

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 LIMAHANA

April 4, 2025

To: The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Labor and Technology Committee

Date: Friday, April 4, 2025  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

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

**Re: G.M. 728, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, PANE MEATOGA III, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.**

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **supports** the confirmation of Pane Meatoga III to the Workforce Development Council.

Mr. Meatoga has worked for the Hawaii Operating Engineers Local 3 since 2017. First for the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund and presently as its Deputy Political Director.

We will not go further with his qualifications except to say that we found him to be steadfast and well-informed and we think he will be exceptionally valuable to the Council. We are confident that his nomination will help the Council carry out its mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 728.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY  
Friday, April 4, 2025 — 3 p.m.

**The Workforce Development Council supports GM 728.**

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

We are Keith DeMello and Tuia'ana Scanlan, members of the State of Hawai'i Workforce Development Council (WDC) delegated with the authority to represent the WDC's legislative policy positions. Pursuant to [HRS Chapter 202](#), the WDC is the policy and planning advisor to the State on workforce development matters. It is comprised of both public, labor, and private-sector representatives appointed by the Governor to serve on the basis of their interest in and knowledge of workforce development programs in Hawai'i and how to support economic development throughout the state.

**The WDC strongly supports GM 728**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Pane Meatoga III, for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Mr. Meatoga brings valuable labor and workforce perspective to the Council as Deputy Political Director for Hawai'i Operating Engineers Local 3. His experience coordinating with the Hawai'i Operating Engineers Journeymen and Apprentice Training Center provides crucial insight into trades training and apprenticeship programs.

Prior to his current role, he served as Community Liaison for the Hawai'i Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund, where he developed expertise in construction workforce issues and helped shape legislation related to workforce development. His background also includes marketing management experience with the Polynesian Cultural Center, demonstrating his understanding of Hawai'i's tourism economy.

Mr. Meatoga's experience in both labor organizations and tourism provides a well-rounded perspective that will benefit the WDC's work in addressing Hawai'i's diverse workforce needs.

We respectfully urge the Committee to recommend approval of this nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith DeMello  
Member, WDC

Tuia'ana Scanlan  
Member, WDC



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

### THE SENATE KA 'AHA KENEKOA

### THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

### COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Friday, April 4, 2025, 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony on GM728 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, PANE MEATOGA III, for a term to expire 06-30-2029**

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, 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. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW **strongly supports** GM728, which nominates Mr. Pane Meatoga III to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

As a Community Liaison for the Hawaii Operating Engineers Local 3, Mr. Meatoga has spent years advocating for the workers of their trade. Particularly his advocacy for more training and apprenticeship opportunities. Now as the Deputy Political Director for Local 3, he is tasked with fighting for fair wages, protecting industry standards for work projects, and most importantly protecting the work of Local 3. UPW believes Mr. Meatoga's background would greatly benefit the mission of the Council.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Meatoga's nomination.

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**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 Labor and Technology

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 4, 2025

GM728 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
PANE MEATOGA III, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2029.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination of Pane Meatoga III, to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Mr. Meatoga graduated from Kahuku High School and earned a Bachelors Degree in International Business Management from Brigham Young University (Hawaii). Mr. Meatoga currently serves as the Deputy Political Director for the Hawaii Operating Engineers, Local 3 (OE3), where he works to expand training opportunities by advocating for legislation that strengthens apprenticeship programs and promotes hiring practices that support fair wages and industry standards on public projects. We believe that Mr. Meatoga will be a valuable asset on the Council as they play a vital role in aligning our workforce programs with the state's economic development strategies and addressing unmet workforce and economic development needs across the state.

We offer our unequivocal support and endorsement of Pane Meatoga III nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council and kindly ask the favorable consideration of your committee for his candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



**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  
The Senate  
Committee on Labor & Technology

Testimony by  
Hawaii Nurses Association  
April 4, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM728 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PANE

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee

**The Hawai'i Nurses Association – OPEIU Local 50 is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, was founded in 1917, and represents 4,000 nurses in the State of Hawai'i.**

On behalf of the Hawai'i Nurses' Association, I am honored to provide testimony in support of GM728, confirming the nomination of Pane Meatoga III to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council (WDC) for a term expiring June 30, 2029.

Mr. Meatoga's proven leadership over the past six years—marked by his work in expanding training opportunities, enhancing apprenticeship programs, and advocating for fair hiring practices—has had a significant impact in connecting communities to quality jobs across industries. His efforts with the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund and Operating Engineers Local 3 have not only bolstered the construction industry but also set a valuable precedent for other sectors, including healthcare, where our association is deeply invested in ensuring a well-trained and stable workforce to meet the evolving needs of our communities.

