

GM621

Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects

Tony Lau

Tony Lau responses to State Senate questions for nomination to Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (EASLA).

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects?

I have practiced civil engineering for nearly 30 years including as a licensed professional civil engineer for 26 years. I value and respect the EASLA Board's responsibility to ensure that the civil engineering profession is practiced in a responsible and ethical manner within the State of Hawaii. Being an EASLA Board member would allow me to contribute towards the future of my profession.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects?

One of the responsibilities is to review applications for licensure by examination or by endorsement. Other roles include reviewing, voting, and decision-making for issues pertaining to professional licensure and rulemaking defining our scope of professional practice as it relates to the health, safety and welfare of the general public. Another role is decision-making to issue final orders in disciplinary cases.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects 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 am a licensed professional civil engineer for 26 years. I supervised, coached and mentored civil engineers for nearly 16 years as a consultant in the private sector as well as a supervisory engineer and technical discipline coordinator for the federal government. I train and hold my engineers to the high technical, professional and ethical standards.

For the last 30 years, I actively served in numerous volunteer roles for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) on local, regional and national levels.

Locally, I served as the ASCE Hawaii Section President, the ASCE Hawaii Section Younger Member Forum (YMF) President, and the YMF Professional Exam (PE) Refresher Course Chair. In my two presidential roles, I led a board in determining direction and opportunities for our local civil engineers. As PE Exam Refresher Course Chair, I learned the NCEES and State requirements for PE licensure and recruited instructors to prepare over 100 civil engineers-in-training to pass the PE exam in a four-year period.

My other ASCE positions include but are not limited to a Region Governor, and Society Director from a Geographic Region. These roles exposed me to licensure rules and requirements in other States. I was also part of the ASCE National Board of Direction that recently approved an update to the ASCE Code of Ethics which is an industry standard for the ethical, professional practice of civil engineering.

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Tony Lau

I have been honored for my practice of civil engineering and my contributions to the profession and the community with numerous awards including the 2002 Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers (HSPE) Young Engineer of the Year, the 2017 HSPE Engineer of the Year, the 2017 ASCE Region 8 Engineer of the Year, and the 2020 Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Civilian Engineer of the Year.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to contribute towards the betterment of the civil engineering profession through the civil engineer position on the EASLA Board. I plan to promote a higher standard for qualifications for licensure in civil engineering in order to better protect the public. One method is to raise engineering continuing education requirements for licensure to match other professionals.

I hope to gain an increased understanding of the roles of the EASLA board and participate in its decision-making and rule-making authority.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects.

Ethical, hard-working, and visionary as evidenced in my professional practice at work and in my professional and community volunteer services. My qualities would complement the existing EASLA Board in its authority, rulemaking and decision-making process by offering a different perspective from the civil engineer position.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects member.

I worked in the private sector as an Associate Vice President, Project Manager Engineer, and Federal Business Group Manager for local and international consulting firms. I am currently working for the federal government as the NAVFAC Hawaii Design and Construction Civil Engineering Design Branch Manager and Technical Discipline Coordinator. I served in numerous local, regional and national leadership roles for ASCE. I chaired the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies whose membership includes over 17 engineering professional organizations. The diverse leadership positions and perspectives allowed me to gain a wealth of experience in collaboration, two-way communication, conflict management, and decision making that would benefit the EASLA Board.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

Because one of my responsibilities is to review the licensure exam or endorsement applications of civil engineer candidates, one possible conflict of interest is potentially reviewing the documents of someone I know. Another possible conflict of interest would be if decision-making is required regarding the disciplinary action of someone I know. In these instances, I would recuse myself from the situation in order for the EASLA Board to provide equity and fairness in the process.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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. 621, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,
ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS, AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TONY LAU,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025**

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. Tony Lau to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board) as a licensee member.

Mr. Lau has been licensed as a professional civil engineer since August 28, 1996, and has nearly 30 years of engineering experience. He is currently a civil engineering branch manager for capital improvements, as well as a civil engineering technical discipline coordinator, for the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii. Previously, Mr. Lau was the associate vice president and the federal business group manager for HDR Engineering/Hawaii Pacific Engineers, Inc.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Lau has compiled a long list of accolades, including NAVFAC Hawaii Civilian Engineer of the Year in 2019 and the national NAVFAC Civilian Engineer of the Year in 2020. He also finds time to serve the community, including his leadership roles with the Kalani Falcons Athletic Boosters and his former team leader role with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Mr. Lau's extensive experience and accomplishments in the industry will offer a meaningful perspective to the Board. In addition, his commitment to actively participate in board meetings will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-621

Submitted on: 3/9/2021 11:09:21 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/10/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
BG Neal Mitsuyoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I respectfully submit testimony in SUPPORT of GM 621, relating to the Gubernatorial Nomination of Mr. Tony Lau to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects.

I have known Mr. Lau for nearly 30 years as an engineer peer. He has been a leader in the engineering community and an advocate for promoting advancement and ethics for the engineering in Hawaii. Mr. Lau has experience in both the public and private sectors and has volunteered his time to serve numerous leadership positions in multiple engineering organizations and societies, as well as being an active volunteer in this community. Mr. Lau is someone I believe to be trustworthy and ethical, and I am confident he will be outstanding in his serve to the state.

Neal Mitsuyoshi, P.E.

