

GM 832

Submitting for consideration and
confirmation to the

Labor and Industrial Relations

Appeals Board,

Gubernatorial Nominee,

KERRY KOMATSUBARA,

for a term to expire

6-30-2018.



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929
TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003
WEBSITE: www.hawaiifirefighters.org

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015
April 15, 2015

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

Governor's Message 832 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KERRY KOMATSUBARA, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. The HFFA represents approximately 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State. HFFA supports Governor's Message 832, the nomination of Kerry Komatsubara to the Hawaii Labor Relations Board.

Mr. Komatsubara has practiced law in the State of Hawaii for 34 years with an emphasis on labor arbitration, public advocacy consulting and corporate and real estate law. He has served as a grievance arbitrator for many cases and is not only very familiar with the duties and responsibilities of the Board but also understands the process very well. In addition, Mr. Komatsubara is deeply rooted and committed to our community as shown by his volunteer participation on commissions and boards such as the Planning Commission and the Court Annexed Arbitration Program.

Mr. Komatsubara is extremely qualified and HFFA is pleased to support the nomination of Kerry Komatsubara to the Hawaii Labor Relations Board. He will be a great asset to the parties who come before the HLRB and I believe he will bring fresh ideas to increasing the efficiency of the process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha Chair Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the committee:

My name is Calvin, I am the President and owner of Ace Auto Glass, Inc. I am writing in support of the nomination of Kerry Komatsubara to the Hawaii Labor Relations Board.

I met Kerry many year ago through my dad, Frank Tamaye, who was the President of Ace Auto Glass, Inc. at the time. Since I got to know Kerry, he has helped me from time to time with legal issues, but perhaps more importantly, he has been a good advisor when it comes to providing guidance in business affairs, especially with regards to employer-employee relationships. We employ 46 people in Hawaii and this is an important aspect of our business.

Whenever I work with Kerry on employment issues, he always emphasizes the importance of striking the proper balance between the needs and rights of the employer and the workers. He has consistently provided helpful insight into the maintenance of good workplace morals, which my customers intuitively recognize and appreciate.

Kerry reminds me that certain core values make a lot of difference in maintaining good morals and positive relationships with employees. He often speaks about fairness and the importance of mutual respect between workers and the employer. I have taken this philosophy to heart and I truly believe my stores are a better place for my employees and my customers because of it.

I know that Kerry would exhibit these same values in carrying out the duties and responsibilities on the Labor Relations Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony.

Sincerely,

Calvin Tamaye



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

RE: G.M. 832 – HAWAII LABOR RELATIONS BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
KERRY KOMATSUBARA, TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2018

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Honorable Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro
and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports G.M. 832** which submits for your consideration, the appointment of Mr. Kerry Komatsubara for the Representative of the Public Hawaii Labor Relations Board. Mr. Komatsubara has an in depth background in Labor Relations. Mr. Komatsubara brings forth more than 34 years of legal experience having served as an arbitrator, advisor, advocate and counsel to private and governmental agencies. His experience and analytical background working toward solutions of distinct issues will be an asset when working on various labor related agreements.

Mr. Komatsubara's commitment to the community through his community service reflects his commitment to serving the public with integrity.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and show our support for Mr. Kerry Komatsubara.

MICHAEL J. MATSUKAWA
75-5751 Kuakini Highway, Ste. 201
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
Telephone 329-1385

April 13, 2015

Hon. Keith Agaran
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
and Labor
State Senate
Capitol Building

Re: GM 832
Kerry Komatsubara

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I support Kerry Komatsubara's appointment to this important board. As an attorney, I have worked with Mr. Komatsubara on many difficult public-related issues, including legislation, land use and utilities.

I have found him to have excellent analytical skills, a good temperament and command of legal principles and socio-political issues that make him an excellent collegian and if given the opportunity for leadership, he will serve the State of Hawaii well.

I ask that you and your committee confirm Mr. Komatsubara's appointment. Thank you.

Yours truly,

/s/ *M.J. Matsukawa*
Michael J. Matsukawa

April 12, 2015

Testimony of Nolan Ramirez Regarding Governor's Message 832
Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Labor

Aloha Chair Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the committee:

My name is Nolan Ramirez, I am would like to testify in support of Kerry Komatsubara's nomination to the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board as the member representing the public on the board.

I have known Kerry since high school where we played football and baseball together. You learn a lot about a person's character when you play sports with them, and I have always been grateful that I got to know Kerry and have been blessed to have him as a friend.

I spent many years in sports and coaching, but one of the toughest challenges I faced was coaching baseball at Kahuku High School. Unlike football, baseball was not a popular sport at that time in Kahuku. And the team faced a lot of challenges besides winning ballgames.