Mr. Meatoga's continued service on the WDC is critical to maintaining a focus on practical strategies that promote good jobs, fair wages, and robust career pathways for working families, which in turn supports the quality of patient care in our health facilities. His ability to bridge public policy and practical training solutions directly aligns with the Hawai'i Nurses' Association's mission to secure economic stability and professional development for healthcare workers. We respectfully urge the committee to grant a favorable vote for his confirmation, confident that his leadership will significantly contribute to building a resilient, skilled workforce that underpins the long-term sustainability of Hawai'i's healthcare system.

Respectfully,

Carol Philips,  
Legislative Liaison, Hawaii Nurses' Association

Verla K. Moore  
President  
Laie Community Association  
55-545 Naniloa Loop  
Laie, HI 96762  
verlamoore@hawaii.rr.com  
(808) 783-3743

April 1, 2025

Hawaii Workforce Development Council  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 2864  
Honolulu, HI 96802

**Subject: Letter of Support for Pane Meatoga III's Nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council**

Dear Members of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the nomination of Mr. Pane Meatoga III to serve on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. It is with great confidence that I recommend Mr. Meatoga for this vital role, knowing that his experience, commitment, and vision will make significant contributions to advancing workforce development in our state.

As a dedicated community leader, Mr. Meatoga has consistently advocated for solutions that bridge the gap between workforce education and job market demand. His collaborative approach, coupled with his knowledge of Hawaii's economic landscape, makes him an invaluable asset in addressing workforce development challenges across the islands. His experience will be instrumental in fostering stronger partnerships between education, industry, and government to ensure that Hawaii's workforce is prepared for the jobs of tomorrow.

I firmly believe that Pane Meatoga III's appointment to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council will benefit our state by bringing a forward-thinking, solutions-oriented approach to workforce challenges. I strongly urge you to give his nomination your full support.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Verla K. Moore  
President  
Laie Community Association



# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 597-1441 • Fax: (808) 593-2149

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

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

April 4, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM728 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE HAWAII'I WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PANE  
MEATOGA III, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029

Chairs Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the committee:

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 strong support of GM728, which confirms the reappointment of Pane Meatoga III to the Workforce Development Council (WDC) for a term to expire on June 30, 2029.

Over the past six years, Mr. Meatoga has worked to expand training opportunities by advocating for legislation that strengthens apprenticeship programs and promotes hiring practices that support fair wages and industry standards on public projects. Through his roles with the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund and Operating Engineers Local 3, he has helped connect communities to good jobs in the construction industry and opened more pathways for people to build long-term careers. His efforts reflect a consistent commitment to creating stable employment opportunities for working families.

Mr. Meatoga's continued service will help ensure the WDC stays focused on practical strategies that support good jobs and meet the needs of working families in Hawaii.

We respectfully request the committee's favorable consideration of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Perreira".

Randy Perreira  
President

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 1:07:08 PM

Testimony for LBT on 4/4/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Antoinette M Davis	Testifying for Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

Fully support nominee Pane Meatoga III for this position on the Workforce Development Council. **Please approve his appointment.**

I've know Pane for over a decade; he is a servant leader with an impeccable compass.

Mahalo for this opportunity,

Toni Marie Davis  
Executive Director  
Activities & Attractions Assoc. of Hawaii, Inc.

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology  
Hawai'i State Senate  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPORT OF GM728- SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PANE MEATOGA III, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee 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 submitted this testimony in support of GM-728.

I have known and worked with Mr. Meatoga for many years and believe he would be an ideal member for the Council. His knowledge of the construction industry's labor needs and his familiarity with our JAC apprenticeship program and all pertaining laws and regulations will be of great benefit to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council (WDC). His background in advocacy will also be beneficial to the WDC and its objectives.

On a personal note, Mr. Meatoga is an individual who is forward thinking, accomplishes tasks, and can always be counted on, whether in his professional capacity or in the community. His thoughtful and collaborative nature makes him an ideal member of any team.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Ana Tuiasosopo

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

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 4:42:49 PM

Testimony for LBT on 4/4/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alfred Grace	Testifying for Polynesian Cultural Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pane Meatoga III, worked for several years in the Polynesian Cultural sales department based in Waikiki. He established solid working relationships with all assigned travel agencies and a reputation for being a hard-worker and following through on all assignments in an effective and timely manner.

I personally know of no issues that would prevent Pane from serving admirably on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Mahalo.

