

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 LIMAHAHA

March 25, 2024

To: The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Date: Monday, March 25, 2024

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference, State Capitol

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

**Re: G.M. 658 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN TANIGUCHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

The **DLIR strongly supports** the confirmation of Mr. Taniguchi to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board.

With over forty years of experience in State government as a Representative and Senator, Mr. Taniguchi brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board. He has provided the Board with crucial insight and understanding during his tenure as this fledgling Board endeavors to bring the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program to fruition.

I strongly urge the Committee to support Mr. Taniguchi's confirmation to enable him to continue to provide his invaluable wisdom, knowledge and experience to bear on the State's efforts to address the gathering retirement security crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 658.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

HAWAII RETIREMENT  
SAVINGS BOARD

**Co-Chairs**  
Jade T. Butay  
Luis Salaveria

**Members**  
Jessie Keola Dean  
Barbara Krieg  
Andrew Nomura  
Brian Taniguchi  
Karen Yasukawa  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino  
Rep Andrew Takuya

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS BOARD  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 25, 2024

To: The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Date: Monday, March 25, 2024

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference, State Capitol

From: William Kunstman, Co-Chair  
Hawaii Retirement Savings Board

**G.M. 658 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN TANIGUCHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

The **Hawaii Retirement Savings Board strongly supports** the confirmation of Mr. Taniguchi to the Board. Mr. Taniguchi has played an integral role in the deliberations of the Board, and we believe his ability to continue to contribute is vital to its success. Mr. Taniguchi's lengthy service in public office, his legal education and training, and his keen understanding of how State programs function and succeed make him an invaluable asset to the Board as well as to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Program.

There is an urgent need to provide a viable option for private sector employers and workers to have access to 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 in Hawaii and Mr. Taniguchi is uniquely qualified to assist in making that vision a reality. We wholeheartedly support Brian's nomination and urge your support of his confirmation to serve again on the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Taniguchi.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Labor and Technology

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 25, 2024

GM 658 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BRIAN  
TANIGUCHI FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2028

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination of Brian Taniguchi, as a member of the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board.

Mr. Taniguchi was a member of the House of Representatives and the Senate, representing the Manoa, Makiki, Punchbowl, and Papakolea area for over four decades. Having served as a chairman and member of the Senate committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts, and on the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. Taniguchi possesses extensive knowledge and expertise in budgeting, investments, retirement benefits, and retirement planning. Given Mr. Taniguchi's long track record and extensive knowledge, we believe that he is well suited to serve on the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board. He will prove to be an asset for our state as we look to develop private sector retirement plans for private sector employees who do not have access to employer-sponsored retirement plans.

We offer our strong support and endorsement of Brian Taniguchi's nomination to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board and kindly ask the favorable consideration of your committee for his candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

**COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY**

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Monday, March 25, 2024, 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony on GM658 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN TANIGUCHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2028**

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW") is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. UPW also represents approximately 1,500 healthcare workers in the private sector.

UPW **strongly supports** GM658, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board, Brian Taniguchi, for a term to expire 06-30-2028. After more than 40 years as a legislator in the Hawaii State House of Representatives and State Senate, Senator Taniguchi's willingness to serve on the Retirement Savings Board for an additional term further extends his legacy as a consummate public servant and highlights his continued commitment to Hawaii's workers and retirees.

It is an honor for UPW to support Senator Taniguchi's appointment to this board. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this GM658.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner  
State Director

**HEADQUARTERS**

1426 North School Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914  
Phone 808.847.2631

**HAWAII**

362 East Lanikaula Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336  
Phone 808.961.3424

**KAUAI**

2970 Kele Street, Suite 213  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1803  
Phone 808.245.2412

**MAUI**

841 Kolu Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436  
Phone 808.244.0815

1.866.454.4166

Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830  
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882  
aarp.org/hi | [aarphi@aarp.org](mailto:aarphi@aarp.org) | [twitter.com/AARPHawai'i](https://twitter.com/AARPHawai'i)  
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**The State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology  
Governor's Message (GM) 658- Brian Taniguchi  
Monday, March 25, 2024  
Conference Room 224  
3:00 p.m.**

TO: The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair

FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director, AARP Hawai'i

**RE: Strong Support for GM 658 – Brian Taniguchi**

Aloha Chair Aquino, 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 continue serving on the board to help ensure the program's successful implementation and establishment. As a retiree, he represents the interest of the retirees and can also offer his knowledge and experience in working with the labor/business community on the board. His continued 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.



