

To: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

From: Michael D. Formby, Executive Director
Pacific Resource Partnership
1100 Alakea Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 701—Consideration and Confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee Mr. Blair S.M. Suzuki — **STRONG SUPPORT**
Hearing date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020
Hearing time: 3:00 PM
Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

As a veteran and as the Executive Director of Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), I write in **strong support** of GM 701, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Blair Suzuki, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

I have had the personal privilege of working with Blair Suzuki over the past year on community issues including, but not limited to, affordable housing, the high cost of living in Hawaii and the various challenges confronting Hawaii's ALICE population.

A veteran of the US Navy, Blair is smart, empathetic, passionate and a solution-oriented thinker who will greatly contribute to the work of the Advisory Board. He is personally invested in strengthening our local communities and I can think of no better use of his considerable talents than in helping Hawaii veterans receive the attention, services and support they so rightly deserve.

Based on my personal knowledge of Mr. Suzuki and his commitment to the well-being of others, I wholeheartedly support his nomination to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Formby
Pacific Resource Partnership



GM-701

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 10:06:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole A Velasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Blair Suzuki.

Having spent seven (7) years in the U.S. Navy, Blair is uniquely qualified to speak on the veteran experience in these modern times. I've worked with Blair on a handful of civic initiatives and have found great value in this thoughtful, kind, yet passionate approach to improving the lives of our people. I trust Blair.

Mahalo for your consideration of this incredible nominee and my friend, Blair Suzuki.

May 9, 2020

RE: Strong support for Blair Suzuki's confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services

Aloha Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President, and Members of the Senate,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Blair Suzuki's confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. I have both known Blair for many years and feel he is an outstanding candidate for the role.

Above all else, Blair cares about the people of Hawai'i, and in this case, our veterans and their families. Having served himself, Blair has a great deal of empathy and a good understanding the unique interests and needs of this important part of our community. I believe he do well to bring balanced perspectives when contributing ideas and making decisions. Furthermore, Blair's strong leadership, through his professional and community involvement, and diverse skillset will help him to lead with courage and do what is right, even when faced with adversity.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Colby Takeda, MBA, MPH
Resident of 96814

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 3:33:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aisha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Blair Suzuki is a thoughtful, selfless and driven person with upstanding character. From humble beginnings, Blair worked hard and was appointed by Senator Inouye to attend college at the Naval Academy. He is someone who finds ways to lift others up around him as he achieves his own success. Blair is constantly thinking about how to improve life in Hawaii and his commitment to this state and our country was exemplified by the seven years that he served with the United States Navy. I am sure Blair will be a positive contribution to the Veterans' Services Advisory Board. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to show my support. There is no better pick than Blair Suzuki.

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 9:46:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JACOB NOH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to whom it may concern,

I am in full support of Blair S.M. Suzuki as a nominee for a position on the Veterans' Services Advisory Board for the Office of Veteran's Services. His passion and mission as a steward for those he cares most for is evident in every conversation he holds to the actions he chooses to display. My experiences with Blair have been closely connected in creating grass-root initiatives to elevate sectors of the business/nonprofit community to reigniting long standing civil responsibilities engaging a widespread of demographics that would be integral in creating a better path for communities throughout our State.

Blair is highly capable and competent as a successful young veteran thriving in our State and will also add invaluable perspectives for the VSAB in serving our 120,000 veteran's State wide. Blair's experiences, current expertise and wide network would continue to strengthen the longevity of the VSAB's ability to steer the OVS upwards in providing for our veteran's.

As a member of the business community and board of directors for nonprofits that serve throughout the State, I fully support Blair's intent and his mission to serve those with the most need.

Mahalo and make it a great day!

Jacob B. Noh

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 10:55:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
EDWARD GOMES	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee: I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Blair Suzuki to the Advisory Board of Veterans' Services. Blair has served a distinguished and honored career in the Navy and as a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he has demonstrated his dedication and services to our state and country. Blair's appointment to the board would serve to strengthen and advance the attention to Hawaii's Veterans. I am honored to provide this testimony on his behalf and humbly request the committee approve his confirmation. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 6:09:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Veronica Rocha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Nishihara,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on G701 for consideration and confirmation of Mr. Blair Suzuki to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. As a former US Navy Surface Warfare Officer, disabled veteran with first-hand knowledge of the VA Healthcare system, and active business leader, Mr. Suzuki is highly qualified to serve on this Advisory Board. Most of all, Mr. Suzuki has a deep passion and commitment for ensuring that all of our veterans receive first-rate healthcare, regardless of age. Hence, I trust he will be an excellent contributor to this Advisory Board. Please move forward with Mr. Suzuki's consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

Thank you,

Veronica Rocha

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 8:40:08 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tricia Fetui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support of Blair Suzuki for the position. He is qualified for the position based off his prior roles and service, and passionate to serve the veteran community.

