



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Brandon Elefante, Chair

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 3:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on GM622 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, DONNY UTU, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 **strongly supports** GM622, which nominates Mr. Donny Utu to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Hawaii Correctional Industries plays a vital role in preparing incarcerated individuals for successful reentry through vocational training and workforce development. Mr. Utu’s extensive experience as a union agent for the Hawaii Governments Employees Association, as well as his background in case management and mental health services, both demonstrate his dedication to fair treatment in the workplace and his commitment to the rehabilitation and community reintegration of transitioning inmates.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Utu’s nomination.

HEADQUARTERS

1426 North School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914
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362 East Lanikaula Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336
Phone 808.961.3424

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2970 Kele Street, Suite 213
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Toll Free - Molokai/Lanai only



The Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

February 19, 2025

Room 225

3:00 PM

RE: GM 622, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, Donny Utu, for a term to Expire 06-30-2028

Attention: Chair Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai, and Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), the exclusive bargaining representative for all University of Hawai'i faculty members across Hawai'i's statewide 10-campus system, **supports GM 622**, to confirm the appointment of Donny Utu to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

Mr. Utu is a longtime labor advocate, as well as an experienced coordinator of community based services. Having built his career first as a case manager dealing with the treatment and restorative intervention for persons with psychosocial or other mental health needs, then as a grievance representative and advocate with HGEA, Mr. Utu understands the necessity of protecting worker's rights and has a commitment to rehabilitation and community reintegration. This combined experience makes Mr. Utu well suited to serve and implement the mission of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

Training and workforce development has been shown to decrease rates of recidivism. Through Hawaii Correctional Industries (HCI), participants are provided opportunities to learn marketable skills that will enable them to live productive lives as they reenter the workforce. The participation of an experienced labor advocate case manager on the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee will assist the Committee to better support the efforts of the HCI.

On a personal level, I attended high school and played sports with Mr. Utu, and have known him and his 'Ohana for more than 35 years, and can confirm his stellar reputation as both a person and community leader.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of GM 622**, to confirm the appointment of Donny Utu to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

**University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly**



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 19, 2025

GM 622 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DONNY UTU FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2028

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination of Donny Utu, to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

Mr. Utu graduated from Punahou and earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Utah. Mr. Utu began his career at HGEA in 2013 as a union agent, where he has spent over a decade protecting and advancing the rights and benefits of government employees. Mr. Utu currently serves as the Field Services Officer within our Outreach Section where he is responsible for the recruitment program of new union members, coordinating regular worksite visits for all members on Oahu, training and education of members and stewards, and contract administration through informal resolution and the consultation process. Furthermore, Mr. Utu has a vast array of knowledge on public employment and our workforce needs, collective bargaining and civil service law, department policies and organizational structure, among others.

We strongly believe that Mr. Utu will prove to be a valuable asset on the Advisory Committee as they play a vital role in preparing incarcerated individuals for successful reentry through vocational training and workforce development. Above all else, we are confident that Mr. Utu will bring the same passion and dedication to the Advisory Committee as he does to HGEA.

We offer our unequivocal support and endorsement of Donny Utu's nomination to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee and kindly ask the favorable consideration of your committee for his candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Third Legislature
The Senate
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

February 19, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM622 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
DONNY UTU, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 76 affiliate labor organizations representing over 69,000 union members across Hawaii in industries including healthcare, construction, hospitality, entertainment, transportation, and government. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for the rights of working families, promoting fair wages, safe working conditions, and policies that strengthen Hawaii's workforce.

We are in support of GM622 because Donny Utu brings extensive experience in labor advocacy and community-based services that align with the mission of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee. Mr. Utu's decade-long service as a union agent for the Hawaii Government Employees Association has demonstrated his dedication to ensuring fair treatment in the workplace and advocating for workers' rights. Additionally, his background in case management and mental health services further reflects a commitment to rehabilitation and community reintegration efforts.

Hawaii Correctional Industries plays a vital role in preparing incarcerated individuals for successful reentry through vocational training and workforce development. Having a nominee with experience in labor relations and case management strengthens the committee's ability to support these efforts effectively.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Perreira".

Randy Perreira
President



IATSE LOCAL 665

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

Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2025
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Testimony by IATSE 665
February 19th, 2025

**GM622 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, DONNY UTU, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028**

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, IATSE International Trustee and President of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **IATSE 665 strongly supports GM622.**

We are in support of GM622 because Donny Utu brings extensive experience in labor advocacy and community-based services that align with the mission of the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee. Mr. Utu's decade-long service as a union agent for the Hawaii Government Employees Association has demonstrated his dedication to ensuring fair treatment in the workplace and advocating for workers' rights. Additionally, his background in case management and mental health services further reflects a commitment to rehabilitation and community reintegration efforts.

Hawaii Correctional Industries plays a vital role in preparing incarcerated individuals for successful reentry through vocational training and workforce development. Having a nominee with experience in labor relations and case management strengthens the committee's ability to support these efforts effectively.

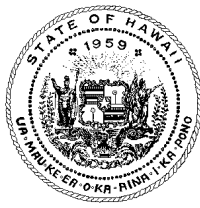
IATSE 665 strongly supports GM622. We urge your committee to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuia'ana Scanlan'.

Tuia'ana Scanlan
International Trustee
President, IATSE 665
(he/him/his)

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalua Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Pamela J. Sturz
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 622
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF DONNY UTU,
TO THE HAWAII CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

by

Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 19, 2025; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Via Video Conference

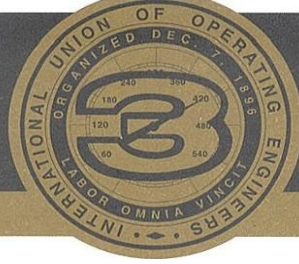
Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I submit testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Donny Utu, to the Hawai'i Correctional Industries (HCI) Advisory Committee. Mr. Utu has a wealth of experience in both union representation and case management, which will greatly contribute to the mission of supporting and advancing Hawaii Correctional Industries.

Mr. Utu's 12 years of experience with the Hawai'i Government Employees Association (HGEA) is invaluable in helping HCI develop a workforce development section that equips incarcerated individuals with marketable skills and enhancing their chances of securing employment upon release. In addition, Mr. Utu's 11 years of case management experience will offer a unique perspective in the creation of measurable vocational training criteria, ensuring that the training provided is effective in preparing incarcerated individuals for successful re-entry into the community.

I strongly urge the committee to recommend advice and consent for this qualified nominee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's Message No.622 and Mr. Utu.



February 18, 2025

The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

RE: GM622- SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DONNY UTU, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028.

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ana Tuiasosopo, and I am a Trustee and District Representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 3, representing heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors, and other skilled tradespeople in Hawai'i's construction industry. I submit this testimony in strong support of GM622.

Donny Utu has a strong labor background and will ensure that the committee prioritizes fair treatment and workforce development for incarcerated individuals. His confirmation will help create more opportunities for skill-building and rehabilitation that align with labor values.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Ana Tuiasosopo
Trustee/District Representative
International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 3