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441  
Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Thirty-Second Legislature  
The Senate  
Committee on Labor and Technology

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

March 25, 2024

TESTIMONY ON GM658 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII  
RETIREMENT SAVINGS BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE BRIAN TANIGUCHI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE  
06-30-2028

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a federation of 74 affiliate labor organizations representing over 68,000 union members in the State of Hawaii. The AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for workers and their families before the state legislature and other state and county government branches.

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO **strongly supports** GM658, which proposes Brian Taniguchi for the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board with a term set to conclude on June 30, 2028. Mr. Taniguchi's extensive legislative service for over four decades, including terms in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, endows him with a profound grasp of legislative processes and a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Hawaii's workforce and retirees.

Moreover, Mr. Taniguchi's legal background and commitment to public service make him exceptionally qualified to navigate the complexities of retirement savings and labor policies. His longstanding commitment to his constituents demonstrated through his representation of communities in Mānoa, Makiki, Punchbowl, and Papakōlea, reflects a deep alignment with the board's goal to serve the retirement needs of all Hawaii workers and retirees.

Given Mr. Taniguchi's broad experience and dedication, the Hawaii State AFL-CIO believes his appointment to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board will significantly contribute to the board's endeavors to secure a stable retirement for Hawaii's workforce. We are confident in his ability to provide thoughtful and effective leadership in addressing Hawaii's workers' retirement security challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
President

**GM-658**

Submitted on: 3/22/2024 12:12:38 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/25/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patrick Max Weisbarth	Testifying for Sailors Union of the Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Sailors Union of the Pacific (Honolulu Branch) Supports the nomination of Brian Tanaguchi to the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board.

Patrick Max Weisbarth

SUP Port Agent





# HAWAII PORTS MARITIME COUNCIL

affiliated with

Maritime Trades Department

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR and CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION

606 Kalihi Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

TELEPHONE: (808) 845-5222

FAX: (808) 841-1191

Member Unions:

March 22, 2024

*American Federation Of  
Government Employees*

*Hawaii Government  
Employees Association,  
AFSCME Local 152*

*Hawaii Pilots Association,  
MM&P Pilots Division*

*Inlandboatmen's Union  
of the Pacific*

*International Brotherhood of  
Boilermakers, Iron Ship  
Builders, Blacksmiths,  
Forgers and Helpers  
Lodge 627*

*International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local 1186*

*International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local 1260*

*International Longshore and  
Warehouse Union Local 142*

*International Union of  
Elevator Constructors  
Local 126*

*Ironworkers Union  
Stabilization Fund  
Local 625*

*Laborers' International Union  
of North America Local 368*

*Marine Engineers'  
Beneficial Association*

*Marine Firemen,  
Watertenders, Oilers & Wipers*

*Masters, Mates and Pilots,  
Offshore Division*

*Sailors' Union of the Pacific*

*Seafarers International Union*

*Sheet Metal Workers Local 293*

*United Food and Commercial  
Workers International Union  
Local 480*

Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair

Honorable Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

RE: GM658 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE HAWAII RETIREMENT SAVINGS BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, BRIAN TANIGUCHI FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-29

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Ports Maritime Council strongly supports Brian Taniguchi to serve as  
a member to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board.

Brian has over 40 years of service as a Hawaii Representative and Senator in the  
Hawaii State Legislature. He is a strong advocate for labor and would be an  
effective representative in the interests of the labor community. Therefore, the  
Hawaii Ports Maritime Council enthusiastically recommends him for the Hawaii  
Retirement Savings Board.

Sincerely,

Randy Swindell  
President





**Rosalee Agas Yuu, RN**  
President  
1600 Ala Moana Blvd Suite 100  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
Tel: (808) 531-1628  
Fax: (808) 524-2760

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
The Senate  
Committee on Labor & Technology

Testimony by  
Hawaii Nurses Association

March 25, 2024

GM 658 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII  
RETIREMENT SAVINGS BOARD. GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE – BRIAN TANIGUCHI

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2024  
TIME: 3:00 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 224

Chair Aquino and Committee on Labor & Technology,

The Hawaii Nurses Association - OPEIU Local 50, affiliated with the AFL-CIO founded in 1917, represents 4,000 nurses, respiratory therapists, and other healthcare workers across the State of Hawai'i. We are grateful for this opportunity to express our **Strong Support** of the nomination of Brian Taniguchi to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board.

