

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

March 18, 2022

TO: COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Committee Members: Senators Stanley Chang, Jarrett Keohokalole, Kurt Favella

FROM: Alan S. Hayashi, Chairman
Hawaii Workforce Development Council

SUBJECT: GM 746 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee RONA FUKUMOTO for a term to expire June 30, 2025.

Honorable Senator Taniguchi, Chairman of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts, and Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., and Committee Members Senators Stanley Chang, Jarret Keohokalole and Kurt Favella:

My name is Alan Hayashi, Chairman of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council (WDC). We strongly support GM 746, the nomination of Rona Fukumoto to the WDC.

Ms. Fukumoto is President and Chief Executive Officer of Lanakila Pacific. She is responsible for all operations of Lanakila Pacific and the Lanakila Pacific Foundation. She provides leadership for a 180-person workforce of which 75% of the direct service workforce is comprised of individuals with significant disabilities. Previously she worked over 14 years at Catholic Charities Hawaii as Director of Intake, Information and Referral and Division Administrator for Housing Assistance and Referral Programs. She also spent a decade in leadership positions at Winners at Work.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) federal funding for Title I adult, dislocated workers and youth specifically focuses on individuals with barriers to employment such as low income, people with disabilities, low level of literacy, homeless, veterans, out-of-school youth, ex-offenders, and Native Hawaiian, among others. As such, Ms. Fukumoto's professional career has focused on helping the underserved populations and individuals with special needs. Her specifically honed skills, understanding and hands-on experience will provide greater insight, policies and services within the public workforce systems that partners with the impacted communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
www.labor.hawaii.gov

ANNE PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 18, 2022

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: Friday, March 18, 2022
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

From: Anne E. Perreira-Eustaquio, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**G.M. 746 Rona Fukumoto to Serve as a Member of the Hawaii
Workforce Development Council**

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

My name is Anne Perreira-Eustaquio, and I am the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. The Department strongly supports the appointment of Ms. Rona Fukumoto to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Ms. Fukumoto is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Lanakila Pacific where she manages programs that improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. Prior to her service at Lanakila Pacific, Ms. Fukumoto served in leadership positions at Catholic Charities Hawaii and Winners at Work, devoting 25 years to supporting and enriching the lives of those in need. Ms. Fukumoto has a Master of Public Administration and Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Hawaii. She was also selected as a Pacific Century Fellows, Class of 2010.

The Department believes Ms. Fukumoto's extensive experience, accomplishments, and education will enable her to provide valuable service as a member of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Fukumoto as a member of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 12:46:54 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Savan Patel	Testifying for S&P Holdings, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha comittee members and thank you for affording me the opportunity to testify and provide my absolute strongest support for Rona Fukumoto's nomination to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. There is no one better, that I can think of, that has the experrtise, depth of knowledge, and committment that Rona will bring to this Council. I serve as board member of Lanakila Pacific, an organization that Rona is the CEO of. I have witnessed Rona's performance from the time that we hired her as the CEO, and she has been nothing short of exceptional. She continues to show a strong comittment of expanding workforce opportunities for some of our most vulnerable population. Among the many programs and initiatives that she has spreaheaded at Lanakila, I was far more impressed with her abilities to manage her organization and members they serve during the pandemic. Due to Rona's leadership, the organization took on an incredible responsibility for a period to 28 months to ensure programs were reorganized in order to effectively serve the community. Rona's team did this without missing a beat, and they were even able to start additional programs to fill gaps within the community.

Rona's steadfast devotion to duty to her orgaization and the community makes her highly qualified for this position on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. Thank you again for the opportunity, and I look forward to her nomination.

Friday, March 18, 2022 at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Via Video Conference

Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and The Arts

To: Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara. Jr., Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **GM 746 – Testimony In Support
Gubernatorial Nominee RONA FUKUMOTO**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I am writing in SUPPORT of GM 746 which submits Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA FUKUMOTO for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, for a term to expire June 30, 2025.

To ensure that individuals with disabilities are well represented in state workforce development plans, a member of the Lanakila Pacific leadership team has participated in the Hawaii Workforce Development Council (WDC) for the past several years. Rona serves as the president and CEO of Lanakila Pacific. Lanakila's mission is to build independence and an improved quality of life for individuals with cognitive, physical, social or age-related challenges. Lanakila is responsible for programs such as Meals On Wheels, and providing fresh produce delivery and digital literacy classes.