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 9:47:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leanne Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT GM 701. I believe Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAIR SUZUKI (GM 701) is qualified for the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services for the following reasons:

- Honorably served seven years in the U.S. Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer.
- Disabled veteran with first-hand knowledge of the VA Healthcare system.
- Understanding of how to navigate VA services.
- Business leader who actively promotes veteran hiring practices. Received Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Pro Patria Award in 2019.
- Active in numerous community organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Japanese American Citizens League, Japan-America Society of Hawaii, U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association.
- Active volunteer in the community. Mentor for Center for Tomorrow's Leaders and U.S. Naval Academy Blue and Gold Officer.
- Mentor for actively transitioning or recently transitioned veterans.

Mr. Sazuki will be an asset to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services and urge the committee to PASS this measure.

Dr. L. K. Fox

TESTIMONY ON GM 701

by

Katie Chang, Executive Director, Center for Tomorrow's Leaders

To: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Blair S.M. Suzuki, nominee to the Veterans' Services Advisory Board. The Center for Tomorrow's Leaders relies heavily on volunteers and mentors such as Mr. Suzuki to provide guidance, support, and positive examples to local high school students. We are an organization committed to empowering students to be the future leaders of Hawaii.

Mr. Suzuki is an exemplary community leader. Since last year, he has mentored 20 students and has served as an integral resource for them as they have worked on projects that required them to reach outside of their immediate community for support. I believe his expertise in innovative thinking, care for others, and commitment to the community show that he is extremely qualified in representing veterans on this advisory board.

I ask for your consideration of Mr. Suzuki to be appointed to the Veterans' Services Advisory Board. He is a person of integrity, and I recommend him to your committee.

Respectfully Yours,

Katie Chang

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 2:09:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Latimer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to strongly support Blair Suzuki's nomination to the Veterans' Services Advisory Board. From his seven years of service with the U.S. Navy to his tireless advocacy for Hawaii's veterans as a business and community leader, Blair has a proven record of putting service to his country, community, and fellow citizens at the forefront of his actions.

Blair is a natural problem solver and has made overcoming the many challenges facing Hawaii veterans a personal priority. Two areas in particular stand out. First, as a disabled veteran, Blair has experienced the gaps in and stresses on the VA healthcare system firsthand. He offers the Board the unique perspective of entering this system within the past five years, and the personal experience to identify where the system is and is not fully serving the newest generation of veterans.

Second, Blair offers the experience of transitioning to the private sector within the past five years, and the perspective to identify unique difficulties faced by veterans entering the business workforce today. In addition, through his leadership as an employer who prioritizes hiring veterans and who serves as mentor to veterans in the workforce, Blair regularly seeks out the experiences of his fellow veterans to better understand where current efforts and initiatives are falling short, and then takes action to address them. It's for these reasons he was recently awarded the ESGR's Pro Patria Award.

In the many ways I've worked with Blair, I see his heart of service and dedication to improving the lives of the people around him in all that he does. His consistently holistic approach to problem solving is something I and other peers admire most about Blair, and I am confident he would bring this informed perspective to his role on the Veterans' Services Advisory Board. Thank you for considering this testimony of support for Blair Suzuki, and his nomination to serve Hawaii's veterans.

Mahalo,

Emily Latimer

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 3:00:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keoni	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Monday, May 11, 2020

Keoni Williams
williamskeoni@gmail.com

STRONG SUPPORT for appointment of Blair Suzuki to the Veterans' Services Advisory Board

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

My name is Keoni Williams. I have worked closely with Blair Suzuki on the Hawaii Executive Collaborative's CHANGE Initiative - Government and Civics Committee. He has demonstrated a sincere commitment to improving the well-being of Hawaii and leveraging his experiences and network to build a better future. I strongly support his appointment to the Veterans' Services Advisory Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Keoni

TYLER DOS SANTOS-TAM

801 South Street, Apt 4625, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

tylerdst@gmail.com
(808) 348-8885

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
and members
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: Support for GM701, Confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Blair Suzuki**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of **support for Blair Suzuki on his nomination to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services** for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

The Advisory Board on Veterans' Services advises the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services on veterans' issues, legislative proposals and program operations. The Board is made up of eight voting members representing all of the state's counties, and at least five of the board's seven members must be veterans.

