

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS  
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
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February 24, 2021

To: The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 225

From: Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director  
Hawaii Workforce Development Council

**Re: GM 597 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ian Kitajima, for a term to expire at 06-30-2023.**

Good afternoon Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts. I am Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) testifying in strong support of Mr. Ian Kitajima's reappointment to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2023. This would be Mr. Kitajima's second term with the WDC to continue to fill the slot for a business executive member on the Council.

The WDC is responsible for the administrative oversight and implementation of a federally mandated initiative, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA). Additionally, the WDC assists the Administration develop and update statewide comprehensive, strategic workforce development plans and actions to align and streamline the public workforce development system for continuous improvement and accountability. It supports employment opportunities for employers and employees through direct services at the American Job Centers throughout the State.

Mr. Kitajima is Director of Corporate Development at Oceanit. He is responsible for commercializing and corporate venturing for Oceanit's award winning innovations, products, and services. He is an Oceanit founding member for Hoana Medical, Nanopoint, and Ibis Networks.

As Chair of the Youth Services Committee, Mr. Kitajima has been very active and

served in a leadership role as a member of the Executive Committee for the past four years. The Youth Services Committee has worked to initiate piloting programs that include a trauma-informed assessment for youth participants enrolled through the American Job Centers, enhancing the entrepreneurial skills training among youth, enhancing work experience opportunities and preparing youth for post-secondary training and education.

Mr. Kitajima's extensive experience in the private sector as Director of Corporate Development, Marketing Director, Social Media Strategist, and as a startup entrepreneur will continue to make him a valuable resource to the WDC.

I respectfully urge you to reappoint Mr. Kitajima as a member of the Workforce Development Council where he would continue to bring his design thinking and strategic approaches to the organization during these challenging economic times.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for Mr. Kitajima.

**GM-597**

Submitted on: 2/20/2021 11:47:35 AM

Testimony for LCA on 2/24/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ian Kitajima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara

My reason for serving on the WDC's Youth Services Committee is aligned to my personal passion and Oceanit's statewide focus on preparing youth to redesign/recreate Hawaii's economy. As the current co-chair of the WDC's Youth Services Committee for the last 3 years, we embarking on three critical areas. First, many of Hawaii's high potential but at-risk youth come from backgrounds where family trauma is the norm, not the exception. Trauma changes how youth are able to learn and grow. Thus the focus on educating teachers, counselors, and other youth stakeholders about the application trauma-informed assessments so we can more effectively work with our youth. Second, how do we engage youth to continue learning, growing, and seeing the relevance of life long education is the goal of providing work experiences and opportunities for additional education and training. Lastly, to create the next generation economy, we need to prepare every young person to be entrepreneurial, to have a mindset and skills to create new careers, businesses, and opportunities that do not yet exist in Hawaii. Even if most will not start a business, an entrepreneurial mindset will take our youth far, and Hawaii with it. Mahalo for the opportunity to serve the State of Hawaii and Hawaii's youth. Mahalo nui, Ian Kitajima, Oceanit.



WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PATRICK K. SULLIVAN, PH.D., PRESIDENT/CEO  
OCEANIT LABORATORIES, INC.  
IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
**IAN KITAJIMA**  
**GURBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE**  
**HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
**(GM 597)**

Before  
**THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

February 254, 2021  
3:00pm  
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair and Members  
of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

From: Patrick K. Sullivan, Ph.D, President/CEO

Re: **Testimony in Support of GM 597**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for the nomination of Ian Kitajima a to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council for a term to expire 6/30/2023.

Ian has already served one term as the co-chair of the Youth Services Committee. The Youth Services Committee is driven by passionate committee members who are driving the following three statewide areas which are aligned to Federal Guidelines:

1. Trauma-informed/Assessment
2. Work Experience/Transition
3. Entrepreneurial Skills training

Ian has a passion for teaching and training Hawaii's youth and teachers in Design Thinking, Coding and Artificial Intelligence for them to redesign/recreate Hawaii's economy and create the next generations of innovators. He started Oceanit's SURF (Social Utilization of Resources for the Future) Program to help organizations and communities to become more adaptable by applying breakthrough innovations and mindsets to Hawaii's Public Schools.

I sincerely request your support in allowing him to continue his tenure on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

**ALAN S. HAYASHI**  
**207-4 Kawaihae Street**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii**

February 24, 2021

To: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

From: Alan S. Hayashi, Vice Chair  
Workforce Development Council

RE: GM 594 thru GM 605 **Gubernatorial Nominees:** Charles Shima / Jason Brand / Kira Higa / Ian Kitajima / Brian Tatsumura / Cary Miyashiro / Ken Loui / April Chun Acquavella / Brian Lee / Jason Bradshaw, to the Workforce Development Council for varying terms to expire June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2025

Hearing: Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 225

POSITION: Strong Support for GM 594 thru GM 605

Good afternoon Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, I am Alan Hayashi, Vice Chair of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) testifying in strong support of ALL ABOVE LISTED NOMINEES for confirmation to the WDC for varying terms to expire on June 30, 2023 thru June 30, 2025. The Nominees would fill slots reserved for designated sectors on the Council.

The WDC is an attached agency to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and is responsible for advising the Governor and Legislature on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for employers and employees. The WDC is the State Workforce Development Board for purposes of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. The WDC assists the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive, strategic workforce development plans and oversees publicly funded workforce investment activities in the state.

All Nominees are well qualified and leaders in their respective organizations and sectors. We on the WDC Board feel fortunate to have such diverse talent willing to join the effort to provide job opportunities and skills training for our community

In this critical year, WDC has been implementing the Hawaii WIOA Unified State Plan. The plan covers the six core formula grant programs authorized under WIOA and outlines the state's vision and strategy for carrying out activities under each program. The WIOA plan is a Federal requirement in order for Hawaii to receive the bulk of federal funding for the State's primary job training and placement activities.

I respectfully urge you to confirm all submitted Nominees as members of the Workforce Development Council where they will be valuable assets to the deliberations of the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.





**GM-597**

Submitted on: 2/22/2021 9:04:31 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/24/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Sue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have worked with Ian Kitajima for years in the startup, tech and education spaces. Most recently I have had the pleasure of working with him on entrepreneurship programs for at-risk youth. I 100% endorse Ian and hope you'll renew his appointment.





david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org  
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

February 24, 2021

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts  
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

HawaiiKidsCAN **supports GM597**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ian Kitajima, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances. Our work has included a focus on increasing access to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and computer science learning experiences. These opportunities expose students to skills connected with high-wage, high-growth industries, giving them more options upon graduation.

As a member of the Workforce Development Council's Youth Services Committee, I have seen Mr. Kitajima's passion and commitment first-hand. He has provided a strong vision for how the committee can make a positive difference in the lives of youth, and he has helped to bring together a group of diverse stakeholders who can lend perspective. While the committee may not have significant financial resources to deploy, we have the ability to highlight specific programmatic opportunities that benefit youth, such as trauma-informed education.

Lastly, HawaiiKidsCAN has collaborated with Mr. Kitajima and Oceanit to promote computer science and STEM learning for all kids. We have a shared belief that Hawaii's kids have tremendous opportunities to be innovators and job-creators right here at home.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro

Founding Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN