

GM709

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board Of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, And Landscape Architects, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARC VENTURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Board Of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, And Landscape Architects

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Friday, April 1, 2016
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 709.

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

My name is James Kobashigawa and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects ("Board"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 709, regarding the **reappointment** of Mr. Marc Ventura to the Board. The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Ventura's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Ventura has been serving as a Board member since June 4, 2015, and is being appointed as an architect member. He has been licensed as an architect since June 4, 1992, and his license is current, active and in good standing. Since Mr. Ventura's recent appointment, there have been ten meetings of which he has attended eight. His experience as a member of the Board provides the Board with a wealth of knowledge both locally and nationally as he has represented the Board at

national and regional conferences during his previous term on the Board. Mr. Ventura is a valuable member of the Board as he greatly contributes to the Board's discussions and with his 24 years of experience and knowledge, provides great insight from the prospective of the practice of architecture. Mr. Ventura's experience as an architect and his desire to contribute to the community will continue to be an asset to the Board.

The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Marc Ventura to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

March 30, 2016

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair and Members
of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 230
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 709, Support of Gubernatorial Nominee, MARC VENTURA to
the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and
Landscape Architects

Dear Chair Rosalyn Baker and Members:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Marc Ventura to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects.

I have known Marc since 1997 when I was employed as the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Kauai Economic Development Board (KEDB) which is a Hawaii 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1984. Marc was hired as the architect and project manager to design, secure building permits for, and oversee the construction of the KEDB's federally funded West Kauai Visitor and Technology Center Phase I project. Marc did an outstanding job as KEDB's "point of contact" with the various County/State permitting agencies as well as coordinating weekly progress meetings with the general contractor to ensure that the construction timelines were met and the building was completed on schedule.

Based on his performance on Phase I, KEDB subsequently contracted Marc's services in 2000 when it was awarded another Federal grant to develop Phase II of the West Kauai Visitor and Technology Center. And again, Marc was able to complete the project on schedule and within budget.

Don't let Marc's casual demeanor fool you. His low key, common sense approach to problem solving has gained him the respect of many building contractors on Kauai. He has a strong sense of professionalism and is focused on compliance with the County building codes, applicable State and Federal laws, and fulfillment of his contractual obligations to the client.

When resolving disputes, Marc has the ability to quickly distill relevant information and focus the decision making process towards achieving realistic and fair outcomes or solutions. He is very approachable, willing to listen, and has a knack for coming across in a very open and nonthreatening way by showing compassion and empathy to all of the parties involved.

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair and Members
of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Testimony on GM 709, Support of Marc Ventura
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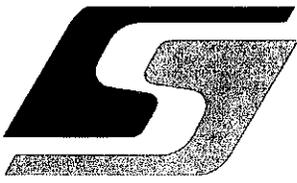
Marc is mindful of the immense responsibilities that comes with this appointment and he understands the important role that the Board performs in reviewing, regulating, and adjudicating disputes involving the licensure of engineers, building and landscape architects, and surveyors. He believes that these types of business activities should be conducted in a professional and ethical manner. For this reason, he is willing to voluntarily contribute his time and energies towards assisting in providing adequate Board oversight even if it could potentially impact his company's profitability.

I am confident that given the opportunity, Marc Ventura will be an asset to the Board. I believe that he possesses the experience, knowledge, and moral character needed to render fair and impartial decisions. Therefore, I strongly support the confirmation of Marc Ventura to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Isobe /s/

185 Pahaa Place
Kapaa, Kauai, HI 96746



SHIOI CONSTRUCTION

Building Hawai'i since 1948

Via email to CPNTcphtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

March 28, 2016

To: HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR AND COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE ,
CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR MARC VENTURA: Nomination to the Board of Professional
Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.**

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

HEARING
DATE: Friday, April 1
TIME: 9:30 AM
ROOM: 229

My name is Conrad Murashige, President of Shioi Construction, Inc. a general contractor with employees on Kauai, Oahu, and Maui.

I support Marc Ventura's nomination to the Board of professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects. Marc Ventura is well qualified to serve on the Board of EASLA, as a practicing independent Architect with a strong connection to the Kauai community.

As a general contractor, we have worked with Marc for over 20 years, ranging from institutional facilities, resorts, industrial buildings, and offices. He has a good rapport with the County of Kauai building officials and the various agencies involved with our industry. Mr. Ventura has recently been involved with the County amendment to the International Building Codes and issues with electronic submission of Building Permit applications.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Marc Ventura's nomination to the ESLA Board.

SHIOI CONSTRUCTION, INC
Conrad H. Murashige
President

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March 28, 2016

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair and Members

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Fax #: (808) 586-6829

RE: SENATE CONFIRMATION of MARC VENTURA to the STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS, and LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

It is with regret that I will not be able to attend in person this week for the Senate Confirmation Hearings. I thank you for the opportunity of presenting to you some background information on myself to assist you in your evaluation of my serving on the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects.

I was raised in Wailua on Kauai in a Fourth Generation Portuguese family. I attended grade school on Kauai before heading off to the Big Island for high school at Hawaii Preparatory Academy, and then off to South Bend Indiana to attend Architecture School at the University of Notre Dame. The highlight of my architectural education was a third year abroad in Rome, Italy where I experienced first hand some of the world's greatest and most awe inspiring examples of classical architecture. Without a doubt my greatest creations and accomplishments to date are my 4 daughters, ages 7, 8, 9 and 11 which I am blessed to be raising here on Kauai with the help of my wife Audrey.

