

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

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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 602 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, April Aquavella, for a term to expire at 06-30-2024.**

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 Ms. April Aquavella's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2024. Ms. Aquavella would fill a slot reserved for a workforce/labor 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.

Ms. Aquavella is the Training Coordinator with the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund. Her initial career was in the field of marketing, creative arts and technology. An interest in the building industry led her to change careers and return to school after 20 years and complete a two-year trades degree. She is interested in helping youth transition to the workplace with her knowledge of apprenticeships.

Ms. Aquavella's background, education and work experience makes her ideal to be a

changemaker through the WDC. It is hoped that she will serve on the Youth Services Committee to develop more programs and opportunities for youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Ms. Aquavella's nomination to the WDC.



## HAWAII CARPENTERS APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING FUND

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

**From:** April Chun Acquavella, Training Coordinator, Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund

**RE:** GM 602 Gubernatorial Nominee April Chun Acquavella to the Workforce Development Council for a term to expire June 30, 2024

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

Good afternoon Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, I am April Chun Acquavella, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Workforce Development Council for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself and why I would like to serve on the Workforce Development Council.

I am a Training Coordinator with the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund where my responsibilities include administering the registered apprenticeship programs. Apprentices in our program are trained in one of three trades: carpentry, drywall, and millwrighting. In addition to working with current apprentices, I focus on recruitment by working closely with the Department of Labor Workforce Development Division, the Hawaii Department of Education and other career building organizations such as YouthBuild Waimanalo and the Youth Challenge Academy. I work on increasing awareness of the skilled trades through actively engaging youth through career fairs and speaking engagements. As a proud alumni of the Honolulu Community College Carpentry Technology program, I partner closely with the college to provide opportunities for graduates to continue their education and work towards a journeyworker's certificate.

Prior to my current position, I taught math and printreading within the apprenticeship program as well as design and advertising courses as a lecturer at Honolulu Community College. My marketing and design expertise was developed through two decades as a designer and art director with companies in Hawaii and California.

I humbly ask to serve the community through the Hawaii Workforce Development Council by bringing my experience across a broad scope of industries and disciplines including design, marketing, teaching, and carpentry.

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.







UNIVERSITY of HAWAII  
**HONOLULU**  
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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:** Guy T. Shibayama, Apprenticeship Coordinator  
 Honolulu Community College

**RE:** GM602 April Chun Acquavella, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaii Workforce  
 Development Council for a term to expire 6/30/2024

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

**POSITION:** Strong Support

Good afternoon Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, I am Guy Shibayama, Apprenticeship Coordinator at Honolulu Community College (HonCC) and testifying in strong support of Ms. April Chun Acquavella's confirmation to the Workforce Development Council (WDC) for a term to expire on June 30, 2024.

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.

Ms. April Chun Acquavella is Training Coordinator with the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund. In this role, April is responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of all aspects of the Carpenter's apprenticeship program while instilling professionalism, productivity, and positive attitudes in the apprentices. In addition, she participates in high school career fairs and speaking engagements to provide Hawaii's youth an opportunity to learn about the skilled trades.

Ms. Chun Acquavella is an alumni of the HonCC Carpentry Technology program. She has taught math and blueprint reading for the Carpenter's apprenticeship program. She has also taught design and advertising courses as an adjunct faculty for the College's Communication Arts program.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Ms. Chun Acquavella as a member of the Workforce Development Council where she would be a valuable asset.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Ms. April Chun Acquavella.

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February 22, 2021

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Committee Members:

**Subject: SUPPORT GM602 relating to Confirmation of April Chun Acquavella to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council**

We are writing to express our **STRONG SUPPORT** for the appointment of April Chun Aquavella to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

As a training coordinator with the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund, Ms. Chun Aquavella has been outstanding in helping our at-risk youth to understand the skills and qualities employers are looking for. With her guidance we have been using the *Career Connections* curriculum, which our students enjoy learning from because it is descriptive and easy to understand.

Ms. Chun Aquavella has been a strong supporter of the at-risk youth we serve and providing opportunities for them to obtain top-notch skills and rise above the circumstances they have grown up in. She has helped to place deserving students in quality apprenticeships with good employers.

We know she will be a valuable addition to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council and bring a strong understanding of the workforce needs and challenges.

Sincerely,

Mona Bernardino  
Chief Operating Officer



February 22, 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: Donna E.Y. Odani

RE: GM 602 Gubernatorial Nominee April Chun Acquavella to the  
Workforce Development Council for a term to expire June 30, 2024  
Hearing: Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 225 and  
Zoom videoconference

POSITION: Strong Support

Good afternoon Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee. I am Donna Odani, and I am testifying to offer my strong support of Ms. April Chun Acquavella's confirmation to the Workforce Development Council ("WDC") for a term to expire on June 30, 2024.