Brigadier General, HIARNG



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The Honorable Rosalyn Baker

Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Mr. Tony Lau, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE
Nomination for Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors
and Landscape Architects

Dear Senator Baker:

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Hawaii Section is comprised of members from Hawaii's design professional community working in both public and private sectors. It is with great pleasure that we submit this letter of support for Mr. Tony Lau to serve as the Civil Engineer on the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Mr. Lau is highly respected by the professional engineering community for his professional achievements and technical contributions to the industry. He is a proud civil engineering graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The following are recent awards among his many accolades during his nearly 30 years of engineering practice, illustrating Tony's dedication to excellence and his contributions to the practice of professional engineering in Hawaii:

- 2017 HSPE Engineer of the Year
- 2020 Finalist - NSPE Federal Engineer of the Year

Mr. Lau also has a long history of community involvement, particularly in his support of the civil engineering industry through his involvement with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), a professional organization with over 150,000 members in over 177 countries. He has held several leadership positions within the organization, including Past President of the Hawaii Section, Region 8 Governor, and current Region 8 Society Director and Chair of the Region 8 Board of Governors. Tony was also elected as a Fellow of ASCE, acknowledging his significant professional and technical accomplishments, celebrated contributions and creative solutions that impact our communities. ASCE Fellow is a prestigious honor bestowed upon only three percent of ASCE members.

ASCE Hawaii Section believes that Tony Lau is an excellent choice and fully supports his nomination. He will serve with passion and integrity and be a valuable asset to the Board and the people of Hawaii. We highly recommend Mr. Tony Lau, P.E. to serve as the Civil Engineer for the State Board and respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,

Dayna E. Nemoto-Shima, P.E.
President, ASCE Hawaii Section





February 25, 2021

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for the Confirmation of Mr. Tony Lau
GM621 – Nomination to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects,
Surveyors and Landscape Architects

Dear Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Vice
Chair; and Members of Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

Mr. Lau is a highly respected professional engineer in Hawaii's design community. He is not only very knowledgeable in his field, but also represents his profession with a high level of integrity and high ethical standards. He has demonstrated strong professional expertise throughout his employment career at different companies and organizations specializing in the field of Civil Engineering.

I have known Mr. Lau personally and professionally over the last 30 years. We have collaborated together closely and effectively in various volunteer capacities with different professional service organizations. Mr. Lau is a selfless individual who will certainly bring valuable professional experience and insight to this position on the board. He will be an excellent addition to the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects and I strongly recommend him for this position.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ron E. Iwamoto' with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ron E. Iwamoto, P.E.
President
Iwamoto Engineering Consultants, Inc.
Consulting Structural Engineers



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March 5, 2021

To: The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President, And Members of the Senate,
Thirty First State Legislature, Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: Glenn Miyasato, Ph.D., P.E.

Measure: GM621

Hearing Date: March 10, 2021

Position: In Support of Tony Lau to the Board of Professional Engineers,
Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects

I am submitting the following testimony in support of Tony Lau's confirmation to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects.

I am a principal at MKE Associates LLC, a local consulting structural engineering firm. I first met Tony in 1990 when he was civil engineering student in a class I was teaching at the University of Hawaii. Since then, I have had the pleasure to cross paths with him many times in his consulting work at HDR Engineering, his current position as Civil Engineering Branch Manager at NAVFAC Hawaii, and in numerous voluntary roles he has undertaken on behalf of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

It is obvious from Tony's academic and professional background that he is more than qualified to serve on the Board. Having mastered the basic technical engineering skills and then moving on to high level management roles in both private industry and government, he has trained and developed a number of successful engineers in all facets of our construction industry. From his involvement in the development of the local ASCE professional exam study course, he gained even greater understanding of the technical requirements for licensure. I know these experiences have given him a thorough understanding what it means and what it takes to be a professional engineer.

I also know that his deep involvement with ASCE over the years has given him a much deeper perspective than most on the profession. I don't recall a time when Tony wasn't involved with a committee or conference about the education, training, competency or ethics regarding the licensure and practice of engineers.

Above all, I believe that Tony's work ethic, personal integrity and commitment to ensuring the wellbeing and life safety of our community will be his greatest contribution to the Board as they wrestle with the myriad of issues facing not only this board but engineering licensing boards across the country.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter as I look forward to Tony's contribution to this board.

Sincerely,
MKE Associates LLC

Glenn Miyasato, Ph.D, P.E.
Principal

March 5th, 2021

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President,
And Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: **In support of Mr. Tony C.G. Lau to serve on the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects**

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

It gives me great pleasure to submit testimony in support of my friend, mentor and colleague, Mr. Tony C.G. Lau with regards to his consideration to serve on the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects as the Civil Engineer representative. Mr. Lau's technical expertise, work experience in both private and public sectors and his numerous leadership roles in both professional and community related associations makes him the perfect candidate to serve on the Board. A local boy at heart (via Kalani High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa), Mr. Lau's work ethic and undying support of our communities (near and far) have culminated in many accolades which include being the 2017 Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers Engineer of the Year (EOY), the 2017 American Society of Civil Engineers Region 8 EOY, the 2019 NAVFAC Hawaii Civilian EOY and the 2020 NAVFAC Civilian EOY, to name a few. As a result, Mr. Lau is a very well-respected engineer not only in our State, but also across our Country. Having known Mr. Lau for over 20 years and having served with him on the American Society of Civil Engineers Hawaii Section Executive Committee, I cannot think of a more fitting engineer to perform a duty so critical to the engineers and architects in our State.

Thank you for your time in considering this testimony in support of a very deserving and capable candidate.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy G.S. Goshi, PE, SE, MBA
PE-16073