Prior to his current career with Otis Elevator Company, Blair served in the U.S. Navy for seven years as a project manager, nuclear engineer, and division officer. He is also a graduate of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis.

As a young veteran, he will be able to provide his insights to the Advisory Board on matters such as post-service transition, mental health services, and career opportunities for veterans entering the private sector. He has distinguished himself in the community through his participation in various nonprofits, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Japanese American Citizens League, Japan-America Society of Hawai'i, and the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association.

Blair will serve as a member of the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services and help bring us closer to the goal of having all veterans be successful, thriving members of the communities they helped to protect while wearing the uniform.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this letter of **support for the nomination of Blair Suzuki to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services**.

Sincerely,



GM-701

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 6:50:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiffany Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Written Testimony in Support for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee Blair Suzuki

I'd like to express my strong support to appoint Blair Suzuki to the Advisory Board in Veterans' Services. I cannot think of anyone who is more passionate about supporting his community as a veteran and a Hawai'i resident.

As his childhood friend of 20+ years, I grew up with Blair and went to school with him. Blair always leads his friends and peers. During his academic life, he always kept himself involved in student leadership roles. As a young professional, I saw him advocating for community programs, such as those that protect minorities and disadvantaged groups. And now, I see him continuing his community leadership as a qualified candidate for the Veterans' Services Advisory Board.

Blair has a passion for getting people involved in helping Hawai'i grow. He uses his platform to encourage others to get involved, so that they can give back to their own community. He's encouraged his community to complete the census, vote, and is a staunch advocate for affordable housing.

Blair is immensely qualified due to his service as a Surface Warfare Officer in the US Navy. He has first hand experience for navigating the VA healthcare system. He will be a great mentor and advocate for all veterans.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Ho

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 9:19:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tasha Corcino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony on GM 701

Written Testimony in Support for consideration to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAIR SUZUKI

To whom it may concerns,

My name is Tasha Corcino, and I am writing to testify my support for Blair Suzuki's consideration to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. I believe he is the perfect candidate as he is a great leader, a proactive volunteer and voice for the community, and a veteran himself.

Blair has assumed many leadership roles since I've known him in grade school. He graduated from the US Naval Academy and served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the US Navy. He is now the Operations Manager at Otis. In his current position at Otis, he promotes veteran hiring practices, allowing him to receive the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve award in 2019.

Blair is very passionate about his community and is actively involved with advocating for affordable housing in Hawaii. His empathy and passion inspires those in his community to care, and to get involved as well. With that same empathy and passion, he will be a great advocate for veterans to ensure they receive the benefits, support, and services that they need.

Being a veteran himself, Blair has firsthand knowledge and experience with the VA Healthcare system and other veteran services provided. He is also familiar with the hardships that veterans face. His deep understanding will be invaluable to making the necessary changes to ensure that veterans are thriving members of the community.

Leading with passion, empathy, and vision, Blair Suzuki will be able to influence positive change for the veteran community. Therefore, I believe he is an excellent candidate for the Advisory Board on Veteran Services.

Mahalo,

Tasha Corcino

tashacorcino@gmail.com

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 7:36:30 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faylene Mahina Duarte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee,

I submit my written testimony in support of Blair S.M. Suzuki's nomination to serve on the Veteran Service's Advisory Board. His Navy experience and first-hand knowledge of the Veteran health care system will be a valuable asset to his fellow Board members and to the veterans they aim to serve.

His passion and dedication to Hawai'i's Veterans is palpable. Thank you for your favorable consideration of Blair Suzuki to serve on the Veteran Service's Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

Faylene Mahina Duarte

TESTIMONY ON GM 701

by

ANN TERANISHI

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the selection of Blair Suzuki for the Veterans' Services Advisory Board. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Blair through the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii and am confident he would be a tremendous asset and advocate for this important advisory board.

Blair is extremely proud to be a U.S. Navy Veteran, and it's readily apparent how his military background serves him well as a business leader here in Hawai'i. Importantly, his professional and personal experience as a young veteran would bring deep, and potentially new perspective and voice to the veterans' community. He is already a champion of veterans' affairs, mentoring transitioning or recently transitioned veterans. Blair is active in the business and non-profit sectors. He has a deep love of his island home and is continually looking for ways to contribute to his community. He has shared the two primary reasons behind his desire to serve on this board: (1) as a disabled veteran himself, his strong belief in the importance of the VA and the critical services they provide, and (2) his interest in representing the 25% of veterans under the age of 50, a potentially underserved group in the veteran community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my support of Blair Suzuki's selection for the Veteran's Services Advisory Board.

