

Testimony of the Contractors License Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

On the following measures:

**G.M. 692, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE CONTRACTORS LICENSE BOARD,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NEAL ARITA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2020**

and

**G.M. 693, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE CONTRACTORS LICENSE BOARD,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NEAL ARITA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

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. Neal Arita's appointment and reappointment to the Board as a specialty contractor member.

Mr. Arita has been an interim member since July 1, 2019. He has been licensed since August 5, 1993, and holds the following specialty classifications: electronic systems; plumbing; refrigeration; sheet metal; and ventilating and air conditioning. Mr. Arita is the principal responsible managing employee of Carrier Corporation, and his license is current, active, and in good standing.

Mr. Arita is a dedicated and reliable member who, in addition to attending regular board meetings, attends legislative committee hearings as the Board's representative. He also volunteers to attend the Board's Applications and Rules Committee meetings. Having previously served on the Board, he is aware of the purpose of the Board and is prepared for these meetings. Mr. Arita's 30 years of experience as a contractor, as well as his knowledge of the Board's history, enable him to provide well-reasoned and prudent insight to the Board's discussions.

Mr. Arita's construction knowledge, commitment, interest in serving on the Board, and desire to contribute to the community make him a valuable member of the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SAH - Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

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May 13, 2020

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

Presented By: Tim Lyons
President

Subject: GM 692 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, NEAL ARITA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

GM 693 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, NEAL ARITA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii. The SAH represents the following nine separate and distinct contracting trade organizations.

HAWAII FLOORING ASSOCIATION

ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

HAWAII WALL AND CEILING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

TILE CONTRACTORS PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

SHEETMETAL & AIR CONDITIONING NATIONAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

We submit this testimony in support of Neal Arita's nomination for a term on the Contractors License Board.

Mr. Arita is a frequent attendee of Subcontractors Association of Hawaii's activities, educational programs and annual conferences and as such we know him to be an individual that is very knowledgeable, conscientious and upstanding within the subcontracting industry and we believe he is a definite asset to serving on the Contractors License Board.

Based on the above, we highly recommend his confirmation.

Thank you.

May 12, 2010

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health (CPH)
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Neal Arita's appointment as Member of the Contractor License Board of the State of Hawaii.

Dear Senator Baker,

I am writing in support of the appointment of Neal Arita as a Member of the Contractor License Board of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Neal for close to 45 years since we were youths. Over these years Neal has always put service to the community before himself. I am not alone. Everyone who meets Neal has the highest accolades for him.

Neal has been in the contractor industry for over three decades including prior service with the Board. I am familiar with his reputation in the industry from many acquaintances. His work in both the private sector as well as for industry non-profits has given Neal rare and valuable experience in working closely with contractors, regulators, unions, as well as developers and property owners. Colleagues, clients, and workers will enthusiastically describe his integrity, strong values and extraordinary ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds. He is seen as an industry leader who leads by example. People trust and want to work with him.

On a personal and community level, Neal exudes compassion for humanity. He is a well recognized leader in his church, volunteering enormous time and effort during both times of challenges and expansion. On a personal note, Neal makes weekly visits to see his aged parents and my mother to bring them cheer and help with household chores. Every two weeks, he visits my disabled brother to cut his hair and spend some time . . . even when my brother is typically incapable of responding. Neal brings so much joy to him.

Together with so many others, I have learned to be a better person from Neal's example of treating everyone with aloha and grounded values. He is extraordinary and would be a great asset to the Contractor License Board.

Yours sincerely,

Geri Lau
Former Head, Organizational Development and Volunteering International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Geneva, SWITZERLAND.
Former Secretary General, Singapore Red Cross Society, SINGAPORE.
University of Hawaii, MSW 1985, Bachelor 1980



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May 11, 2020

Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health (CPH)
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Appointment of Neal Arita as Member of the Contractor License Board of the State of Hawai'i

Dear Senator Baker,

I have known Mr. Neal Arita for as long as I have been performing work in the construction industry as a design engineer and consultant for our State of Hawai'i. His dedication and integrity for his clients as well as his sub-contractors and vendors are well known amongst our engineering community. His present participation on the contractors licensing board extends that commitment by advocating for contractor integrity and responsibility for his and Hawai'i's consumers and our design community confidence.

