

GM629

February 7, 2022

Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board

RE: John Uekawa, Nominee, responses to questions in regard to the nomination to become a member of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board?

I believe that serving on the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board (MVILB) is another way that I can give back to the State of Hawaii. As the automobile industry has great influence on the community, I hope to be able to lend insight and expertise as the industry evolves while ensuring that it also proceeds with integrity and responsibility.

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board?

I perceive the roles and responsibilities of a member of the MVILB are to provide non-biased opinions and insights on any issues concerning the motor vehicle industry.

3. Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board 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.

There are many facets to the motor vehicle industry. I have worked in the Hawaii motor vehicle industry for over 38 years and in a variety of capacities.

Immediately following my graduation from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, I was hired as a Marketing Coordinator at Servco Pacific. I was then recruited to work as a District Operation Manager for Mazda Corporation. Following my time at Mazda and for the past 27 years, I have been the General Manager and President of New City Nissan. Over my years in the industry, I have experienced many different issues in all aspects of the business. I hope that my first-hand experience and knowledge on these issues will be a valuable asset to all during my tenure on the Board.

I have also served on numerous boards, both within the state of Hawaii and across the nation - ranging from the Board of Directors for the Easter Seals to the Nissan North America National Dealer Advisory Board serving as Chairman for the Sales sub-committee for four years. In addition, I have held several positions on the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association (HADA) Board, from Director for 10 years to

Treasurer for 2 years. As of November 2021, I completed a 3 year term as President for the HADA Board and have transitioned to HADA's Past President position.

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

I hope to gain experience of the process and the issues that the MVILB faces on a consistent basis. I would hope that the MVILB could also learn from any knowledge and insight that I can provide.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board.

- i. Integrity – Whether in business or in sports, I understand that it is important to recognize the strengths of individuals and bring them together as a group to achieve common goals. As the MVILB members are diverse, I believe that this quality can help capitalize on the strengths of everyone involved.
- ii. Leadership – As a member of national Nissan committees, I am proud of my reputation as one who works for the benefit of everyone I represent. I hope that this reputation will reinforce the understanding that decisions made by the MVILB was sincerely made for the good of all.
- iii. Experience – I have over 38 years of work experience in the motor vehicle industry. I hope to use my experience to provide opinions and insights on issues that are presented to the Board. I am also currently sitting on the MVILB as an Industry Member.

6. Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board member.

I have always been active and involved with developing policies and procedures in the hiring of our licensed, sales personnel. These processes were developed to ensure that individuals would meet our corporate standards as well as be a responsible member of our industry. I understand the rules and many laws that govern our industry and some of the reasons for which they were created. I hope that these experiences will enable the MVILB to make reasonable and sound decisions.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not see any conflict at this time. However, as with any industry board, I am sure that a situation could arise that could pose a conflict. I can assure you that the integrity of the MVILB will be of utmost important to me and I will recuse myself from any vote or personal testimony should a potential conflict of interest situation present itself.

Testimony of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, February 18, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 629, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOHN UEKAWA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jenny Yam, and I am the Executive Officer of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Mr. Uekawa's reappointment to the Board as an industry member.

Mr. Uekawa has served on the Board since July 18, 2018, and has attended 19 out of 20 meetings since his appointment. Mr. Uekawa served as the general manager and president of New City Nissan in Honolulu since 1995, which brings valuable knowledge about the industry to the Board. He is also dedicated to his community, having served on multiple boards of directors for schools, non-profits, and as the Maryknoll Schools softball coordinator for 16 years.

Mr. Uekawa actively participates in discussions on the agenda items and shares his insights based on 40 years of experience in the industry. The Board strongly believes that Mr. Uekawa's interest in serving on the Board, experience in the profession, and desire to contribute to the community will enhance the Board's effectiveness to oversee the motor vehicle industry in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Heather Cuffter, President
Dave Rolf, Executive Director

Written Testimony by
David H. Rolf, Executive Director, Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association

for the

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, February 18, 2022

Time 9:30 a.m.

State Capitol, via Videoconference

RE: GM629

**Strongly supporting the confirmation to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board
Gubernatorial nominee John Uekawa for the term to expire 06-30-2025.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committee,

The members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association (HADA), Hawaii's franchised new car dealers, appreciate the opportunity to offer **strong support** for the confirmation of Mr. John Uekawa to serve as an industry member of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Mr. Uekawa is the immediate past president of HADA, having provided 3 years of outstanding leadership of the organization—with the last two being through the turbulent pandemic times. He has served as the general manager / president of New City Nissan from 1995 to the present.

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In 2016, Hawaii dealers named Mr. Uekawa the Hawaii State Dealer of the Year and he has earned many other honors in his storied career at the helm of this large Hawaii dealership.

In that year, Mr. Uekawa was honored as the recipient of the Monsignor Charles A. Kekumano Award for his many years of service as a volunteer softball coach.

Mr. Uekawa's dealership has won the Nissan Global Award (1 year) and the Nissan Award of Excellence for many years.

Mr. Uekawa has also served on Nissan Motor Corporation USA's dealership advisory council committee that focuses on the adoption of electric vehicles.

The members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association consider it a privilege to provide our highest recommendation for the confirmation of Mr. Uekawa.

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Rolf

For the members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association



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February 17, 2022

LATE

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Benjamin A. Kudo
Ashford & Wriston
999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM-629 – Consideration and confirmation to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN UEKAWA - **SUPPORT**.
Hearing date: Friday, February 18, 2022
Hearing time: 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

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

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and the support of your Committee members on the appointment of Mr. John Uekawa to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board.

I have known Mr. Uekawa for over 28 years. His many years of service in the automotive industry has given him the ability and experience to be an excellent member of the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board. He is a person of high integrity, compassion and intelligence and has the capability to meet the challenges of this position. Mr. Uekawa will faithfully carry out his responsibilities as a member of the Board.

Based on the foregoing, I recommend with no reservation your favorable consideration of Mr. John Uekawa for the aforementioned position. He is a person who will prove to be worthy of your support.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully urge your Committee’s support to confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON

Benjamin A. Kudo

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