Mahalo,

Ann Teranishi

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 11:28:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Gandule	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Written Testimony in Support for consideration to the Advisory Board on Veteran's Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Blair Suzuki

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dave Gandule and I fully support the appointment of Blair Suzuki to the Advisory Board in Veterans' Services.

I have known Mr. Suzuki for over 25 years and I am confident in his abilities to lead and contribute to any cause he is passionate about. Mr. Suzuki served as an officer in the US Navy and he has a strong interest in the welfare of the veteran community. He has expressed to me his desire to help the younger veterans who struggle with receiving services. He will be a great advocate for all veterans to ensure that their voices are heard and their issues are addressed.

Mr. Suzuki loves Hawaii. He is active in many community organizations and he is always finding opportunities to help people. He has volunteered at high schools and inspired students to chase their dreams. He motivates young adults to be active in their communities by voting and supporting causes that are beneficial to their future. Lastly, he respects the Kupuna community and he always expresses his gratitude for the values he's adopted because of them.

If appointed, Mr. Suzuki will serve as a great member on the Veterans' Service Advisory board.

Sincerely,

Dave Gandule

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 11:44:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Carkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of Blair Suzuki's nomination to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

Blair would be an excellent candidate for this position. He has shown his ability to lead in his current employment with Otis as the Hawaii Operations Manager. Additionally, his experience as a naval officer as well as work history with the US Navy would make him especially equipt for this position. Personally, I can vouch that Blair is an intelligent, hardworking, and dedicated man that will be a wonderful advocate for Hawaii's Veterans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 11:52:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alma Grocki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs,

I would like to submit a testimonial strongly supporting the selection of Blair Suzuki as a board member on the Veterans' Services Advisory Board.

I have known Blair since 2003, as a junior at James Campbell High School. At the time, he was applying for an extremely competitive appointment to the United States Naval Academy. I was designated as his Blue and Gold Officer to assist him with his application. It was clear as I became familiar with both his record and him personally, that Blair would make an outstanding naval officer. He was highly intelligent, extremely focused, and a demonstrated leader among his peers. Many of the candidates for the Naval Academy also had these attributes, but Blair's congenial personality and ability to work well with others, set him above the other applicants. Born and raised in Hawaii, he would be an excellent ambassador of the Aloha spirit and Hawaii, as well as the Navy.

Since that time, I have seen Blair accomplish his goals in the Navy and successfully transition to a civilian career. His experiences in the Navy, in commands and bases throughout this country and the world, have given him a good perspective on veterans' issues and possible solutions. Now he is home, and has a strong desire to use his knowledge and experience as a veteran himself, to positively impact Veteran Services here in Hawaii. Blair represents the younger generation of veterans who served and lived through the Gulf Wars, with their unique challenges and issues. The number of these veterans increases daily, and a representative who understands their challenges and issues would provide a valuable and necessary voice for them.

Blair is that voice—with his intelligence, experience, and drive, to make a difference. He will actually be an outstanding advocate for veterans of all ages, ensuring their concerns and issues are heard and recognized. In addition, Blair is a problem-solver. It is not enough to hear and understand problems and issues, but to move toward solutions for these problems. Blair's passion to highlight veterans and their needs, answer their questions and find solutions to their problems, will make him a valuable board member of this Advisory Board.

I most strongly support Blair Suzuki to be selected as a board member of the Veterans' Services Advisory Board.

Very Respectfully,

Alma Lau Grocki

Rear Admiral, USN (ret)

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 12:02:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Domingo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in strong support of Governor David Ige's nomination of Blair Suzuki to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services. Blair has a tremendous work ethic and a intelligence that I believe will allow him to look at the issues facing our veterans and find the best solutions to assist them. Blair is passionate about the issues surrounding veterans. He will be a strong voice in support of guarding the health and well-being of veterans and will ensure that they get any services that may be needed. Blair's professional demeanor and strong leadership qualities will allow him to work with other members of the Advisory Board in a respectful manner to achieve the desired results. Blair is perfect for this appointment because he is dedicated to a life of service to others and this appointment allows him to continue his service to the people of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to write in strong support of the nomination of Blair Suzuki to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