As a member of the Lanakila Foundation Board of Directors, I believe Rona is well qualified to serve on the WDC. Her presence will provide representation for individuals with disabilities so that they will not be overlooked in workforce development plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 10:30:41 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kira Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Council Members,

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Rona Fukumoto's appointment to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

I have had the priveledge of working with Rona as a member of the Lanakila Pacific Board. As a current member of HWDC, I strongly support Rona's nomination based upon her knowledge of human resources and workforce development strategies, her demonstrated experience and leadership, and her willingness to serve our community. I am confident Rona will be an excellent asset to the council to help develop our state's comprehensive plan for workforce development.

For these reasons, I highly recommend Rona to be a member of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Kira Higa

HR Director

Hawaiian Telcom

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 4:07:15 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paige Heckathorn Choy	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Rona Fukumoto's nomination to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. I have had the great pleasure of volunteering with Lanakila Pacific with Rona at the helm, and she has time and again shown her strong commitment to expanding workforce opportunities, especially individuals with disabilities. For example, she has led an effort to increase the focus on and availability of opportunities for individuals with autism to enter into training and employment programs. Further, she has supported holistic employment opportunities in the state that benefit many sections and has taken the lead on helping to establish a food hub that would provide a stable market for local farmers, provide jobs and training for processors, and increase the availability of fresh foods for seniors receiving delivered meals.

The pandemic has been especially difficult to manage for Lanakila Pacific since they serve some of the most vulnerable residents in the state. They have taken on incredible responsibilities over the last two years to serve the community. That happened because of Rona's steadfast leadership and her ability to think about the broader needs of vulnerable populations in the state. Her experience, along with her calm and collaborative nature, make her incredibly qualified to hold this position on the council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide strong support for Rona's nomination.

HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON Labor, Culture, and the Arts
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Friday, March 18, 2022, 3:00PM

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 746: RONA FUKUMOTO

Good afternoon, Chair Taniguchi and members of the committee. My name is Marian Tsuji and I strongly support the nomination of Rona Fukumoto to the Workforce Development Council.

I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Ms. Fukumoto for a number of years. In fact, we worked together at Lanakila Pacific, where she succeeded me as its President and CEO. Under Ms. Fukumoto's leadership the organization continues to grow and remain relevant to the community, especially in the last two years with the pandemic.

Ms. Fukumoto is hard working, thoughtful and compassionate. Her background and experience will enable her to represent the community of individuals with disabilities interested in work. Ms. Fukumoto's insights and collaborative nature will be a great asset to the Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Fukumoto.

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:14:07 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cleota Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator/Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Labor, Culture and the Arts Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of Rona Fukumoto who is nominated to serve on the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

I've worked closely with Rona Fukumoto for over four years in my capacity as Vice Chair and Director at Lanakila Pacific Foundation and Chair of the Board Development Committee for Lanakila Pacific. I also have worked and sought guidance from Rona in support of other nonprofit agencies providing services for the special needs community.

Rona is a unique leader in the field of social services, special needs, employment services, nonprofit social enterprise development and food scarcity for the vulnerable to name a few. She also draws from her lengthy experience in the nonprofit sector to volunteer and support others in their growth. Monthly she spends 1-2 hours with new nonprofit leaders to share her mana'o. I'm an invited participant in these meetings where I observe her coaching, leading and building trust with new social service leaders.

She's the CEO of one of the most innovative nonprofits in our state. Under her direction, our Board has witnessed the capacity building growth of our social enterprises, employment services and meals on wheels. She never pretends to have all the answers, instead she goes out into our communities and attracts the talent that can provide the expertise to develop and scale Lanakila Pacific's reach and impact.

I've been a community advocate and strategic planner for Hawaii's nonprofit sector for 20+ years and I can't think of a more qualified leader to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Sincerely yours,

Cleota Brown, Community Advocate

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:51:04 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwayne Takeno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Rona Fukumoto's nomination to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. As a former board member of Lanakila Pacific I was able to see Rona successfully lead the organization as President and CEO for several years now. Lanakila Pacific continues to help our community with workforce development and training, especially for those with disabilities. Rona's experience in this area would definitely help the Workforce Development Council.

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:11:30 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Kern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony in strong support for Rona Fukumoto in serving on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. I have now worked with Rona for several years on the Lanakila Pacific Board in various roles and different contexts. Throughout, Rona has demonstrated wise leadership in combining long-term strategic planning and envisioning, with pragmatic problem-solving and issues resolution.

