

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1951

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 21 2025

RE: GOV. MSG. NOS. 502,  
581, 690

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Labor and Technology, to which was referred Governor's Message Nos. 502, 581, and 690, submitting for study and consideration the nominations of:

HAWAI'I WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

G.M. No. 502	KEN LOUI, for a term to expire 06-30-2028;
G.M. No. 581	JARED HIGASHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2025; and
G.M. No. 690	JARED HIGASHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2029,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal histories, resumes, and statements submitted by Ken Loui and Jared Higashi for service on the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

KEN LOUI

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the reappointment of Ken Loui from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Workforce Development Council; IATSE Local 665; and eight individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Loui's experience, knowledge, and proven leadership qualify

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him to be nominated for reappointment to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council as a member representing the private sector, including nonprofit organizations and businesses in the State. Your Committee notes that Mr. Loui currently works as the Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Marine & Supply Company, LTD. In this role, Mr. Loui has led efforts to expand the State's skilled labor workforce, modernize operations, and improve training pipelines for technical and trade positions. Mr. Loui has cultivated deep expertise in workforce training, industry partnerships, and economic growth strategies during his thirty plus years in the private sector and military service. Your Committee further finds that Mr. Loui has served on the Council since 2021 and as Chair since 2023. Testifiers expressed their satisfaction with his leadership and admiration of his strategic vision for the Council's future. Mr. Loui's experience and knowledge, especially of the State's valuable construction and maritime industries, will continue to be assets to the Council. Your Committee therefore recommends that Ken Loui be reappointed to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council based on his experience, knowledge, and commitment to public service.

#### JARED HIGASHI

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nominations for the appointment and reappointment of Jared Higashi from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Education, Workforce Development Council, Hawaii Farm Bureau, and two individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Jared Higashi's experience, knowledge, and dedication to community service qualify him to be nominated for appointment and reappointment to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council as a member representing the private sector, including nonprofit organizations and businesses in the State. Your Committee notes that Mr. Higashi has worked in the tourism sector for eleven years. He currently serves as Vice President of Government and Community Affairs for the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association. In this role, Mr. Higashi leads workforce development initiatives, coordinates community outreach efforts, and partners with public and private stakeholders to advocate for worker-friendly policies. He has cultivated extensive knowledge of the State's robust tourism industry, which will be a valuable asset to the Council as it addresses the recent decline in the available workforce pipeline faced by the visitor industry. Your Committee further



notes that Mr. Higashi is also an active member of professional and community organizations, including Hospitality's Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs, which he founded, and Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i. Based on his experience, knowledge, and commitment to serving his community, your Committee recommends that Jared Higashi be appointed and reappointed to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor and Technology that are attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominees, has found the nominees to be qualified for the positions to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Labor and  
Technology,

  
HENRY J.C. AQUINO, Chair

The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Labor and Technology**  
**LBT**  
**Advise and Consent**

Governor's Message No.:* <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">502</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">LBT</div>	Date: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">3/7/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340         </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345         </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (C)	X			
LEE, Chris (VC)				X
IHARA, Jr., Les	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt				X
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted         <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted         </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em;"> <div>Distribution:</div> <div>Original File with Committee Report</div> <div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div>Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

\*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Labor and Technology**  
**LBT**  
**Advise and Consent**

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The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
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**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Labor and Technology**  
**LBT**  
**Advise and Consent**

Governor's Message No.:* <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">690</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">LBT</div>	Date: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">3/7/25</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"><div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340</div><div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345</div></div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
AQUINO, Henry J.C. (C)	X			
LEE, Chris (VC)				X
IHARA, Jr., Les	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt				X
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"></div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;"><div>Original File with Committee Report</div><div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div><div>Pink Drafting Agency</div><div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div></div>				

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