

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

April 12, 2023

To: The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Time: 3:00 pm

Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: GM 657; Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN TANIGUCHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Brian T. Taniguchi to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board.

Mr. Taniguchi is an attorney and former statesman with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Most notably, Mr. Taniguchi honorably served as the Senator and Representative to his community for over forty years. During his service, Mr. Taniguchi chaired the Committees on Labor, Culture, and the Arts; Transportation; Higher Education; Commerce and Consumer Protection; Judiciary; and Ways and Means. His wisdom and experience will enable him to provide critical insight and understanding to the inaugural Hawaii Retirement Savings Board

The DLIR commends Mr. Taniguchi for his voluntary service in addressing Hawaii's retirement security crisis by allowing private sector employees to participate in a state-facilitated payroll-deduction retirement savings plan that will promote retirement savings needed for a secure retirement, improve the employee's financial security, and reduce wealth disparity as intended by State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 657.



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**The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology
Governor's Message (GM) 657- Brian Taniguchi
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Conference Room 224
3:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice-Chair
FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director, AARP Hawai'i

RE: Strong Support for GM 657 – Brian Taniguchi

Aloha Chair Moriwaki, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals aged 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawai'i. We advocate at the state and federal level for issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

AARP strongly supports the confirmation of Brian Taniguchi to serve on the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board.

AARP has had the pleasure of working closely with former Senator Brian Taniguchi on the Hawai'i Retirement Savings program which was passed in the 2022 legislative session (Act 269). Senator Taniguchi had been the program's champion while serving as the Senate Labor Committee Chair for past several years, and on the legislative-appointed retirement savings task force in 2021. The task force worked on the feasibility study to demonstrate the need for a retirement savings program for Hawaii's workers who do not have an easy way to save for retirement through their employer. This feasibility study and the Senator's leadership served as the catalyst for the program's successful legislative passage. AARP appreciates Senator Taniguchi's willingness to serve on the board to help ensure the program's successful implementation and establishment. As a retiree, he will represent the interest of the retirees and can also offer his knowledge and experience in working with the labor/business community on the board. His participation on the board will be critical to the program's success as its planning and development are currently underway.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senator Taniguchi's confirmation.

GM-657

Submitted on: 4/8/2023 1:10:01 PM

Testimony for LBT on 4/12/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Labor and Technology
The Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Aloha mai kākou:

RE: Governor's Message 657

I write in support of GM 657, nominating Brian Taniguchi to the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board ("Board").

In the time I have known Mr. Taniguchi, I have appreciated his interest in practical and socially useful policy, including those designed to support our retiree and elder population. His past experience with such knowledge as a state senator, representing our older-skewing community of Mānoa Valley, is instructive and useful experience.

Furthermore, I am pleased that our former senator is making use of his well-deserved retirement to continue to serve in a volunteer capacity on behalf of the needs of the people. Any such organization like the Board would be lucky to have his involvement. Double so, then, for one aligned with Mr. Taniguchi's background and forté.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
D.P. Armstrong, individual capacity
(Former Chair, Mānoa Neighborhood Board)

GM-657

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 9:19:41 PM

Testimony for LBT on 4/12/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GARY SIMON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Lee, and Honorable Members of the Senate Labor and Technology Committee,

I am Gary Simon, Chair of the AARP Hawai'i Executive Council. I have known Brian Taniguchi since I moved to Manoa in 1993 and became his constituent while he was our State Representative and then our State Senator. I am in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Taniguchi to the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board.

Mr. Taniguchi was the legislative champion for the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program. His keen understanding of the legislation creating the Program will be instrumental in the success of the development and implementation of the Program.

I respectfully and strongly urge you to recommend Mr. Taniguchi for confirmation to Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board.

Mahalo nui loa for seriously considering his nomination.

With warmest aloha,

Gary Simon

Chair

AARP Hawai'i Executive Council

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