



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Monday, March 25, 2024
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
G.M. 649, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE CONTRACTORS LICENSE BOARD,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RUSSELL INOUYE,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). I am writing to express the Department's support for the appointment of Mr. Russell Inouye to the Contractors License Board as a licensee member.

The Department believes that Mr. Inouye will bring a wealth of experience in engineering and construction to this position. A graduate of Aiea High School and the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, he has dedicated his career to the field of engineering. Starting as an engineering aide with R.M. Towill Corporation and later as a design engineer with M&E Pacific, Inc., Mr. Inouye has continuously grown in his profession. Since 1990, he has been an integral part of Koga

Testimony of DCCA

G.M. 649

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Engineering & Construction, Inc., progressing from Project Engineer to his current role as President.

His extensive qualifications include various certifications such as a Professional Engineering License, Contractor's License, AGC Advanced Management Program, GCA Project Management Certification HAZWOPER, and more. Mr. Inouye also serves on the General Contractors Association of Hawaii and as a Director for the General Contractors Labor Association.

The Department firmly believes that Mr. Inouye's breadth of experience and remarkable achievements will bring a valuable perspective to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 25, 2024

TO: HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR, HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 649. SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CONTRACTORS LICENSE BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RUSSELL INOUYE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028.**

HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 25, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Capitol Room 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of approximately five hundred (500) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. Our mission is to elevate Hawaii's construction industry and strengthen the foundation of our community.

GCA **supports** GM 649, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

GCA believes that Mr. Inouye has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in construction to be a valuable member of the Contractors License Board. Mr. Inouye has decades of construction experience in Hawaii and the industry is very grateful that a candidate as knowledgeable as Mr. Inouye volunteered his time to serve on this important board. He is currently the President of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. We've always found Mr. Inouye to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



KING & NEEL

March 21, 2024

TO: HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR, HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 649.** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

HEARING
DATE: March 25, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

King & Neel Pacific, Inc. is an insurance and bonding agent based in Hawaii that has been dedicated to providing our services to Hawaii's building industry since 1967.

King & Neel Pacific, Inc. supports GM 649, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

King & Neel Pacific, Inc. is convinced that Mr. Inouye has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in the construction industry to become a valuable member of the Contractors License Board. He has decades of construction experience in Hawaii and the industry is very grateful that a candidate of his caliber has volunteered his time to serve on this important board. He is currently the President of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. where we have worked closely with him for many years and have always found him to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Inouye's nomination.

Sincerely,

John N. Bustard
Senior Vice President
King & Neel Pacific, Inc.



HENSEL PHELPS

Plan. Build. Manage.

841 Bishop Street
Suite 2001
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
808.535.9500

March 22, 2024

TO: HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR, HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 649.** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

HEARING

DATE: March 25, 2024

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

Founded in 1937, Hensel Phelps specializes in building development, construction and facility services. As one of the largest employee-owned general contractors in the United States, Hensel Phelps has built their company on four pillars: people, process, partnership and technology. This Hensel Phelps Way brings clients' vision to life with a comprehensive approach that begins with innovative planning and extends throughout the entire life of the property.

Hensel Phelps has been in the Pacific since 1993, when the company first began work on the JCPenney tenant build-out in Kahului, Maui. Hensel Phelps since branched out to Guam, supporting the U.S. Marines. In 2012, Hensel Phelps opened an office in downtown Honolulu, which officially became the company's Pacific Region in 2013. Over the years, Hensel Phelps has distinguished itself by consistently ranking among the top contractors in the nation and locally in Hawaii and Guam.

Hensel Phelps supports GM 649, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Hensel Phelps believes that Mr. Inouye has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in construction to be a valuable member of the Contractors License Board. Mr. Inouye has decades of construction experience in Hawaii and the industry is very grateful that a candidate as knowledgeable as Mr. Inouye volunteered his time to serve on this important board. He is currently the President of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. We've always found Mr. Inouye to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Inouye's nomination.

Sincerely,

Mike Venezia, DBIA, LEED AP BD+C
Chief Estimator

OUR VALUES

OWNERSHIP | INTEGRITY | BUILDER | DIVERSITY | COMMUNITY



March 25, 2024

TO: HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR, HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 649**. Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

HEARING

DATE: March 25, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. is General Contractor that specializes in Earthwork & Underground Utility construction. Koga Engineering just celebrated its 50th Anniversary and employs approximately 70 salaried and hourly workers throughout the State of Hawaii.

Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. supports GM 649, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. believes that Mr. Inouye has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in construction to be a valuable member of the Contractors License Board. Mr. Inouye has decades of construction experience in Hawaii and the industry is very grateful that a candidate as knowledgeable as Mr. Inouye volunteered his time to serve on this important board. He is currently the President of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. We've always found Mr. Inouye to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Inouye's nomination.

