



**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I**

**DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHILIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**REIKO MATSUYAMA  
DIRECTOR**

**MICHELLE L. LIZAMA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

**Testimony of Blanche "Reiko" Matsuyama  
Director of Finance, County of Kauai**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts  
May 15, 2020; 1:00 pm  
Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
GM 726  
Relating to the nomination of Blanche Matsuyama**

Honorable Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this letter as a request to serve as a Board of Trustee for the Deferred Compensation Plan. I currently serve as the Director of Finance on Mayor Kawakami's cabinet and am a participant in the deferred compensation plan. Being born and raised on Kauai, I hope to provide diversity and a neighbor-island perspective to the Board.

Prior to my employment in the new County of Kauai administration, I was with Grove Farm Company for nearly 12 years. Under the leadership of Warren Haruki, I started as the Accounting Manager and was later promoted to the Director of Finance. I managed all of the Company's land and financial assets, and was responsible for annual budgets, audit and debt compliance, and quarterly reporting to the board.

I humbly request your consideration for my nomination to the Board. I pledge to be engaged and committed throughout my term and have the best interest of the participating employees at heart.

Sincerely,

Blanche "Reiko" Matsuyama  
Finance Director, County of Kauai





DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

BRIAN MOTO  
KALEIHI'IKAPOLI RAPOZA  
RYKER WADA  
KALBERT YOUNG  
ROBERT YU

May 15, 2020

TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

For Hearing on Friday, May 15, 2020  
1:00 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 229

BY

BRIAN T. MOTO, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, STATE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

**Governor's Message No. 726**

**Relating to Blanche Matsuyama for Consideration and Confirmation to the  
Board of Trustees of the State Deferred Compensation Plan**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts:

I submit this testimony in strong support of the appointment of Ms. Blanche Matsuyama to the Board of Trustees (Board) of the State of Hawai'i Deferred Compensation Plan (Plan) in my capacity as the Chairperson of the Board.

In Ms. Matsuyama's current capacity as the director of finance at the County of Kaua'i, she demonstrates the leadership and experience in financial management and financial reporting functions that will be valuable in managing the assets of the State Deferred Compensation Plan and the PTS Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan for part-time, temporary, and seasonal/casual employees. Through her professional skills, she has the knowledge to maintain and support the financial management of the plans. I believe that Ms. Matsuyama will be a tremendous asset to the Board and will be a good fiduciary for the participants in the Plan.

I therefore strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Matsuyama to the Board of Trustees of the State Deferred Compensation Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Moto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the "i" in "Brian".

Brian Moto

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

State of Hawaii Deferred Compensation Plan



May 15, 2020

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
And Members  
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts  
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 229  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: G.M. 726 - FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE DEFERRED COMPENSATION  
PLAN, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BLANCHE MATSUYAMA**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of Ms. Blanche Matsuyama as trustee on the board of the trustees for the State of Hawaii Deferred Compensation Plan.

Ms. Matsuyama is the current director of finance for the County of Kauai. I believe that her background and experience in the areas of accounting, business, public finance, and government budgeting are crucial and important assets for the board of the State of Hawaii Deferred Compensation Plan. Furthermore, as an employee of one of the counties that participate in the \$3+ billion plan, she not only brings a neighbor island perspective, but also representation of a county employer.

I have previously served on the board of trustees for the State of Hawaii Deferred Compensation plan from 2011 to 2014, and was recently appointed again in July 2019. Considering the governance requirements and responsibilities the Board has to its members and beneficiaries, I am sure that Ms. Matsuyama will be a valuable asset. I look forward to serving with Ms. Matsuyama on the board of trustees.

I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts to support her selection by voting favorably on her nomination and advancing G.M. 726 for full Senate confirmation.

Sincerely,

  
KALBERT K. YOUNG  
VP for B&F/CFO

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

ANDREW T. GARRETT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

May 15, 2020

TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

For Hearing on Friday, May 15, 2020  
1:00 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 229

BY

RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

**Governor's Message No. 726: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Trustees of the Deferred Compensation Plan, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLANCHE MATSUYAMA, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.**

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts:

I submit this testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of Blanche Matsuyama to the Board of Trustees (Board) of the State of Hawai'i Deferred Compensation Plan (Plan).

Ms. Matsuyama expressed an interest in serving as an employee member on the Board. In her current capacity as the director of finance at the County of Kaua'i, she possesses a wealth of auditing and financial management knowledge and experience required to manage the assets of the State Deferred Compensation Plan and the PTS Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan for part-time, temporary, and seasonal/casual employees.

I believe that she has the enthusiasm, desire, and commitment to public service to make her a strong candidate for appointment to the Board of Trustees of the State Deferred Compensation Plan and I support her confirmation.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message No. 726 and Blanche Matsuyama.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT  
GM726 RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF  
BLANCHE MATSUYAMA  
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

Before the  
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts  
May 15, 2020; 1:00 pm  
Conference Room 224

Testimony of Derek S.K Kawakami  
Mayor of the County of Kaua'i

Honorable Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to testify in **strong support** for the appointment of Blanche “Reiko” Matsuyama to the Board of Trustees of the Deferred Compensation Plan which oversees one of the most important retirement benefits for State employees.

Throughout her career, Ms. Matsuyama has managed and directed multi-faceted fiscal operations including Grove Farm and most recently, the County of Kaua'i where she serves as our Finance Director. Her ability to dissect fine details while simultaneously overseeing the diverse responsibilities of large organizations is why I selected her to lead our County's finance department. In the short eighteen months she has worked in my administration, Ms. Matsuyama has introduced technological upgrades to our systems, streamlined procedures, and boosted morale. Her insight and perspective along with her openness to change has moved our County forward in improving the civic interactions of our residents.

Ms. Matsuyama's zest for life always has her setting new goals and accepting new challenges with enthusiasm. Whether it is running, coaching, volunteering, or taking care of her family, she will always commit with vision and a level head.

I am confident in Ms. Matsuyama's ability to guide and support the work of the Board of Trustees of the Deferred Compensation Plan. I ask this Honorable Committee to advise and consent to her nomination and forward to the full Senate for consideration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHILIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT  
GM726 RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF  
BLANCHE MATSUYAMA  
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

Before the  
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts  
May 15, 2020; 1:00 pm  
Conference Room 224

Testimony of Michael A. Dahilig  
Managing Director, County of Kaua'i

Honorable Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit testimony in **strong support** of the appointment of Blanche "Reiko" Matsuyama to the Board of Trustees of the Deferred Compensation Plan.

Ms. Matsuyama's expertise in organizational finance and management skills will bring sound guidance to this Board which is entrusted to oversee one of the most important retirement benefits for State employees. Her experience overseeing the diverse components of the Grove Farm Company, Inc, allowed her to transition smoothly to direct the County of Kaua'i Department of Finance. With her focus and competitive spirit, Ms. Matsuyama brings innovation and advances to our County team and always with wit and a willingness to work with others.

Assisting others in our community comes naturally to Ms. Matsuyama, whether coaching soccer at her alma mater, or fundraising for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, she shares her smiles and her skills with enthusiasm. I am sure she will be especially delighted to serve in a capacity that focuses on financial security for a large demographic in our state.

Ms. Matsuyama will be an experienced and thoughtful member of the Board of Trustees of the Deferred Compensation Plan. I ask this Honorable Committee to advise and consent to her nomination and forward to the full Senate for consideration. Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.



**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Arthur Brun  
Mason K. Chock  
Felicia Cowden  
Luke A. Evslin  
KipuKai Kualii



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk  
Scott K. Sato, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188  
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349  
E-mail: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

May 14, 2020

**TESTIMONY OF ARRYL KANESHIRO  
COUNCIL CHAIR, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
GM 726, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION  
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
THE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN  
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts  
Friday, May 15, 2020  
1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 229**

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 726, Gubernatorial Nomination of Blanche Matsuyama to the Board of Trustees of the Deferred Compensation Plan. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

Blanche Matsuyama's multi-faceted career in finance makes her a perfect candidate to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Deferred Compensation Plan. Ms. Matsuyama currently serves as Director of Finance for the County of Kauai, and prior to that was the Director of Finance and Corporate Treasurer for Grove Farm Company, Inc., overseeing numerous initiatives, such as, real estate development, land leasing, water and wastewater management, golf course management, as well as financial reporting. I have personally worked alongside Ms. Matsuyama at Grove Farm Company, and now with the County of Kauai, and can attest to her fiscal awareness and capacity to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Deferred Compensation Plan.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Blanche Matsuyama. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

ARRYL KANESHIRO  
Council Chair, Kaua'i County Council