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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, March 1, 2024
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 624, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS,
and LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NANCY CASSANDRO,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the appointment of Ms. Nancy Cassandro to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects (Board).

Ms. Cassandro's leadership is exemplified through her three consecutive terms as President of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Hawaii Chapter (2020-24). Her role as Chair of committees such as the Landscape Architecture Student Academic Awards and the ASLA Hawaii Chapter DT Woolsey Scholarship Fund underscores her commitment to education and leadership. Ms. Cassandro actively engages in community service and holds various general memberships across

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the state such as Scenic Hawaii, Bishop Museum, Honolulu Academy of the Arts and Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter.

Ms. Cassandra holds a B.S. in Landscape Architecture from California State Polytechnic University. She has been a licensed Landscape Architect in Hawaii since 1996 and her professional journey spans over eight years in southern California, contributing to various Landscape Architectural firms. In 1995, she co-founded Umemoto Cassandra Design Corporation (UCDC), focusing on regenerative design and sustainable landscapes.

The Department believes that Ms. Cassandro's experience and accomplishments offers a welcomed perspective to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-624

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:25:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leonard Bisel	Testifying for B+K Design Group, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern.

I'm submitting the following written testimony in support of Nancy Cassandro for your consideration and confirmation to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

I've known Nancy both professionally and as a close friend since the early 1990's, prior to her relocating to Hawaii to start her private practice in Landscape Architecture.

In addition to having cultivated an award winning and well-respected design firm Nancy has always given freely of her time, energy and expertise in service to the profession and to the community. She's served on numerous boards and committees and is currently completing her third term as President of our State Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

Nancy has always been a strong and vocal advocate for professional licensure, recognizing our critical role as landscape architects in protecting the health safety and welfare of the public. Nancy is a licensed landscape architect in Hawaii. She is also Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Board (CLARB) certified.

I humbly ask that you confirm Nancy to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects. She will be an great asset to the State, to our profession, and to our allied professionals.

Aloha,

Leonard Bisel, PLA, ASLA

GM-624

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:13:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Nancy Cassandro to be on the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects. She is an outstanding professional and volunteer in the State of Hawaii. I have had the priviledge working with her as volunteers for the Hawaii Chapter - American Society of Landscape Architects throughout the past years. Please feel free to contact me at (808) 954-6319 if you have any questions at all. Mahalo!

February 26, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer my recommendation for Nancy Cassandro whom I have personally known for over thirty-five years. Nancy is hard-working, humble and trustworthy. She is a dedicated Landscape Architect who is completely devoted to her work and enjoys her position as vice-president of her company, Umemoto Cassandro Design.

I value the honesty, integrity and humor she has demonstrated throughout our friendship and feel she will be a great addition to your community. I recommend her for this nomination without hesitation.

Should you require additional information; please refer to my contact information is below.

Best,

Giselle Grams
626/ 241 2425
grams.giselle@gmail.com

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Hawaii State Senate Office
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Monday, February 26, 2024

Subject: **GM624** Letter of Support for Nancy Cassandro
For EASLA Licensing Board

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole and Members of the Committee.

I am honored to provide you with this letter of support for Nancy Cassandro to be appointed to the EASLA Licensing Board. I have known Nancy for many years professionally as a respected landscape architect, colleague, friend, and Vice President and co-owner of Umemoto Cassandro Design Corporation, a landscape architecture firm established in 1996 here on Oahu. Nancy is a leader and role model for emerging professionals, especially for women.

She currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), serving three terms as President. As a landscape architect many of Nancy's professional endeavors intertwine with personal interests from cultural, historic, and environmental causes. Nancy is not only a leader in the landscape architecture community in Hawaii and nationally as a member of the Chapter Presidents Council of the ASLA, but in the broader community as well, participating in numerous civic organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, Scenic Hawaii, Sierra Club, among others.

I am certain that Nancy will be an asset to the EASLA Board, and I give her my highest recommendation for her appointment.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Kurokawa, PLA, ASLA, CLARB
EASLA Board Member
President-Elect, CLARB
Principal/Founder, Ki Concepts LLC

through her years of work with both public and private schools, career fairs, Boy Scouts and community non-profit and volunteer organizations. There would unlikely be a better qualified candidate to help maintain and elevate the professional standards of our design community. I would be proud to have Nancy Cassandro serve on the Board and the Board would certainly benefit from Nancy's participation.

I ask for your support of Nancy Cassandro to serve on the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Respectfully submitted and with great Aloha,

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

Jason Umemoto

GM-624

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 12:07:01 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Itomura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This testimony is provided in support of legislative measure GM624, regarding gubernatorial nominee Nancy Cassandro for confirmation to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

I have known Ms. Cassandro for over thirty years. Ms. Cassandro has demonstrated impeccable professionalism and leadership in her capacities as a professional landscape architect and a co-owner principal of a long established and well-respected landscape architecture firm. Ms. Cassandro maintains a calm, measured, and well reasoned demeanor in all situations that would enable her to be a very positive addition to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Submitted by:

Jon Itomura, Executive Director Hawaii United Okinawa Association

GM-624

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 2:13:00 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene Itomura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Please accept this testimony in support of Nancy Cassandro's nomination to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects. I have known Nancy since she moved to Hawaii in 1995. She has been an active member of the community both as a landscape architect and resident of Kailua. She understands the need for licensed professionals and her experience and participation with community and public projects shows her commitment to the profession. If appointed, she will be a valuable member of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Thank you for your consideration.

GM-624

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 7:26:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelli McCelvey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection;

It is my pleasure to respectfully submit testimony in support of Nancy Cassandro to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects (EASLA). I have known Nancy both professionally and personally for over 25 years.

Nancy is highly regarded in Hawaii's Landscape Architecture community not only for her portfolio of work, but also for her dedication to the profession. She has been a driving force behind the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Hawaii Chapter, serving on the Executive Committee since 2019 and currently as our Chapter President. Nancy is dedicated to the field of Landscape Architecture and committed to giving back to the community in which she lives and works.

As a former Board member and Hawaii licensed Landscape Architect, I am confident that Nancy will be a tremendous asset to the Board and committed in serving to protect public health, safety and welfare. I humbly ask you to support the nomination of Nancy Cassandro to the Hawaii State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Sincerely,

Shelli A. McCelvey, ASLA

President

McKelvey Associates, Inc.