12MAY2020

From: Antone K. M. Aku, Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

To: Chairman and Staff of the Hawai'i Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Subj: Endorsement letter on behalf of Mr. Blair Suddath Masato Suzuki

1. Forwarding my STRONGEST and HUMBLE recommendation for Mr. Suzuki to be nominated as a member of the board on the Veterans' Services Advisory Board.
2. My name is Antone Ku'uipo Molia Aku, and I am a native Hawaiian, born and raised on Hawaiian Homestead land on the island of Oahu. I am an active duty Navy SEAL Officer, currently stationed in Virginia and assigned to an East Coast based U.S. Navy SEAL Team. I have served on active duty for 11 years.
3. To say I know Blair Suzuki extremely well is an understatement. Blair and I have been very close friends for over two decades. We attended James Campbell High School and the United States Naval Academy together, spending nearly a decade pursuing our goals of higher education in anticipation to serve our nation in the U.S. Navy. Upon graduation, we served together as active duty commissioned officers in the Navy leading our nation's finest Sailors. Although in different career capacities, our paths always crossed, either out in the fleet or at home on leave.
4. Blair has always been a strong leader. From commanding the James Campbell High School Navy junior ROTC, to leading the 1st Lieutenant Division as the Division Officer onboard the USS LAKE EERIE for his first division officer tour, Blair has always exceeded expectations. Blair has always been dedicated to improving himself and others through servant leadership. Blair is reliable, confident, consistent, trustworthy, personable and is a person of strong moral and ethical character.
5. It would be a missed opportunity to not nominate Blair to the board. Blair will selflessly work hard to achieve the collective goals of the Board at any cost, just like he has demonstrated since I have known him. A nomination is a win for the advisory board more than it is a win for Mr. Suzuki.



A. K. Aku

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 1:58:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janette McKeone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Written Testimony in Support for Consideration to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Blair Suzuki

I'd like to communicate my strong support to appoint Blair Suzuki to the Advisory Board in Veterans' Services.

I've known Blair for more than two decades and he has always been a natural leader. In school, he actively participated in student council leading his friends and peers. Even now as a business leader in Hawaii, he is always encouraging me to get involved with housing issues in Hawaii and to participate in ways for improvement.

Being a prior veteran himself, Blair understands the needs of veterans and is familiar with the VA Health Care System with its strengths and drawbacks. This allows him to advocate for veterans, knowing what will be in their best interests and to push for improvement.

I cannot stress enough that you will find no better candidate than Blair. His passion exudes in everything he does, and being a member in the Advisory Board in Veteran's Services will be no different.

Sincerely,

Janette McKeone

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 2:58:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Au	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Blair Suzuki to the Advisory Board on Veterans' Services.

I believe Blair will bring a much-needed, valuable, and unique perspective to the advisory board. As a veteran, Blair has firsthand knowledge of veterans' experiences and is able to truly empathize with their challenges and needs. At the same time, he is a strategic thinker and can make the critical decisions needed in order to deploy limited resources that will benefit our veterans.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Blair Suzuki.

Aloha,

Laurie Au

TESTIMONY ON GM 701

by

JEFFREY W. LAUPOLA

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

I would like to offer my FULL SUPPORT for Mr. Blair Suzuki's appointment to the Veterans' Services Advisory Board.

I met Blair over 15 years ago as a fellow midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy. He excelled as a young military leader from James Campbell High School and represented Hawaii with excellence and pride at Annapolis, Maryland and throughout his U.S. Navy career around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Blair Suzuki. Blair will serve with excellence, honor, and help better our veteran community as he has done throughout his military and business career.

Mahalo,

Jeffrey Laupola

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 11:56:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Soon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui e Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

It is an honor to write to you in strong support of the Blair Suzuki's appointment to the Veteran's Services Advisory Board. I have had the opportunity to get to know Mr. Suzuki personally and professionally over the past two years and know him to be incredibly hard working, thoughtful, informed, and passionate in all he does. Mr. Suzuki is frequently turned to as a team leader and counted on to deliver quality work on behalf of key initiatives. He will surely serve well in this important and prestigious role and is the type of person we hope will be willing to put himself forward to hold these critical public service positions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide support for Blair Suzuki.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Rebecca Soon

GM-701

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 9:13:55 AM

Testimony for PSM on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sterling Higa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Blair is eminently qualified to serve on the Board on Veterans' Services. As a retired officer and disabled veteran, Blair is familiar with the needs of the veterans served by the board. I believe he will be a capable advocate and supporter of our veterans.