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 10:01:25 AM

Testimony for LBT on 4/4/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hawaii LECET	Testifying for Hawaii Laborers & Employers Cooperation and Education Trust	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii LECET supports GM728 to confirm Mr. Pane Meatoga III for a position on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.



# 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:

April 2, 2025

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 Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

RE: GM728 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE HAWAII'I WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PANE MEATOGA III, FOR A TERM TO  
EXPIRE 6-30-29

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Ports Maritime Council strongly supports reappointment of Pane  
Meatoga III to serve as a board to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Pane represents the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund and  
Operating Engineers Local 3 and has worked to protect fair wages and programs  
that support the the interests of the labor community. Therefore, the Hawaii Ports  
Maritime Council enthusiastically recommends his reappointment to the Hawai'i  
Workforce Development Council.

Sincerely,

Randy Swindell  
President



# HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

April 4, 2025

TO: The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino  
The Honorable Chris Lee  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor & Technology

RE: **GM728 - Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Pane Meatoga, III to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters is pleased to offer our strong support for the nomination of Pane Meatoga, III to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Pane brings with him not only years of experience across industries, but also a lived understanding of what it takes to build meaningful bridges between labor, education, and economic opportunity. Throughout his career, Pane has demonstrated a rare blend of strategic vision and grassroots connection—an asset we believe is critical to the mission of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Coming from the community of Kahuku and educated at BYU—Hawai'i, Pane never lost sight of the value of local talent and the importance of creating opportunity at home. His leadership roles within the Hawai'i Operating Engineers—first as Community Liaison and now as Deputy Political Director—reflect someone who understands the systems that shape our workforce and who isn't afraid to step into them to make a difference.

What sets Pane apart is his ability to navigate policy and people with equal skill. He understands that workforce development isn't just about jobs—it's about pathways. Whether he's sitting across from a legislator, meeting with neighborhood boards, or walking apprentices through policy impacts, Pane brings clarity and purpose to the conversation. He sees the role of organized labor not just as an advocate, but as a partner in building Hawai'i's future workforce.

Pane's presence on the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council would strengthen the bridge between workforce strategy and the reality on the ground. He knows how to connect community needs with training programs. He knows the importance of aligning development

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KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg., 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911

with sustainable employment. And most of all, he knows how to listen and lead in equal measure.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters seeks your favorable consideration to confirm Pane Meatoga III's nomination. We are confident that he will be a collaborative, thoughtful, and impactful member of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,  
Mitchell Tynanes  
Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters



Testimony of  
Pacific Resource Partnership

Hawai'i State Legislature, Senate Committee on Labor & Technology (LBT)  
The Honorable Chair Henry J.C. Aquino and the Honorable Vice Chair Chris Lee  
Friday, April 4, 2025

**Subject: GM728 - Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Pane Meatoga III to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council**

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is proud to submit this testimony in strong support of Governor Josh Green, M.D.'s nomination of Pane Meatoga III to serve on the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council. With a career spanning community engagement, labor advocacy, and strategic leadership, Pane is uniquely equipped to advance the Council's mission of fostering a skilled, sustainable workforce for Hawai'i's future.

Pane's professional journey reflects a deep commitment to bridging workforce needs with opportunity. As Deputy Political Director for the Hawai'i Operating Engineers Local 3 since January 2024, he has adeptly represented the organization in public forums, managed political action committee processes, and researched legislation impacting development, construction, and workforce training. His prior role as Community Liaison with the Hawai'i Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund from 2017 to 2023 further honed his ability to connect with legislators, community leaders, and industry stakeholders—skills critical to shaping effective workforce policy.



(Continued From Page 2)

Even earlier, as Marketing Manager at the Polynesian Cultural Center from 2013 to 2017, Pane demonstrated a knack for strategic planning and market insight, overseeing campaigns that boosted economic activity in Asia and local markets alike.

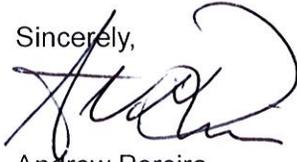
What stands out most is Pane's ability to translate experience into action. A Kahuku High graduate, with a Bachelor of Science in International Business Management from Brigham Young University-Hawai'i, he brings a grounded perspective informed by both education and community roots. His work coordinating legislative directives with the Hawai'i Operating Engineers Journeymen and Apprentice Training Center shows he understands the nuts and bolts of workforce development—how to align training programs with real-world demands like renewable energy and prevailing wage standards.

