

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
AND REHABILITATION**  
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No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 621  
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF LEE SHINSATO,  
TO THE 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, March 5, 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 Lee Shinsato, to the Correctional Industries (CI) Advisory Committee. Mr. Shinsato has dedicated over 45 years of his career to the food service industry and 20 of those years serving with the University of Hawai'i in providing culinary education. With extensive teaching and training experience, Mr. Shinsato has shown a profound commitment to helping individuals build careers in culinary fields. His successful culinary training program has contributed to the successful culinary certification of many incarcerated individuals at the Women's Community Correctional Center and Waiawa Correctional Facility.

Mr. Shinsato understands that culinary education – goes beyond learning techniques – it's about preparing students for the fast-paced demands of the industry. His experience, including the years he has spent successfully training incarcerated inmates, and insights would greatly benefit the CI Advisory Committee. These would especially be helpful in creating training programs that connect education to the workplace and ready students for the everchanging demands of any profession in the community.

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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. 621 and Mr. Shinsato.