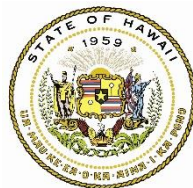


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8630 Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

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 598 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Brian Tatsumura 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. Brian Tatsumura's reappointment to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2023. This would be Mr. Tatsumura's second term with the WDC and he would continue to fill a slot reserved 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.

For 41 years, Mr. Tatsumura dedicated himself to Nordstrom starting as part of the stock team in the shoes department, then transitioned to shoe salesperson. A year later he became a buyer/manager for six years then was promoted to merchandising manager. He served as Nordstrom's Store Manager in Hawaii since 1997.

Mr. Tatsumura has been an active board member, serving as Vice Chair of the

Employer Engagement Committee. Under his co-leadership, the Committee has taken the lead on a statewide customer satisfaction survey of the American Job Centers, a statewide video highlighting the services of the American Job Centers, partnered with the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii with the development of the Hawaii is Hiring website, to name a few of the projects.

Mr. Tatsumura will continue to bring his experience and knowledge of the retailing and merchandising industry in Hawaii, which was one of Hawaii's largest employment bases and economic drivers prior to the pandemic. His keen customer service orientation and perspective will continue to lead the Employer Engagement Committee and the WDC.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Mr. Tatsumura's nomination.

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

From: Brian Tatsumura
Briant808 LLC

RE: GM 598 submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN TATSUMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

POSITION: Support

Aloha,

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, I am Brian Tatsumura, principal of Briant808 LLC, a consulting firm specializing in island business development. The reason for my testimony is to seek your support and confirmation for a second term on the Workforce Development Council.

My business background was with Nordstrom and spanned over 4 decades including various jobs from stockperson to my final position as store manager. I was able to lead Nordstrom's expansion in Hawaii from its beginnings as a shoe department within Liberty House, opening two freestanding shoe stores, bringing the state's first Nordstrom Rack to Victoria Ward and finally opening the company's first full-line Nordstrom at Ala Moana Shopping Center. I believe that the most vital aspect for finding success in the workplace is "servant leadership" or the ability to put people first in all interactions.

I joined the council in 2015, which was right after the federal WIOA act of 2014, and over the past 6 years I have watched the Workforce Development Council adapt and change in order to implement the various initiatives of WIOA. As this was my first appointment to a government associated entity, I have learned quite a lot with the help of Chair Wilkins, Executive Director Allicyn Tasaka and their teams on protocols and procedures associated within the council. While on the council I have been part of the employer engagement committee and also the subcommittee on people with barriers to employment. During that time my greatest takeaway has been the collaboration and willingness from both the public and private sector to work closely on business initiatives that will benefit the people of Hawaii. I believe that this will prove extremely valuable as we look to the future success of work associated opportunities for the islands.

As we emerge from COVID-19 with the associated softening of the economy, especially the tourism sector, I foresee an opportunity to pivot and redefine the job market and its opportunities. I feel I can be an asset in helping to accomplish this change with the help of the WDC and its many strategic partners. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Community Involvement

- **American Red Cross Hawaii Chapter**, Board Member (2 terms).....2008-2016
- **Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation**, Board of Directors..... ..2008-present
- **Chamber of Commerce Hawaii**, Board Member.....2009-2012
Chair Workforce Development Education Council.....2013-2016
- **Ala Moana Center Merchants Association**, Board of Directors, Chair..... 2010-2016
- **Retail Merchants of Hawaii** , Board Member, Executive Committee..... ..2013-2016
- **Aloha United Way**, Board Member.....2010-2016
Impact Community Chair..... 2014-2016
Audit Chair.....2015-2016
- **State Workforce Development Council**, Board Member,2014-present

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.

Testimony of Ken Hiraki
To The
Senate Committee of Labor, Culture and the Arts

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Measure: **G.M. 598**

Position: **Support**

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

I am Ken Hiraki and am submitting this testimony as an individual in strong **support** of **Mr. Brian Tatsumura** for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

I have known Brian for over six years, serving together in our capacity as trustees of the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation. During this time, he has proven himself as a passionate business and community leader with a strong sense of service to the people of Hawaii. Those involved in Hawaii's retail circles have described his career accomplishments as legendary.

He earned this level of respect through his sheer hard work and determination. Brian started his retail career working as a stockperson. He eventually worked his way up to lead the establishment of Nordstrom's local stand-alone shoe stores, Nordstrom Rack and the Nordstrom at Ala Moana Center as its first General Manager. Many seek his business advice and counsel based on his long history and success in the retail industry.

Brian also played a key role in assisting the Foundation's student workforce development projects. For example, he led the effort to connect Waipahu high school computer science class students with Nordstrom in the development of an App designed to improve the online consumer shopping experience. The students gained valuable skills and confidence from this experience and eventually went on to place first in a statewide computer science competition defeating the state's top private schools!

During these difficult economic times, we are fortunate to have someone with his background and leadership skills serving on the Workforce Development Council. He is a positive role model to many and I have witnessed his enthusiasm, commitment and unselfish desire to help our youth and larger community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I hope the Committee will unanimously confirm Mr. Brian Tatsumura to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

