

GM543

Michael Yadao

State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i?  
As a former combat sport athlete, and someone who continues to coach, I have a sincere desire to ensure that all local boxers have the opportunity to compete in a safe environment and be compensated in a timely manner. As a father of a young boxer who has professional aspirations, my focus within the commission will be on fighter safety (appropriately trained referees and ring officials, dedicated ringside physicians with a clear path to the ring and referee, both concussion and weight management protocols firmly in place).
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i?  
To license and regulate professional boxing and mixed martial arts and amateur sanction organizations within the State of Hawaii.
- (2) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i 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 qualified to serve in that I have competed as an athlete, served as a referee and as coach which allows me a unique perspective from which to sanction an athlete, referee, cornerman or event. I have spent the last five years studying the sport under the tutelage of Hubert Minn (former WBC Chair of Ring Officials) and being embedded within the local amateur fight community. I have spent the last three years helping to train my son, Matthew Yadao who has had three amateur USA Boxing fights. I also have nonprofit board experience which should serve the board well administratively.
- (3) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?  
Serve as an effective advocate for professional fights to be held in Hawaii (particularly on neighbor islands). Establish firm protocols based on best practices from California, Nevada and New Jersey regarding fighter safety, fight set-up, referee and ring official certification, etc..
- (4) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i.  
Passionate – love the sport and firmly believe in the honor and dignity of it  
Committed – fully engaged and willing to serve without thought of reward  
Empathetic – I know what the fighter, coach, referee and the fighter's family are going through during the course of training and on fight night
- (5) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i member.  
I've had many, but having to watch my son fight (pre-COVID-19) was nerve racking and gave me an entirely different perspective.
- (6) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the State Boxing Commission of Hawai'i? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

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No, I can't currently. Should one potentially arise, I have the responsibility to report that potential conflict to the Chair and to the Deputy AG assigned to the commission and to act according to their advice.

I hope that is ok. Happy to elaborate if/when needed.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

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**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Wednesday, March 10, 2021  
9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 543, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE STATE BOXING COMMISSION OF HAWAII,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHAEL YADAO,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-20-2022  
(EXPIRATION DATE AMENDED TO 06-30-2022 BY G.M. 659)**

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 appointment of Mr. Michael Yadao to the State Boxing Commission of Hawaii (Commission) as a public member. He was first appointed to the Board on an interim basis on August 26, 2020.

Since 2018, Mr. Yadao has served as a lobbyist for the General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA). His responsibilities include representing and voicing the GCA's position on initiatives and liaising with: legislators; organized labor; federal, state, and county agencies; and construction-related organizations. Previously, Mr. Yadao was the campaign manager for Governor David Ige from 2017 through 2018 and the deputy director of campaign operations for Mayor Kirk Caldwell in 2016. He also

assisted Governor Neil Abercrombie in various positions from 2011 through 2015, including maintaining a database of statewide boards and commissions and vetting suitable applicants. Mr. Yadao's employment in these settings has provided him with a breadth of experience at the state and county levels of government.

Mr. Yadao's professional experience will offer a meaningful perspective to the Commission. In addition, his desire to serve on the Commission and commitment to actively participate in commission meetings will greatly enhance the Commission's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

March 10, 2021

TO: HONORABLE SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR, SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION, SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF GM 543: FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE BOXING COMMISSION OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHAEL YADAO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-20-2022 (EXPIRATION DATE AMENDED TO 6-30-2022 BY GM659)**

Hearing

DATE: Wednesday, March 10, 2021  
TIME: 9am  
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

I whole heartedly support Governor's Message 543 and the nomination of Mike Yadao to the Hawaii State Boxing Commission. Mr. Yadao's background, knowledge of the sport, experience in public administration, including state boards and commissions qualify him for the position. Mr. Yadao is a diligent professional that pays attention to details and can identify when a problem may exist and propose appropriate solutions.

The commissions sole responsibility is the management, direction and control over all professional and amateur boxing to be held in the State of Hawaii. Mr. Yadao will bring value and much needed understanding of the intricacies of such an important commission.

I support Governor's Message 543 and request the consent of this Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

Mahalo,  
David Kanno  
Coach/Instructor