I do not hesitate to recommend Mr. Neal Arita to be considered for his continued service on State of Hawai'i Contractors License Board by extending him another term on this very important consumer related board. His presence on this Board brings confidence to not only consumers but us in the construction and contracting community.

Thank you for considering my voice in recommending Mr. Arita for his continued position on the Contractors License Board. We, the consumers of Hawai'i, will benefit with your confidence in and reappointment of Mr. Neal Arita.

Sincerely,

Leslie Taniyama, Vice-President
Power & Systems Inspection Group - Hawai'i
International Facility Management Association - Hawai'i Chapter

cc: /file/
J. Taniyama – PSIG-HI

Presentation Before the Senate Committee on
Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health (CPH)
May 12, 2020
Neal K. Arita
Contractor License Board

Chair Baker, members of the CPH Committee; Thank you for this opportunity to present some answers to the questionnaire sent to me. Please see below for the brief answers provided. If you have any further questions, I would be glad to provide more information.

I truly have enjoyed working with the current Contractor License Board the past year as interim appointee and hope to participate the next 4 years to work alongside this caring team.

Questionnaire for [Neal Arita](#) (Contractor License Board Appointment)

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?
I have been licensed as a Contractor since 1993 and believe my experience and knowledge will be a help to the Contractor License Board. I am committed to helping our State to the best of my abilities and feel I can contribute to the Construction industry.
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?
To follow the Rules and Regulations and ensure that Contractor applicants are qualified and continue to follow the Rules and Regulations.
I served on the CLB previously (2005-2012) and although the work is very time-consuming, it is rewarding to work with a Board with a common goal.
The ability to speak-up and have discussions with the intent to work together, share information and make informed decisions.
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?
I believe there are several ways, but the three most effective (in my opinion) is to screen applicants and carefully review qualifications; second to provide clarifications to questions (by contractors) on the scope of various projects to match the rules, policies and procedures; and to provide an avenue for consumers to seek clarifications, support and (possibly) actions against poor workmanship of licensed contractors.
- (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.

As a former Board member (2006-2012), I believe the experience and historical familiarity is an asset to the Board. I am able to voice concerns with confidence and (at times) recall past decisions that help expedite decision making.

Although I am only licensed in these:

B-General Contractor

C-15 Electronic Systems Contractor

C-37 Plumbing Contractor

C-40 Refrigeration Contractor

C-44 Sheet Metal Contractor

C-52 Ventilating and Air Conditioning Contractor

I believe my background and contracting experience is an asset to the Board.

My roles as a contractor include supervising the work, managing the various teams and have built trust and (I believe) a very good reputation in the industry as a team-player, people-person and knowledgeable manager as a Mechanical Contractor.

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

I have no agenda other than to provide support to the CLB in whatever way that is possible with my experience. I do appreciate the cohesive and one-mindedness that the Board currently has and hope to continue its success by volunteering my time with the same-mind.

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

- a. Supportive to leadership: understanding the goals and objectives and being able to provide my time, energy and resources to carry it out
- b. Integrity: I believe in doing the right thing. Regardless of feelings, fact remains the bottom line. I do not hesitate expending energy to find the facts and share it to help the Board in the decision making process.
- c. Compassionate: I really care about people. We all have a story and sometimes seeing the heart of people helps to know their motivations. It helps to bring out the good intentions to make the right decisions.

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

I was on the CLB from 2005 through 2012 and was the CLB Chairman in 2011-2012.

I also have been a Board member of Leeward Community Church, in different capacities, for about 30 years.

Over the years, I have learned the policies, processes, parliamentary procedures and people that makes a successful Board.

- (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?
I believe I am open and honest. I do not see or foresee any conflicts of interest. I have excluded myself from decision-making when appropriate and lean on the CLB Executive Director and Legal counsel as needed. I do not know everything, so I trust in the team efforts of the CLB.