



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

**On the following measure:
G.M. 699, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LESLIE MURATA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Leslie Murata's appointment to the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board) as a public member.

Mr. Murata has dedicated much of his life to community service. Although he retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 2014, Mr. Murata has actively volunteered for community organizations since 1982 at Haleiwa Elementary. His passion for music is well-known through his participation as a band booster for Waialua High School and volunteering for nearly 30 years with the Hawaii Youth Symphony (HYS). Mr. Murata served a large part of his time with HYS as vice president.

Mr. Murata currently continues his involvement in volunteer work as a coordinator at Hulu Makua Senior Day Care and is seeking to further contribute to the community by joining the Board as a public member. He appreciates and understands the commitment necessary to prepare for and attend the Board's monthly meetings.

The Department believes that Mr. Murata's professional and volunteer experience will offer a meaningful perspective to the Board. In addition, his desire to serve on the Board and commitment to actively participate in board meetings will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Marilyn Takeshita, Secretary to the System Director of Human Resources
University of Hawaii (Retired)
47-620 Hui Ulili Street, Kaneohe, HI 96744
239-9184

May 10, 2020

Support for GM699, Consideration and Confirmation to the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, Gubernatorial Nominee, Leslie Murata, for a term to expire June 30, 2021

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Committee Members:

I am Marilyn Takeshita, retired Secretary to the System Director of Human Resources, University of Hawaii.

I am testifying in favor of Gubernatorial Nominee, Leslie Murata's consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, for a term to expire on June 30, 2021.

Mr. Murata is a man who is willing to volunteer his time to serve in any capacity to help those in need especially students and the elderly.

This very special gift of volunteering goes back to the days when he served on the Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) when his children were in elementary school. Mr. Murata felt by volunteering his time in the PTSA at Haleiwa Elementary School as well as a Band Booster at Waialua High School and finally as the Board of Director and Vice President for Operation at the Hawaii Youth Symphony would help make these institutions a better place for children to learn. Mr. Murata was always willing to sacrifice his time to support each organization's efforts whether it be to raise money and to do the physical work of 10 men by setting up various heavy instruments at the Hawaii Youth Symphony concerts and ensuring that each setup was perfect before the music conductors came on stage for the performance. I have witnessed Mr. Murata in action at the events of several concerts by the Hawaii Youth Symphony and I can honestly say that he is one that all at the Youth Symphony relies on because of his great work ethics. He has also volunteered his time to make travel reservations to many destinations for the students at the Youth Symphony to perform in Japan and on the mainland. When his two children were no longer participants in the Youth Symphony, Mr. Murata continued to volunteer his services for many years after they left the symphony.

Although Mr. Murata is no longer associated with the Hawaii Youth Symphony he has not given up on his enthusiasm to volunteer to help—now it is with the elderly where he volunteers as a coordinator at the Hulu Makua Senior Day Care. Because he wants to stimulate the minds and souls of the elderly and they are not idly sitting at the senior center, he is actively organizing visits to many sites, e.g., Mission House, Dole Plantation, Army Museum, Arizona Memorial and other places of interests. Besides visiting these sites there are times they are given an extra treat by going out to lunch at a restaurant. All these activities are appreciated by all the seniors for they are able to get out and enjoy the outdoors of their day care center. They are able to laugh and view what others take for granted or do not have enough time to enjoy themselves.

Mr. Murata gives his time freely without expecting any personal reward and is humbled and grateful to be able to help all those who call upon him. He is well appreciated by all those who he has volunteered to help because they know that he has the ability to get the job done.

I know that when Mr. Murata is confirmed to the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, he will be a great and valuable asset in all that he does as a member of the Board.

I urge the committee to consider and confirm Mr. Murata to the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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

I want to become a board member because I enjoy volunteering no matter what it may be. From a public person view of point, I believe I can be a fair voice for the consumers.

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

I perceive this board as an entity to help consumers who are concerned about the safety and wellness in our salons. I also perceive that this board would make sure that all barbering and cosmetology schools are following the same guidelines and laws of the State of Hawaii.

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

I would evaluate the complaint from the consumer if any physical or financial losses has taken place and investigate if proper procedures and guidelines were followed.

- (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.

I believe that I am a fair person. So, because I have no knowledge of barbering and cosmetology, my fairness will be an asset to the board. During my tenure at the Consumer Affairs Office, USPS, I was able to solve problems with the customers. If the customer is wrong, I would tell them and state the reasons why and try to find other avenues for the customers to make it work.

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

I would like to see that all rules, laws and procedures are updated to current standards.

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

I believe one of my best qualities is having common sense. I would always look after the consumer safety. All my years with the Hawaii Youth Symphony, my main objective is the student safety.

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

I believe my four years of experience with the US Postal Service Consumer Affairs office has taught me how to handle customer complaints without the customers getting more upset.

- (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 do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest now and in the future. I would avoid any conflict by asking the board if what I intend to do will be a conflict and if it is yes, I will not pursue it.