

GOV. MSG. NO. 236

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

LINDA LINGLE

February 5, 2010

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President and Members of the Senate Twenty-Fifth State Legislature State Capitol, Room 409 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **CONTRACTORS LICENSE Board:**

Randall B.C. Lau

Term to Expire: 6/30/2014

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE



LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR

JAMES R. AIONA, JR.

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

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310 P.O. Box 541 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809 Phone Number: 586-2850 Fax Number: 586-2856

www.hawaii.gov/dcca

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE Regular Session of 2010

Wednesday, February 24, 2010 9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 236.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Verna Oda and I am the Executive Officer for the Contractors License Board, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 236, regarding the **reappointment** of Randall B. C. Lau to the Contractors License Board ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Lau's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Lau is being reappointed to the Board as a licensee member. He has been licensed as a general building contractor since August 19, 1991, and he subsequently obtained licensure in general engineering and numerous other specialty classifications. He is the responsible managing employee of Designer Built Systems, Inc., and his license is current, active, and in good standing.

Mr. Lau's many years of experience in the construction industry have made him a valuable asset to the Board. He diligently reviews applications, disciplinary orders, and inquiries

LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH DIRECTOR

RONALD BOYER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony on G.M. No. 236 February 24, 2010 Page 2

that come before the Board, and also assists in the examination review process. Mr. Lau articulately expresses his views, is able to focus on the relevant issues, and is reasonable and thoughtful in his deliberations. As he completes his first term, we look forward to continuing to work with him and foresee him taking on a leadership role on the Board.

The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Lau to the Contractors License Board, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



February 24, 2010

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection State Capitol, Room 229 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 236 Consideration and Confirmation to the Contractors License Board, Gubernatorial Nominee Randall B.C. Lau, for a Term to Expire 6-30-2014

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am Karen Nakamura, Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-Hawaii offers our strong support of Randall Lau's nomination to the Contractors License Board for a term to expire 6-30-2014. Randy Lau, President of Designer Built Systems, Inc., is an architect and a contractor who served as the 2001 President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA). He was instrumental in starting the Hawaii Built Green Council in the BIA. Mr. Lau was the contractor of record and built the first green building model demonstration house in collaboration with State Department of Energy, Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, AIA Hawaii State Chapter, the University of Hawaii School of Architecture and BIA Hawaii. He is a leader who leads by example and inspires and motivates people to be the best that they can be, and he does this with his engaging smile.

BIA-Hawaii requests your confirmation of his nomination to the Contractors License Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

Karen J. Nakamur

Chief Executive Officer

BIA-Hawaii

February 22, 2010

Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection State Senate State Capitol, Room 229 Honolulu, Hi 96813

REF: GM 236 Randall Lau to State Contractors License Board

My name is Scotty Anderson, Chair of the State Contractors License Board.

I ask that you please reappoint Randall Lau who has been a valuable asset to our Board. He brings energy, experience and commitment to our Board. He is hard working and knowledgeable. We need his expertise.

I appreciate the committee's attention to this matter.

Scotty Anderson Chair, State Contractors License Board 306-5697

MICHAEL H. LAU 1537 Alewa Drive Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

February 23, 2010

By Electronic Mail

The Honorable Roslyn H. Baker, Chair The Honorable David Y. Ige, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce And Consumer Protection Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re:

GM No. 236 – Randall B.C. Lau, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Contractor's License Board, For Term to Expire June 30, 2014; Hearing on February 24, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Ige, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on <u>GM No. 236.</u> I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Randall B.C. Lau to the Contractor's License Board for an additional four (4) year period.

I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii since 1987. I have known Mr. Lau for over 13 years (we are not related). My association with him initially began when our children attended Hanahauoli School, where we were both active in the parent organization. Since that time, I have also enjoyed a professional relationship with Mr. Lau and his company by providing legal counsel on various matters. During all of the time I have been associated with Mr. Lau, I have found him to be honest, fair, ethical, hard working, and of the highest integrity. I also believe Mr. Lau has the requisite knowledge and ability to serve another four year term on the Contractor's License Board.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration in the appointment of Mr. Randall B.C. Lau to the Contractor's License Board.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Lau

February 17, 2010

To: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection (CPN)

Office of Senator Rosalvn H. Baker, Chair

Written statement addressing the following points-

1. Why do you want to continue being a member of this board?

I want to continue to assist the board in making decisions that provide protection to consumers at all levels of ownership. I also feel that the board is structured to be balanced, yet each member is diverse in what he or she brings to the table. The interaction with applicants helps me personally as a reminder of my past challenges and successes as a contractor. I try to keep this perspective in their application review.

2. What is your perception of your role/responsibilities as a member of this board?

My role is to first protect the consumer. I am to question whether the applicant is truly qualified to perform the work he or she is applying for and make a determination based on their experience submittals. I am also to assist various state and county agencies in determining scope of classification work when requested.

3. Based on your experience, what are the major issues/concerns facing this board? What are your recommendations on how these issues should be addressed?

My primary concern is of increases in unlicensed activities. Here, the consumer is placed at a high risk. I believe this activity increases as the construction sector approaches an economic low. Out of work trades people are desperate and therefore take desperate measures. The consumer might also consider the savings against the risk in these economic conditions.

The answer to this is primarily in enforcement. The difficulty is that the unlicensed are not monitored and not in our data base. Enforcement would have to happen directly in the field as the violations occur. This becomes a complex and costly enforcement issue. My belief however, is that because the unlicensed may be so unqualified, the owner could be placed in a health and safety risk as a result of poor craftsmanship without knowing it. Again, enforcement should happen on site as the violation occurs.

My second concern is that the licensee needs to be notified of changes in laws that pertain specifically to their license. In some of the cases, they get current information from Trade association updates. Others are left to initiate research on their own.

I have recently brought this to the board's attention and am currently working on a memorandum enclosed with their notice of renewal letter that informs them of changes in statute and a link to find them. Without this, there may be well qualified craftsmen that have not complied with areas of state law.

Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, and/or knowledge which would assist/strengthen your decision-making ability as a member of this board.

I have worked my way through architecture school as a carpenter. After receiving my architecture degree, I worked for a large construction company building high-rise structures. The combination of a hands on tradesman, a professional degree in architecture, and experience in large complex projects proves to be an asset to this board. In addition, I have served as president of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and president of the School of Architecture Alumni Association. This service gives me experience in board processes and rules of order.

Verifications attached.

Thank you for again considering me for this public service.

Randy Lau

President- Designer Built Systems, Inc.