O'ahu, Big Island & Maui County

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**AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER**



RALPH S. INOUE CO LTD
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

500 Alakawa St., #220E
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

T: 808.839.9002
F: 808.833.5971

License No. ABC-457
Founded in 1962

March 22, 2024

TO: HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR, HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 649**. Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

HEARING

DATE: March 25, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

Ralph S Inouye Co, Ltd (RSI), a Hawaii general contractor, **supports GM 649**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board (CLB), Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

RSI believes that Mr. Inouye has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in construction to be a valuable member of the CLB. Mr. Inouye has decades of construction experience in Hawaii and the industry is very grateful that a candidate as knowledgeable as Mr. Inouye volunteered his time to serve on this important Board. He is currently the President of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. (Koga). We've always found Mr. Inouye to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

In addition, RSI has worked alongside Koga on many construction projects over the years and can attest to Koga as an upstanding Hawaii contractor and Mr. Inouye as a person of impeccable character. The CLB would be the beneficiary of an outstanding addition to the Board by his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Inouye's nomination.

Sincerely,

RALPH S. INOUE CO., LTD.

Lance M. Inouye
Chairman of the Board

LMI:ma



S & M SAKAMOTO, INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

March 25, 2024

TO: HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR, HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 649**. Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

HEARING

DATE: March 25, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

S & M Sakamoto, Inc. is a general contracting company that has been in the construction industry in Hawaii since 1940.

S & M Sakamoto, Inc. supports GM 649, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

S & M Sakamoto, Inc. believes that Mr. Inouye has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in construction to be a valuable member of the Contractors License Board. Mr. Inouye has decades of construction experience in Hawaii and the industry is very grateful that a candidate as knowledgeable as Mr. Inouye volunteered his time to serve on this important board. He is currently the President of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. We've always found Mr. Inouye to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Inouye's nomination.

Sincerely,

Francis Sakamoto Jr., Vice President

LATE

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

Senate Committee On Commerce And Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

GM 649—Support Gubernatorial Nominee, Russell Inouye, to the Contractors License Board
Monday, March 25, 2024
9:00 A.M.

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a nonprofit organization that represents the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state with approximately 6,000 members, in addition to more than 250 diverse contractors ranging from mom-and-pop owned businesses to national companies.

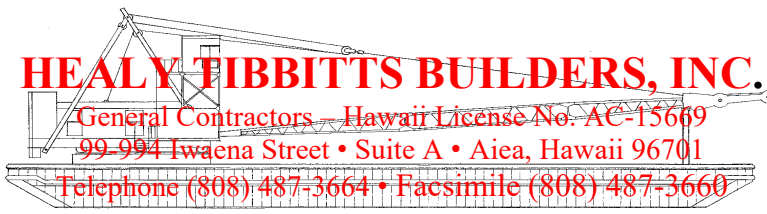
PRP writes in **strong support** of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Russell Inouye, to the Contractors License Board (CLB).

Mr. Inouye's commitment to public service; leadership experience in the construction industry; and his personal integrity make him well suited to serve on the CLB.

Mr. Inouye has decades of construction experience in Hawai'i. He is currently the President of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. We are confident that Mr. Inouye has the experience, knowledge, and passion necessary to serve on the CLB. As such, we respectfully request your favorable decision on his nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony.





March 25, 2024

TO: HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR, HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 649.** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

HEARING

DATE: March 25, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. is a general contractor in the State of Hawaii and has been actively engaged in construction work in Hawaii since the early 1960's. In addition to being a general contractor, HTBI also performs work as a subcontractor for foundation work.

Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. supports GM 649, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. believes that Mr. Inouye has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in construction to be a valuable member of the Contractors License Board. Mr. Inouye has decades of construction experience in Hawaii and the industry is very grateful that a candidate as knowledgeable as Mr. Inouye volunteered his time to serve on this important board. He is currently the President of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. We've always found Mr. Inouye to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Inouye's nomination.

Very truly yours,
Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc.

Richard A. Heltzel
President

March 25, 2024

TO: HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR, HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

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HEARING

DATE: March 25, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229,

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

Royal Contracting is a licensed AB contractor. We feel that Russell is a good representative to be on the Contractor's License Board.

Royal Contracting Company **supports GM 649**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL INOUYE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Royal Contracting Company believes that Mr. Inouye has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in construction to be a valuable member of the Contractors License Board. Mr. Inouye has decades of construction experience in Hawaii and the industry is very grateful that a candidate as knowledgeable as Mr. Inouye volunteered his time to serve on this important board. He is currently the President of Koga Engineering & Construction, Inc. We've always found Mr. Inouye to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Inouye's nomination.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Leonard Leong'.

Leonard Leong
President
Royal Contracting Company, Ltd.