRONWORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

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May 12, 2020

Roz Baker, Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection and Health  
Senate  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

Re: Strong Support for Joseph O'Donnell – GM638 Contractors License Board

I would like to state that we are in strong support of Mr. Joseph O'Donnell, to be on the Contractors License Board.

As in any other board or commission, Joe would bring a perspective to the board's decision making processes that do not have now. Based on his background, Joe, would bring his field experience on knowledge to the board's deliberations. Joe is truly a man of honor, integrity and compassion.

Professionally, Joe has been at the forefront of multitude of planning and public trust issues in Hawaii that deals with the working man and women. His history in the construction field and his experience dealing with on the job issues is a must for this board that deals with public safety.

Joe has always been part of the community. His dedication to Hawaii can be seen through his leadership in various organizations. He truly believes that we must assist and better Hawaii for our future. One way he has shown his volunteerism is by sitting on the Honolulu Liquor Commission. He has been on this board for the past 6 years, in which the last year he was chairman of the commission.

I strongly support Joseph O'Donnell to be on the Contractors License Board. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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**TORKILDSON KATZ**  
**HETHERINGTON HARRIS & KNOREK**

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW, A LAW CORPORATION  
700 BISHOP STREET, 15TH FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-4187  
TELEPHONE (808) 523-6000 • FACSIMILE (808) 523-6001

May 7, 2020

J. GEORGE HETHERINGTON  
DIRECT DIAL: (808) 523-5302  
E-MAIL: JGH@TORKILDSON.COM

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street #230  
Honolulu, HI 96813

by email: [senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
[CPHTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:CPHTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: Recommendation of Joseph V. O'Donnell for the Contractor License Board

Dear Senator Baker:

I respectfully submit this letter of recommendation for Joe O'Donnell to be appointed to the Hawaii Contractor License Board. I have known Joe for over 20 years in his position as the Financial Secretary and Business Manager of the Hawaii Iron Workers Union Local 625, as well as in his role as a trustee for the pension, health and welfare and other employee benefit trust funds maintained by the union for its members. I work closely with Joe in my position as trust fund attorney. As trustee, Joe is responsible for overseeing the investment and management of millions of dollars of plan assets and assuring that union members and their families receive pension benefits, healthcare coverage and other employee benefits from the trust funds.

Joe's position as trustee requires integrity, business knowledge, high ethics and avoidance of conflicts of interest. All of these attributes would, in my opinion, enable Joe to be an effective and productive member of the Contractor License Board.

I have appeared before the Contractor License Board on behalf of clients that our law firm represents, and I am familiar with its operations and the amount of time commitment required of its members. Based on my experience with the Contractor License Board, I believe Joe would be an excellent appointment.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

TORKILDSON KATZ  
HETHERINGTON HARRIS & KNOREK  
Attorneys At Law, A Law Corporation



J. George Hetherington

JGH/bjm  
2621686v1

**GM-638**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 1:18:53 PM

Testimony for CPH on 5/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey Masatsugu	Testifying for Painters LMCF; Tapers MRF; Glaziers Stab Fund; Carpet & Soft Tile MRF	Support	No

Comments:

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

***It is an opportunity to serve the People of Hawai'i***

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

***To work with Board Members and Administration to ensure that the Health & Welfare of the General public is never compromised.***

(2) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

***My knowledge, understanding and application of the HRS & Administrative rules that govern the Contractors Licensing Board will protect the Safety & Welfare of the General public.***

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board 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.

***With over 50 years in the Hawai'i Construction Industry, having worked from the bottom to the top. I have the knowledge and understanding to determine when an Applicant is not qualified to become a Licensee, ensuring that the Welfare of the General public will be protected against inexperience and unfair practices of Contractors.***

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

***Protect the Health, Safety & Welfare of the General public.***

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

***Honesty, Integrity and Knowledgeable.***

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

***Worked with individuals in the spirit of co-operation to reach a fair and equal decision.***

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

***Possibility? I would first disclose possible conflict to the Board Members and Staff, then seek Legal councils' advice, and if I couldn't be fair & impartial in my decision making, I would recuse myself from the matter.***