Mr. Taniguchi's legal acumen and unwavering commitment to public service uniquely qualify him to navigate the complexities inherent in retirement savings and labor policies. His extensive tenure representing communities in Mānoa, Makiki, Punchbowl, and Papakōlea reflects a deep-seated alignment with the board's overarching mission to cater to the retirement needs of all Hawaii workers and retirees.

We wholeheartedly endorse Brian Taniguchi's candidacy as the to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board, urging your committee to consider his nomination favorably.

Respectfully,

Rosalee Agas -Yuu,  
President

**GM-658**

Submitted on: 3/20/2024 8:33:03 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/25/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
CRAIG KUGISAKI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of BRIAN TANIGUCHI for the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board.

Brian worked for many years to establish the Hawaii Retirement Savings Plan. He knows the intent and purpose of this new program and its aim of providing retirement security for Hawaii's working families.

As a retired State Senator with decades of legislative experience, Brian knows the workings of the Legislature and how to adopt any structural changes needed to enhance the success of this new retirement program.

The Hawaii Retirement Savings Board needs BRIAN TANIGUCHI like working people of Hawaii needs the Hawaii Retirement Savings Plan.

March 25, 2024

Chair Aquino and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor & Technology:

SUBJECT: GM 658, Brian Taniguchi  
Hawaii Retirement Savings Board

I am Paul Oshiro, providing written testimony in support for the confirmation of Brian Taniguchi as a member of the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board.

I have been personally acquainted with Brian for nearly 40 years, the first 15 years of which we served together as members in the Hawaii State Legislature. As a State Lawmaker, Brian has collaborated and worked with numerous entities and individuals on a number of key issues facing the State of Hawaii. Utilizing his extensive experience in the area of labor and employment, Brian authored and shepherded through the Legislature in 2022, the Hawaii Retirement Savings Act, an innovative retirement savings plan for private sector employees who do not have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. As a member of the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board, Brian will have the knowledge, insight, and ability to assess and work through the many issues that will be encountered in implementing this retirement savings program.

Brian is an approachable, focused, and a very hard-working individual. He has the ability to collaboratively work with others on diverse issues in a fair and respectful manner. He has the experience, skills, and management style to effectively oversee this unique retirement savings program. Brian's dedication and commitment are

positive attributes that will be of tremendous benefit to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board.

It is based on these observations that I support Brian Taniguchi's appointment to the Hawaii Retirement Savings Board. We are all extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated individual committed to public service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM-658**

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 3:04:09 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/25/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bronson K. Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair, Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology:

I would like to express my **support** for the confirmation of Mr. Brian Taniguchi to the Hawaii Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Bronson K. Silva



# IATSE Local 665 HAWAII'S TECHNICIANS



for  
**FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE AND PROJECTION**  
Since 1937

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS  
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC**

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March 24, 2024

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Hawai'i State Senate  
Committee on Labor and Technology (LBT)



**HEARING DATE, TIME AND ROOM: Tue., 03/25/24 at 3:00 PM – ROOM 224**

**RE: GM 658 – HI Retirement Savings Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Brian Taniguchi**

Aloha, Chair Henry J. C. Aquino, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki and Committee Members:

My name is Irish Barber. I am the Business Representative and head of IATSE Local 665. Our local represents over 800 members and approximately 700 future members who work in the entertainment industry across all Hawaiian Islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to write in SUPPORT of Governor Green's nominee, former Senator Brian Taniguchi, to the Hawai'i Retirement Savings Board.

Although he is retired, Brian Taniguchi continues to demonstrate an incredible desire to serve Hawai'i, and he would be an asset to the board. During his 42-year career at the legislature, he has been a strong advocate for our industry. It is rare that we have opportunities to praise our hard-working lawmakers, so it gives us great pleasure to be able to speak on his behalf.

Please appoint former Senator Brian Taniguchi to the HI Retirement Savings Board.

Respectfully,

Irish Barber  
Business Representative