Rona is a valuable resource to be serving and leading on Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. Between her strategic vision, understanding of effective partnerships, and the pleasurable way in which she interacts with people of diverse backgrounds, she will be a key asset to the Council's efforts in the coming years.

Mahalo, for this opportunity to provide strong support for Rona Fukumoto.

Sincerely,

Bill Kern

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 7:42:49 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott R. Nahme	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Rona Fukumoto's nomination to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. As the current Board Chair for Lanakila Pacific, I have had the great pleasure of working with Rona, our CEO, for the past 3 years and she has always shown a strong commitment to expanding workforce opportunities, especially for individuals with disabilities. As an example, she has led an effort to increase the focus on and availability of opportunities for individuals with autism to enter into training and employment programs. Currently she has helped the organization take the lead on establishing a food hub that would provide a stable market for local farmers, provide jobs and training for processors, and increase the availability of fresh food for kupuna receiving delivered meals.

Over the past two years, during the pandemic, Lanakila Pacific increased its level of service to some of the most vulnerable residents in the state. This was in large part due to Rona's steadfast leadership and her ability to think of ways to help vulnerable populations in Hawaii. Her experience, along with her calm demeanor and collaborative nature, make her highly qualified to serve as a member off this council.

Thank you again, for the opportunity to provide strong support for Rona's nomination.

Scott R. Nahme, Lanakila Pacific Board Chair

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:23:48 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Hirano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a volunteer with Lanakila Pacific for the past four years, I've had the honor of working and collaborating with Rona Fukumoto. She has a strong commitment to developing workforce opportunities for individuals with disabilities and is extremely passionate about the mission of Lanakila Pacific. This passion also extends beyond Lanakila Pacific as evident in her true desire to impact and make a difference in our overall community. Her positive outlook, collaborative nature, open mindedness, and very relevant experience are just a few of her many strengths that I believe will qualify her to be a successful member of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. I appreciate this opportunity to testify in very strong support of Rona's nomination.

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 11:21:25 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stavros Demos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Rona Fukumoto's nomination to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. I have had the immense pleasure and honor of volunteering at the Lanakila Pacific Foundation with Rona at the helm this past year, and she has time and again shown her strong commitment to expanding workforce opportunities, especially for individuals with disabilities. For example, she has led an effort to increase the focus on and availability of opportunities for individuals with autism to enter into training and employment programs. Further, she has supported holistic employment opportunities in the state that benefit many sections and has taken the lead on helping to establish a food hub that would provide a stable market for local farmers, provide jobs and training for processors, and increase the availability of fresh foods for seniors receiving delivered meals.

The pandemic has been unprecedented and especially difficult to manage for Lanakila Pacific since they serve some of the most vulnerable residents in the state. They have been able to increasingly take on incredible responsibilities over the last two years to serve the community due to Rona's steadfast leadership and her ability to think about the broader needs of vulnerable populations in the state. Her experience and leadership traits in the face of adversity, along with her calm and collaborative nature, make her incredibly qualified to hold this position on the council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide strong support for Rona's nomination.

GM-746

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 1:33:09 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/18/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rona is a tireless advocate for workforce development and excellent choice for this role.

The Senate
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
March 18, 2022, 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 225

SUBJECT: Support for GM746

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the committee:

My name is Rona Yagi Fukumoto, I am currently the President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific, a local community-based organization that has served Hawaii for 83 years. Our mission is to build independence for individuals with cognitive, physical, social, or age-related challenges and to that end we provide job training, employment placement and the Lanakila Meals on Wheels program. Thank you for considering my nomination to the Workforce Development Council.

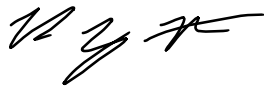
I believe that my experience and passion, to build a vibrant and inclusive workforce in Hawaii, makes me a good candidate for the Workforce Development Council. My career has been shaped by working in service to the community through nonprofit organizations serving individuals who have challenges to securing employment. I spent twelve years in direct service, program development, and leadership roles in organizations serving individuals with disabilities, including my current role as President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific.

I also spent fifteen years directing homeless services, at Catholic Charities Hawaii, where I served as Division Administrator for the Housing Assistance and Referral Programs division. Our team provided employment services for chronically homeless individuals, a key component to housing stability and part of Housing First wrap around service. The division also provided employment placement services for veterans.

My experience with a broad group of often marginalized individuals will help to inform my participation in the council. I look forward to the opportunity to be a voice for their unique needs as plans for the state are developed.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share my qualifications with you.

Sincerely,



Rona Yagi Fukumoto