



# NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

*An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism*

Statement of  
**Gregory P. Barbour**  
**Executive Director**

Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority  
before the

## **SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

Thursday, April 13, 2023  
1:00 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

in consideration of

### **GM 671 RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CYD MIYASHIRO AS A MEMBER OF THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee. I am pleased to provide testimony in strong support of Ms. Cyd Miyashiro to be considered for the NELHA Board of Directors. I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Miyashiro over the past several years in her role as a member of the NELHA Board of Directors and more recently as the Chair of our Board. I feel she is very qualified and has the ability to fill this important position.

Ms. Miyashiro's background in both the private and public sector in finance and energy will provide a unique perspective that will be very beneficial to the NELHA Board of Directors. We strongly believe that the further development of the advanced energy, marine science, and sustainable technology holds the key to economic growth in Hawaii. In this regard, NELHA

needs Directors who can see the “big picture” and have a broad vision to understand how the pieces of our economic future fit together. Ms. Miyashiro possesses these skills.

We have found that creating a strong public-private sector partnership are essential to success. Ms. Miyashiro has demonstrated this ability in forging public-private relationships in her past work. She has a keen ability to work with all the players -- the private sector, the Counties and other State agencies – in persuading everyone to work towards a common goal especially in the areas of finance and energy. Ms. Miyashiro’s experience and viewpoint in this area, especially growing up in Hilo, are important to the NELHA Board of Directors decision-making process.

Her private sector business experience is also crucial to NELHA maintaining its self-sufficiency status and operating with a strong business-oriented perspective. Ms. Miyashiro understands the need for growing existing businesses and attracting additional new corporations to invest in Hawaii. This is critical to NELHA’s success.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**GM-671**

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 2:16:04 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gabe Lee	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

I strongly support Ms. Cyd Miyashiro to continue to serve on the Board of Directors of Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority. She has served on the NELHA board since 2019 and is currently the Chair.

I have worked with Ms. Miyashiro at American Savings Bank since 2017 where she is a First Vice President and Commercial Banking Officer in the Corporate Banking Department. She is from Hawaii Island and her background in commercial banking and finance are well-suited to supporting the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority in its mission to develop and diversify Hawaii's economy, and their focus on energy and ocean-related research, education, and commercial activities.

Her public sector work experience with the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority and the Hawai'i Broadband Initiative also provides valuable insight.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 671.

Statement of

LEO R. ASUNCION, JR.

before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Thursday, April 13, 2023

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

**Governor's Message (GM) 671**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism.

I strongly support the nomination of Cyd Miyashiro to serve on the Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority.

I have known and worked with Ms. Miyashiro for the past 10 years, and she continues to demonstrate competency of the broad range of topics facing Hawai'i, specifically in the fields of banking, finance, and economic development. With her varied experience in state government, the private sector, and non-profit organizations, it is my opinion that Ms. Miyashiro is the right type of individual that the Authority needs to advance NELHA's initiatives and goals.

I specifically worked with Ms. Miyashiro during her tenure at the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and in both of her roles at the time, she was collaborative with those she worked with, practical in her actions, but would also be open to new ideas or ways of implementing initiatives. Her diligent work at DBEDT led to the implementation of the Hawai'i Green Energy Market Securitization (GEMS) Program, and progress on the Hawai'i Broadband Initiative.

Ms. Miyashiro continues to demonstrate the highest level of leadership, and she has gained my trust as a colleague and a friend. I have the utmost confidence that she will serve our State well.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Cyd Miyashiro to serve on the Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 671.

**Testimony of William F. Mielcke**

Before the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism  
Thursday, April 13, 2023, 1:00 PM, State Capitol, Room 229  
RE: GM761

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

I am very pleased to submit this testimony in strong support for Ms. Cyd Miyashiro as a member to the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority Board of Directors. I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Miyashiro over the past three years on the NELHA Board of Directors.

She is very smart, witty, has a ton of energy and will help NELHA realize its full potential.

I have been nominated by the past seven of eight Governors of Hawaii to State Boards and Commissions. As such, I feel very qualified to support her appointment to the NELHA Board as her background in energy and finance will provide the right perspective to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments.

**GM-671**

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 4:01:24 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO !