

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR

JAMES R. AIONA, JR. LT. GOVERNOR

## STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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## TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2008

Monday, April 21, 2008 9:00 a.m.

## **TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 566.**

## WRITTEN ONLY

TO THE HONORABLE RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lawrence M. Reifurth, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 566, regarding the appointment of Dan Hiroyoshi Hirota, to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects ("Board"). The Department supports Mr. Hirota's appointment and respectfully requests that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to his appointment to the Board.

I am familiar with Mr. Hirota and his candidacy for appointment to the Board in that I have spoken with him about the Board and his interest in serving there. Based on my discussion with Mr. Hirota, I believe that he possesses the qualifications,

background, and experience to contribute in a positive and constructive manner on matters that will come before the Board.

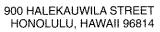
Mr. Hirota is a third generation licensed civil engineer and land surveyor. His grandfather and father have stressed the importance of licensing in the engineering profession. He graduated from Punahou School and earned both of his civil engineering degrees from Purdue University. Mr. Hirota is a member of the Hawaii Association of Land Surveyors and the National Society of Professional Surveyors. He is also a member of the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies.

Mr. Hirota understands that the primary focus of boards and commissions of this type is to protect the consumer. That is the reason he wishes to serve on the Board—to ensure that licensees are highly qualified.

As with many who volunteer their time to serve on a board or commission of this type, Mr. Hirota has been active in his community. He is the President and sits on Board of Directors of The Pointe at Hawaii Loa Ridge. He also sits on the Architectural Review Committee of Hawaii Loa Ridge.

I am confident that if given the opportunity, Mr. Hirota will prove to be an asset to the State through his service on the Board. I respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Mr. Hirota's appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Mr. Hirota's behalf.



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April 2, 2008

The Honorable Russell S. Kokubun, Chair Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 566 Dan Hirota Land Survey committee member appointment to the Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects

Dear Senator Kokubun, Please accept my endorsement for Dan Hirota's appointment to the Board of Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Mr. Hirota is eminently qualified by schooling, testing and experience to set the standards for Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects in this state.

In the years that I've been associated with Mr. Hirota, he's demonstrated himself socially and professionally to be highly capable.; I believe he will work hard at this appointment and will represent the professions well.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my testimony. Should you have additional questions, I make myself available. My phone is 591-8116.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana (with warm regards)

Kendall Hee

President and Treasurer

Licensed Professional Land Surveyor 5649

Licensed Professional Civil Engineer 6176

Registered Land Court Surveyor 236