I am a licensed attorney in the State of Hawai`i, although my current job position does not require to be active member of the state bar. I emphasize that I am providing this testimony in a personal capacity. Ms. Acquavella has been a close, personal friend of mine for over thirty years. We graduated from Pearl City High School together and attended the University of Hawai`i at Manoa together. We were both part of the Regents and Presidential Scholars Program. I was a Regents Scholar and Ms. Acquavella was a Presidential Scholar. Although I have never worked with her in a professional capacity, I am familiar with her character, integrity, and work ethic, and I am confident that she would be a valuable asset to the WDC.

Ms. Acquavella has a diverse background of life experiences that make her uniquely qualified to recognize the interests and needs of the diverse workforce in Hawai`i. Ms. Acquavella attended public school in Hawai`i and spent some of her post-college years living and working on the mainland, both on the west coast and the east coast. Her husband is a retired member of the United States Navy, and they are the parents of a teenage daughter. Professionally, Ms. Acquavella originally worked in graphic design, including having her own business. She later transitioned into the trade industry, and she has been an apprenticeship instructor and now a training coordinator with the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship &

Training Fund. Thus, she is very familiar with the different viewpoints of people entering the workforce for the first time, people transitioning into a new profession, and people encouraging their children as they prepare to enter the workforce. She is also able to encourage people who are entering a profession in which they are an underrepresented people group.

Because Ms. Acquavella's varied experiences and viewpoints will allow her to make valuable contributions to the WDC, I respectfully urge you to confirm Ms. Acquavella as a member of the WDC.

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



## HAWAII CARPENTERS APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING FUND

February 23, 2021

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

**RE:** GM 602 Gubernatorial Nominee April Chun Acquavella to the Workforce Development Council for a term to expire June 30, 2024

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of April Acquavella's nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

April has a unique perspective that makes her nomination to the Workforce Development Council unmatched. She has over 20 years of design and marketing experience and a degree in carpentry, having recently graduated from the Carpentry Technology program at Honolulu Community College. She has also served as an instructor, guiding students in their education in subjects such as math and print reading to advertising and design. Her experience in the public and private industries, as well as the educational realm, give her exceptional insight into the challenges of running a large, multi-faceted programs, while allowing her to introduce new, progressive strategies and solutions to keep us relevant.

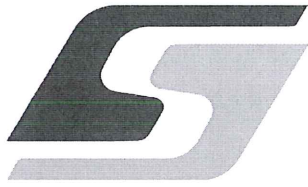
In her current position as a Training Coordinator for the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund, April has numerous responsibilities including meeting with construction companies, visiting elementary, intermediate and high schools to promote professional careers in the trades, teaching classes, and working with the community colleges across all islands to support the apprenticeship program. She also administers our Career Connections program in partnership with the DOE, bringing a work-ready curriculum to local high schools and organizing hands-on experiences with our summer internship program.

April has also brought her innovative outlook to the program, helping integrate more technology within our organization. From streamlining our application processes to building more trust and communication with candidates and current apprentices, April has created a new level of community and commitment among the members of our program.

April is professional, perceptive and diligent. She has the rare ability to bring mutual consensus on projects involving the workforce, engineers, architects and the construction companies. Her character, integrity and dedication to apprentices and students demonstrate her strong commitment to public service. Given her excellent character and unwavering commitment, I humbly ask you to support the confirmation of April Acquavella to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Sincerely,

Edmund C. Aczon  
Executive Director



# SHIOI CONSTRUCTION

*Building Hawai`i since 1948*

February 23, 2021

I am Conrad Murashige, Management Co-Chair of the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Trust Fund in full support of April Chun Acquavella, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council for a term to expire 6/30/2024.

April is a Training Coordinator for the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Trust Fund and is an integral part of the team that is providing career opportunities and awareness to our Hawaii youth. We currently have more than 1,500 apprentices in our training program as well as continued training for our 5,000 plus journeymen and journeymen. April is also a major force in our Career Connections Summer Internship Program that offers valuable exposure to high school students to our industry.

I respectfully urge you to confirm April Chun Acquavella as a member of the Workforce Development Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

Conrad H. Murashige  
Management Co-Chair  
Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Trust Fund

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE EUSTAQUIO  
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

MARICAR PILOTIN-FREITAS  
ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
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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, State Capitol

From: Maricar Pilotin-Freitas, Administrator  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Workforce Development Division

**GM 602 April Chun Acquavella to Serve as a Member of the  
Workforce Development Council**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committee:

My name is Maricar Pilotin-Freitas and I am the Administrator for the Workforce Development Division of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). I support the confirmation of Ms. April Chun Acquavella to the Workforce Development Council (WDC).

The WDC is an administratively attached agency in the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations that is responsible for advising the Governor and the Legislature on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities in Hawaii.

Ms. Acquavella has worked well with our division on apprenticeships and I urge you to confirm her as a member of the WDC as her knowledge of the field of labor will be an asset to the council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. April Chun Acquavella.