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**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. 700, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BRIAN UEMORI,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

**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. Brian Uemori's appointment to the Board of Public Accountancy (Board) as a public member.

Mr. Uemori has 30 years of experience in accounting and finance, including 18 years with two of the State's largest local banks. He is currently the executive vice president and chief credit officer at First Hawaiian Bank. Previously, he held a similar position at Bank of Hawaii.

Mr. Uemori also dedicates time to community service by sitting on the Palama Settlement Board of Trustees, including as a past president. He appreciates and

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understands the commitment necessary to prepare for and attend the Board's monthly meetings.

The Department believes that Mr. Uemori's professional 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.



May 8, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair,  
and Members  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health  
State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Baker and Committee Members:

Subject: Brian Uemori

This letter is written to express my support of Brian Uemori's appointment to the State Board of Public Accountancy.

I met Brian almost 20 years ago when he was employed at Bank of Hawaii in their Commercial Real Estate Loan Division where he handled the Gentry Homes, Ltd. account. Working with him through the years, I have gotten to know Brian and have found him to be honest, kind, forthright, and a person of strong moral character. He has an extensive background in accounting, banking, and business and is a highly regarded business leader in our community.

At Bank of Hawaii and now at First Hawaiian Bank, I have watched Brian's career grow and progress in the banking industry. His leadership, his capacity to see the big picture while understanding all sides of an issue, and his ability to work collaboratively with others have been valuable in his profession and in helping Gentry Homes, Ltd. move forward.

I have every confidence that Brian Uemori is well qualified and would be an asset to serve on the State Board of Public Accountancy. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at (808) 599-8224 or [QuentinM@GentryHawaii.com](mailto:QuentinM@GentryHawaii.com).

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Quentin S. Machida". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Quentin S. Machida  
President & Chief Executive Officer

May 7, 2020

Subject: Brian Uemori – State Board of Public Accountancy Letter of Support

To Whom it May Concern:

I have known Brian Uemori for almost 40 years, and know him on both a personal level as well as on the professional level. He is a high character, high integrity person who can be counted on to meet or exceed his commitments.

I would highly recommend Brian to the State Board of Public Accountancy as someone who will bring a lot of value to the Board based on the type of person he is as well as his business experience in the financial industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sanford A. Morioka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Sanford A. Morioka

Brian Uemori

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

- I have committed to provide a portion of my time to serve organizations that support the community or the public. I am rolling off a non-profit organization board this summer and thought my background and experience would be fitting for this board.

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

- To provide some level of governance over the issues related to the public accountancy industry in Hawaii.

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

- As a non-CPA member, I will have the perspective of a primary user of the industry in my capacity as the Chief Credit Officer for First Hawaiian Bank.

(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 graduated with a bachelors of science in business administration majoring in accounting from Chapman College in 1990. My first position out of college was for a local CPA firm where I worked both tax and audit departments for approx. 7 years.
- I have experience as an assistant controller and CFO for two local companies.
- My current position allows me to use my past experience at the CPA firm and in private industry to manage all aspects of credit risk at the bank. My ability to assess risk and make decisions based on a set of circumstances should help me in my responsibilities as a board member.

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

- Hope to be of assistance to the accounting industry with my experience and background.

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

- As I mentioned before, I believe I have the ability assess risk and make decisions on a set of circumstances.
- I have lived and worked in Hawaii all my life. I believe I behave in a manner that is fitting with our culture and style.
- My involvement with large national and Hawaii corporations to small businesses to consumers offers a wide range of perspectives as a board member.

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

- I am the Past-President of Palama Settlement and have been on the board for the last six year. That experience has taught me how to govern from a board level with the perspective of the greater good in mind.

(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 don't foresee any conflicts of interest considering my current position at the bank. If a situation does arise I have no problem raising the issue and recusing myself of a vote.