At PRP, we see Pane as a vital addition to the Council. His knack for navigating complex policy landscapes while keeping community needs front and center will strengthen the link between industry, education, and labor. He's not just a strategist; he's a listener who knows that sustainable jobs start with understanding the people they're meant to serve. His presence will help ensure Hawai'i's workforce strategies are both innovative and inclusive, reflecting the diverse talents of our islands.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of Pane Meatoga III's nomination.

PRP is confident that his blend of expertise, vision, and aloha will make him an exceptional contributor to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.  
Mahalo for your time and leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,



Andrew Pereira  
Director of Public Affairs  
Pacific Resource Partnership





The Senate Committee on Labor, and Technology

April 4, 2025

Room 224

3:00 PM

**RE: GM 728, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Pane Meatoga III, for a term to Expire 06-30-2029**

Attention: Chair Henry Aquino, Vice Chair Chris Lee 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 728**, to confirm the reappointment of Pane Meatoga III to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council (WDC).

Over the course of his career, Mr. Meatoga has consistently worked to expand training opportunities by advocating for legislation that establishes and strengthens apprenticeship programs, as well as promotes hiring practices that supports fair wages and industry standards on public projects. During his time at the WDC, Mr. Meatoga has been an effective voice for working families, using his experience with the Operating Engineers Local 3 and the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund to provide an important perspective as the Council works to address the unmet workforce and economic development needs across the state.

UHPA appreciates the opportunity to **support** the reappointment of Pane Meatoga III to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

**University of Hawaii  
Professional Assembly**

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

My name is John Williamson. I serve as a senior advisor to the public relations team at Anthology Group. I am testifying on Governor's Message 728 in support of the confirmation of Pane Meatoga III, the Gubernatorial Nominee, to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

I have known and worked with Mr. Meatoga for many years and believe he would be an ideal member for the Council. His knowledge of all types of development throughout the state makes him well suited to contribute to the Council's role in coordinating and overseeing workforce development programs, including workforce training and education programs.

Mr. Meatoga has extensive familiarity with training and education programs in the building trades and other labor organizations.

His expertise and breadth of experience are not limited to labor organizations, but also come from his work in the visitor industry. The depth of his knowledge will be invaluable in supporting the preparation of the comprehensive state plan for workforce development, its implementation, and in helping establish state workforce policies and funding priorities. His participation will help ensure the Council's recommendations effectively align workforce programs with the state's economic development strategies and address unmet workforce and economic development needs statewide.

Aside from his experience with and awareness of the needs in the above-mentioned industries, Mr. Meatoga distinguishes himself through his excellent character. He is an individual who leads by example and can always be counted on, whether in his professional capacity or in the community. Many times he has been invaluable in helping and advising me on difficult projects in areas as diverse as disaster recovery, renewable energy and transportation infrastructure. His thoughtful and collaborative nature make him an ideal member of any team.

I can therefore recommend Mr. Meatoga without any reservations for membership on the Council. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide my mana'o in strong support of his confirmation.



March 24, 2025

Aloha,

I am pleased to support Pane Meatoga III, Deputy Political Director, Operating Engineers Local 3, in his appointment to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

I have worked with Mr. Meatoga since he served in Hawaii's hospitality industry with the Polynesian Cultural Center. He has always been a strong supporter of workforce development initiatives, including his assistance with promoting ClimbHI programs and events. His creativity and enthusiasm have contributed greatly to student workforce development in Hawaii.

He has served in a variety of public and community roles and will be an asset to the Workforce Development Council as he represents the trades and their apprenticeship programs.

Julie Morikawa  
President, ClimbHI  
[Julie@climbhi.org](mailto:Julie@climbhi.org)  
(808) 206-2853

**LATE**

**GM-728**

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 4:17:06 PM

Testimony for LBT on 4/4/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee on Labor and Technology,

I would like to express my strong support for GM 728, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Pane Meatoga III.

I have had the privilege of knowing Pane as a friend and colleague, and can personally attest to his dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to uplifting our workforce and community.

Pane has demonstrated an exceptional ability to connect with people from all walks of life, bridging gaps between industries, labor organizations, and local communities. His experience, insight, and advocacy for workforce development have had a meaningful impact on those around him. More importantly, he leads with integrity, always striving to create opportunities that empower workers and strengthen our economy.

Beyond his professional expertise, Pane is a person of deep character—someone who truly listens, collaborates, and works tirelessly for the betterment of others. His appointment to the Workforce Development Council will not only bring valuable experience to the table but also a genuine passion for building a stronger, more inclusive workforce in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support GM 728 and Pane Meatoga III's confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Joy Kimura