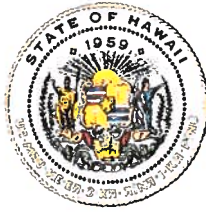


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



THOMAS WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

April 9, 2024

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Technology
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 704, Letter Supporting the Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System, Gubernatorial Nominee, Vincent Barfield

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology:

I am writing to advocate for your committee's confirmation of Mr. Vincent Barfield to serve on the board of the ERS. Mr. Barfield enjoys not only my full support but that of his fellow ERS board members.

Mr. Barfield has served on the ERS Board of Trustees for the past 12 years in various roles including as board chair and vice-chair as well as chair of our investment and human resources committees. As chair of the board's Investment and Administrative and Audit committees, he has focused on strengthening the ERS' investment program and the overall sustainability of the System.

With his extensive experience in banking and investment services, he has provided invaluable insight and professional knowledge during Board discussions and decision-making. He considers the best interests of the ERS members, retirees, and beneficiaries and approaches the issues facing the ERS with curiosity and solid experience.

I believe that Mr. Barfield's continued presence and contributions as an ERS board member will serve the best interests of both ERS members and the State.

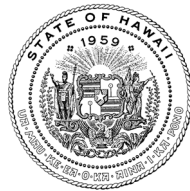
Thank you for this opportunity to testify in this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas Williams
Executive Director



Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 704

Tuesday, April 16, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Room 225 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, VINCENT BARFIELD, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030.

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Vincent Barfield to the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS).

Mr. Barfield has been an ERS Trustee since 2011 and was a past ERS Board chair and investment committee chair. He also has extensive banking experience while working at Bank of Hawai'i for 27 years. His work experience and 13 years as an ERS Trustee makes him a valuable asset to continue to have on the ERS Board; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael S. League
5-Star Bank
Chair

Kelly A. Hughes
Citibank
Chair-Elect

Fred A. Alvarado
Bank of Hawaii
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Citizens Bank of Edmond

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FNB Community Bank

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Sean Passmore
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Tiffany Davis Schaefer
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Larry T. Wilson
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President & CEO

Andia E. Dinesen, AFC©
Executive Vice President

www.ambahq.org
(540) 347-3305 (office)

2300 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 700 #1042
Arlington, VA 22201

10 April 2024

Hawai'i State Legislature
Electronic Submission

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor and pleasure to support the confirmation of Vincent Barfield to the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System.

I have known Mr. Barfield since I joined the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA) as its President and CEO in March 2015. At the time, Vince was a member of AMBA's Board of Directors; he served as our chairman from 2012 to 2014.

AMBA is a non-profit trade association of federally-regulated and insured banks with a common mission to serve America's military and veteran communities. As a veteran himself, Vince brought to his leadership roles inside Bank of Hawaii and AMBA a passion that would ultimately propel both organizations to new levels of service and success.

By the time Vince departed the AMBA Board in 2019, he ensured we were prepared to assume a leadership role within America's veteran and military service organization (VSO/MISO) community that ultimately led to our establishment of the Military Family Financial Readiness Coalition and our partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP). The VBBP, in particular, reflects Vince's determination to improve the financial lives of veterans. Since 2019, it has led to the banking of over 320,000 previously unbanked and underbanked veterans – many in Hawai'i.

Vince's AMBA legacy is one of integrity, compassion, and action. He doesn't just talk the talk; he walks the walk – demanding as much of others as he does of himself. I count our professional association and personal friendship among the highlights of my tenure at AMBA.

Since Vince's departure from the AMBA Board in 2019, I have often wished he never left. Respectfully, you will feel the same way if he is not reappointed to help lead Hawai'i's Employees' Retirement System.

Very Respectfully,

STEVEN J. LEPPER
Major General, USAF (Ret.)
President & CEO



UNITED
FOR THOSE
WHO SERVE



Lance A. Mizumoto
1794 Kumakani Loop
Honolulu, Hi 96821

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor & Technology
The Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 704, Consideration of Vincent Barfield as the Gubernatorial Nominee to the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees for term to expire June 30, 2030

Dear Chairman Aquino & Committee Members:

I am submitting my testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Vincent Barfield to the Employees' Retirement System Board of Trustees (ERS Board). I have known Mr. Barfield for over 30 years, as our paths crossed while working at the Bank of Hawaii, and now as a fellow board member. He is a very talented individual, given his vast experience in banking and investment services, and he has leveraged his skills to provide valuable guidance to his fellow trustees on the ERS Board, as well as to the ERS staff.