Just getting enough kids to show up for the team was difficult. And even when there were enough players at the start of the season, many of the boys dropped out or didn't come to practices, and some even failed to show up for games. More than once, Kahuku had to forfeit games because there weren't enough players.

I really needed help, and so I ask my friend Kerry if he would come out to Kahuku whenever he had some extra time to help me coach the pitchers. Kerry made that trip every day to each game and every practice. And he wasn't just a good at teaching kids how to pitch; he took an interest in the players as young men facing challenges on and off the field.

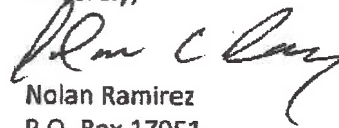
There's a lot of psychology in baseball and to be a good player you need to be strong emotionally as well as physically. Kerry knew this instinctively. Kids struggling on the field often came to him with the problems they faced at school or at home.

He showed a lot of patience and took the time to listen and help them deal with their problems, as well as showing them how to throw a breaking ball. On more than one occasion, parents would come to the field, shake his hand and thank him for helping their son overcome a personal challenge.

That was a successful year for Kahuku but not because we won a championship or any league titles. Our victory was that we were able to field a team. None of the boys quit the team. And we didn't forfeit a single game. Our players turned out dutifully and enthusiastically for practice and games. I know Kerry had a great deal to do with that.

In many situations showing character is not glamorous and doesn't bring recognition or make you famous, but it makes a lot of difference to the people you touch. I know Kerry Komatsubara has the kind of character you can put your trust in to go the extra mile, if that's what it takes to do the job well. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in support of Kerry.

Sincerely,

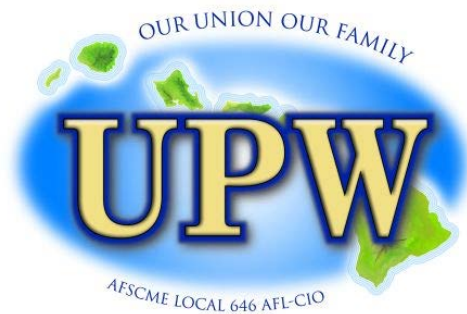
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nolan Ramirez", written in a cursive style.

Nolan Ramirez

P.O. Box 17051

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Tel: (808) 256-6800



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
The Honorable Senator, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran Chair
The Honorable Senator, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, April 15, 2015
TIME OF HEARING: 10:00 a.m.,
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY ON GM832 FOR THE NOMINATION OF KERRY KOMATSUBARA TO THE
HAWAII LABOR RELATIONS BOARD**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include 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 about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports the nomination of Kerry Komatsubara to the Hawaii Labor Relations Board (HLRB). Mr. Komatsubara is a well-respected attorney. As an arbitrator, the UPW has worked with Mr. Komatsubara and know him to be knowledgeable and experienced in federal and state employment laws. He is well respected by his colleagues and clients who have worked with him.

Mr. Komatsubara possesses the dedication and commitment to address difficult issues related to labor relations and, more importantly, the ability to make sound decisions. He recognizes the necessity that laws, regulations, and governance must be balanced with the needs and interests of government and the public. Mr. Komatsubara is a responsible and responsive decision-maker who is careful to study the issues and relevant facts before making judgment.

We ask for the consideration of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor in approving this nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

PRICE
OKAMOTO
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& LUM

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Warren Price III
Kenneth T. Okamoto
Sharon R. Himeno
Bettina W. J. Lum
Terence S. Yamamoto
Robert M. Kohn

Of Counsel

Robert A. Marks

April 13, 2015

Via Email: senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 221

RE: Kerry Komatsubara

Dear Senator Keith-Agaran,

I write in strong support of Kerry Komatsubara to become the Representative of the Public on the Hawai'i Labor Relations Board.

I have known Kerry personally and professionally since about 1984. On a personal level, Kerry is a family man who is compassionate, smart, ethical, and fair-minded.

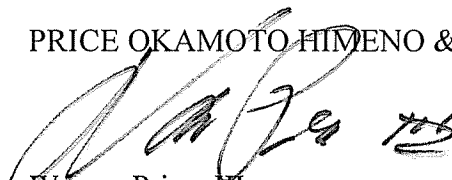
On a professional level, I have worked with Kerry for years on legal matters – even during my tenure as Attorney General (1987-1992) – and have found him to be an excellent lawyer who is always reserved, patient and a good listener seeking a just and reasonable solution to problems.

In sum, Kerry would be a wonderful asset to the Labor Relations Board and I was delighted to learn Governor Ige recommended him for a position. I strongly urge your committee to recommend his confirmation.

If you or any of your members have any questions, please feel free to call. Unfortunately, I have a conflict at the time of Kerry's confirmation hearing but I otherwise would be there in strong support.

Very truly yours,

PRICE OKAMOTO HIMENO & LUM



Warren Price, III

WP:jt