Upon graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Notre Dame, I spent a couple of years gaining experience in a large firm atmosphere working for Wimberly, Allison, Tong and Goo in Newport Beach, California. In the early 90s, when the fortunate opportunity to get back to the islands via a transfer to WATG's home office in Honolulu presented itself, I jumped at the chance! I spent a year and a half with WAT&G and then spent a couple of years working with Kajioka Okada Yamachi Architects in Honolulu, gaining invaluable large firm experience working on a diversity of projects in various work scope capacities.

In 1994, as the building environment in the state slowed to a crawl, another opportunity presented itself, this time allowing me to get back to Kauai and work with my father, an experienced developer on the island, on the development, design and construction management for the new consolidated headquarters of the local electric company, then Kauai Electric. My father assured me that my work experience would continue to diversify and I would get an opportunity to see the finance and development side of the construction industry. The project lasted for a couple of years after which I found myself at crossroads; move back to Oahu or the mainland and corporate architecture, or take a shot at starting my own firm, a dream I had since I began my architectural career. I chose the latter and we are now in our twentieth year as a successful architecture and design firm on Kauai, roughly half of our work in residential design and half commercial.

The past twenty years doing business here on Kauai has given me a wealth of insight into the issues facing our practice of architecture in the state of Hawaii and in particular on the outer islands, along with a better understanding of the problems we face here on Kauai today as a community, and how we can individually and collectively address these issues and ultimately help solve these problems. As architects, I believe we can have a direct impact on helping to creatively confront and resolve these concerns through building design and we, as a firm, are currently actively pursuing avenues for achieving such resolutions. I believe that through my experience in running a small firm including managing the business along with overseeing all aspects of architecture, design and construction management, I have gained a unique and thorough insight into our industry, which I directly apply to problem solving. I consider these skills invaluable assets in my career and as a board member as well.

I feel that an opportunity of serving on the State Board will continue to help me better understand and further serve my profession and the community in these endeavors, as well as allow me to pursue some ways of possibly improving the profession and the best interests of the public's health, safety and welfare. I look forward to continue broadening my own experiences in serving my colleagues and community and humbly ask for your support of my nomination to the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Ventura', with a stylized, cursive script.

Marc Ventura

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board? I feel I have been blessed in my success as the owner and founder of an Architectural practice on the outer island of Kauai. In raising a family with 4 daughters on Kauai, I understand the hardships of making a living here in this day and age, and the importance of a strong and healthy construction industry in our islands. I believe I can be a part of improving our industry by being on this Board and value and appreciate such an opportunity immensely. I want to be a part of giving back to the community and representing my colleagues on the outer islands in doing what I can in the hope of improving our practice and ultimately improving architectural design as whole for the ultimate end user, the community at large.
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board? I believe that as an Architect member on the EASLA board, our general role is to represent our colleagues in the interest of improving all aspects of our profession while ensuring protection of the public's life, safety and welfare in the built environment through quality and responsible architectural design. As a Board member, we will review applicants for licensure in the State, we will review and discuss proposed legislature impacting the industry and review and stay abreast of various ongoing issues impacting the profession statewide as well as on a national level.
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer? I believe that through careful and thorough review of applicants for State licensure, I can be a part of ensuring that they are in fact qualified and meet all the requirements of the State for the safe and responsible practice of architecture. Through my experience and knowledge of issues we face statewide and on the outer islands, I believe I can be a part of effectively bringing such matters to the table at the State level. I believe I can work collaboratively with other board members and colleagues in identifying and working towards resolving issues that arise at the County level which we are dealing with both island and State wide.
- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board. I have been licensed to practice Architecture in Hawaii and California since 1992. I started my career in corporate architecture working in California and Oahu and developing a strong understanding and base in the industry honing my skills in production, the nuts and bolts of architecture, then design. I then founded and have run a successful Architectural practice on Kauai for over 20 years in which I have dealt with managing the business along with overseeing all aspects of design, bidding and construction management which I believe gives me unique and thorough insight into how the profession and industry in general works. I have experience and understanding of many of the issues facing the Design and Construction industry on Kauai and in the State of Hawaii and believe I can communicate with contacts at the County and State level and be a part of the solutions to some of the issues our industry faces today.

- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? I hope to see the industry continue to thrive, providing jobs for local families and continuing to be a part of establishing a framework that allows for continued improvement in building design in general, across the spectrum. A couple of specific items that I hope we can get to the table and move towards improving:

1) Statewide Standardization of Building Codes - I hope to be a part of moving towards statewide standardization of building codes which I believe will be a big improvement in getting architects, who often times work on different islands, and county personnel on the same page in these regards. This will be a great improvement for the profession in general including on many legal fronts.

2) GE Tax - The issue of mainland firms doing work in Hawaii but not paying GET has come up often in discussions with colleagues as well as with the board but nothing seems to be able to get done. Local firms are at a 4+ % disadvantage on fees from the start, as they typically are paying their GET. Perhaps we could somehow tie state licensure into tax clearance requirements or come up with other ways to try and ensure that mainland firms pay their fair share of state taxes when doing work in Hawaii, which obviously results in more money in the State coffers as well.

- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

- Positive Attitude:
 - I tend to have an optimistic outlook and am generally positive in all I try to accomplish.
- Integrity:
 - I hold myself to a high level of integrity, I believe I have a strong work ethic and I always strive to be fair and honest in my work.
- Perseverance:
 - I work for what I believe is right and if I start something, I will work hard to see it through.

- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member. My past board experience on Kauai and at the State level will be very valuable and beneficial as a Board member.

- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?
I don't anticipate any conflicts but if they should arise during board sessions, I will fully disclose any apparent or potential conflict and recuse myself as appropriate.