Mr. Barfield has provided much needed leadership on the ERS Board, as evidenced by his past service in a number of roles, including Chair of the ERS Board, Chair of the Investment and Audit Committees, and as a member of the Compensation Review Committee. I believe that the ERS will be very well served with Mr. Barfield's continued presence and contribution as an ERS board member should he be confirmed to serve another term.

Based on the above, I strongly ask for your consideration in confirming Mr. Vincent Barfield to the ERS Board. Thank you for allowing me to testify in strong support of Mr. Barfield. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lance A. Mizumoto

Vincent Barfield



April 4, 2024

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor & Technology
The Senate
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination to the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System ("ERS")

Dear Chair Aquino,

Thank you for your letter of March 28, 2024, and the opportunity to respond to your questions regarding my trustee nomination. My responses along with your questions are provided below:

- (1) You have been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System since 2017, why do you want to continue as a board member?

I have served two terms as a trustee since 2010 and at the encouragement of the board and executive staff, I agreed to seek another term. During my tenure, the board has effectively improved the financial health of the retirement system, built a sound investment strategy that has and will continue to mitigate significant risks such as experienced during the 2008 great financial crisis, grown a strong team of investment professionals to execute strategy, implemented a comprehensive internal audit function to monitor and report on the system's complex operations, accounting, and investment functions, and continuously updated and strengthened policies to provide appropriate guidance to staff, investment managers and consultants. I have found this work rewarding and well aligned to my skills and experience and expect that I will continue to effectively contribute as a trustee.

- (2) Please explain your current roles and responsibilities as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System?

I currently serve as chair of the Human Resources Committee, vice chair of the admin & audit committee, and member of the investment and governance policy committees. I have additionally served as past board chair and investment chair.

- (3) Please provide a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that aids in your decision-making ability as a Chair of the Human Resources Committee, Vice Chair of the Administrative & Audit Committee, and a member of the Governance Policy Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System?

As a retired executive for Bank of Hawaii, I oversaw our bank's market leading fiduciary asset administration and investment management businesses. My role included serving on the bank's Managing Committee, the senior executive team responsible for bank strategy. In addition to my banking experience, I have had the opportunity to lead a key finance unit here in the Pacific for a Fortune 50 firm, as well as serve my country for 20 years a Navy Reserve officer.

- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

If appointed to another term, I would like to continue to support the board's development and refinement of its risk focused investment strategy, ensure resources are identified and applied to key operational and investment priorities, enhance audit and risk management, and develop a robust succession plan for ERS staff and board leadership.

- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System?

Honest, disciplined, and analytical. These combined with my professional experience are highly suited for the fiduciary duties and complex subject matter overseen by ERS trustees.

- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System?

As the managing executive for Hawaii's largest bank fiduciary business, I oversaw the planning and execution of many significant strategic projects. The most significant was the transition of our entire investment platform from a proprietary model to an open architecture program. This involved the implementation of a new technology system, the deconstruction and sale of investment programs and proprietary mutual funds, the acquisition of new investment tools and new partner

managers, various federal & state regulatory approvals, and the development of new staffing models. The project brought together internal and external resources from important bank functional areas such as operations, investments, finance, legal, compliance, technology, and human resources. As the managing executive, I was responsible for delivery of this three year, multi-billion dollar investment platform which came in on time and on budget. The complexity, assets, personnel, and risks are very much at the level that the ERS operates and the system would benefit from a trustee with this background.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Trustees of the Employees' Retirement System? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

No I do not foresee any possible conflicts during my continuing service to the ERS. Should something arise, my practice on this and other boards is to identify the conflict and recuse myself from any decisions that might pertain.

Please let me know if there is anything further needed. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Respectfully,



Vincent Barfield