



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 5, 2024
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
**G.M. 706, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF ELECTRICIANS AND PLUMBERS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JAMES TAM,
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 Mr. James Tam to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers.

Mr. Tam brings with him a wealth of experience, with over 45 years in the legal field. His distinguished career includes tenure at law firms such as Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing and Ezra, O'Connor, Moon and Tam, as well as his current role as Senior Vice President at WhiteStar Advisors, LLC. Throughout his career, Mr. Tam has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership, professionalism, and a commitment to achieving positive outcomes for his clients.

His educational background, having studied at institutions like Williams College and the Georgetown University Law Center, further attests to his strong foundation in legal principles and scholarship.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Tam's dedication to community service is commendable. He has been actively involved in various non-profit organizations, spanning areas such as performing arts, law enforcement, education, and youth development. His leadership roles in esteemed organizations like the Young Presidents' Organization and his past presidencies at clubs like Oahu Country Club and The Pacific Club highlight his ability to inspire and lead in both his professional and personal endeavors.

I am confident that Mr. Tam's extensive experience, leadership skills, and dedication to excellence make him an ideal candidate for the Board of Electricians and Plumbers. I wholeheartedly support his confirmation and believe he will bring valuable perspectives to the Board's mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

NECA Hawai'i Chapter

1286 Kalani Street, Suite B-203

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April 1, 2024

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee, Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 706: Confirmation of James Tam to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers

Honorable Chairs Jarrett Keohokalole & Carol Fukunaga,

As the Executive Director of the Electrical Contractors Association of Hawaii (ECAH), I **highly recommend** the confirmation of Mr James Tam's appointment to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers (E&P). Tam has worked with the Electricians and Plumbers Board of Trustees of each trade respectively as their legal counsel. Tam's knowledge of both the electricians and plumbers' industry through his legal work makes this appointment as the public member a valuable asset to the Board of Electrician & Plumbers Board. His greatest asset is his devotion to the industry.

An approval of GM 706 for his confirmation would be in the best interest of the electrical and plumbing construction industry and the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Al Itamoto

Al Itamoto
Executive Director
Electrical Constructors Association of Hawaii,
A Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association



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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
HEARING: APRIL 5, 2024, 9:30AM, ROOM 229**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 706 – NOMINEE: JAMES TAM

Honorable Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Hawaii Electricians Market Enhancement Program (HEMEP) is an organization representing over 100 Hawaii State Licensed Electrical Contractors, the Electrical Contractor's Association of Hawaii, and over 3,000 Members of the IBEW Local 1186.

HEMEP is honored to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT** of the nomination of James Tam for the Board of Electricians and Plumbers (BEP).

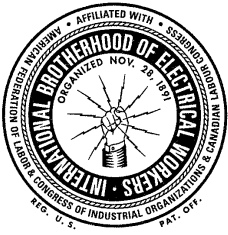
Mr. Tam's qualifications go well beyond any requirements desired for public members of the BEP. He brings over 44 years of experience as an attorney while working in very complex fields such as ERISA, Taft-Hartley-multi-employer benefit funds, human resources, construction, and real estate. He has also held leadership roles in prestigious law firms in Hawaii.

His wealth of knowledge and experience will be valuable assets to serve the BEP. Members of this board often have to evaluate license qualifications, interpret the laws and administrative rules, and make decisions on industry work scope and safety. As a critical thinker, Mr. Tam will quickly be able to evaluate the statutes and rules that govern the electrical and plumbing industries; and these trades, along with the licensees and applicants, will be much better served with him as member of the BEP.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of GM 706 and Mr. James Tam.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAWAII ELECTRICIANS MARKET ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (HEMEP)



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

1935 HAU STREET, 5th Floor • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003
TELEPHONE (808) 847-5341 • FAX (808) 847-2224

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Hearing on Friday, April 5, 2024, 9:30AM, Conference Room 229

RE: TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT** OF NOMINEE JAMES TAM, **GM 706**

Honorable Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee Commerce and Consumer Protection:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 (IBEW 1186), is comprised of over 3,000 men and women working in electrical construction, telecommunications, civil service employees, and educator and faculty associations.

IBEW 1186 **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the nomination of James Tam as a member of the Board of Electricians and Plumbers.

The Board of Electricians and Plumbers will truly benefit from this highly qualified nominee. James Tam has significant experience in litigating complex matters and understanding a variety of legal concepts. Licensees, applicants, and the public interest will be greatly served by his expertise; which also includes a working knowledge of the many aspects of the electrical and other construction industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this **STRONG SUPPORT** of **GM 706**.

Sincerely,

Damien T.K. Kim
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1260 EMPOWERING THE PACIFIC

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

HEARING DATE: Friday, April 5, 2024
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: State Capitol
Conference Room 229

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 706

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee;

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 (IBEW 1260) would like to offer the following testimony in support of Governor's Message 706 ("GM 706").

IBEW 1260, is comprised of approximately 3,000 hardworking union members made up of a diverse workforce that consists of highly skilled and trained individuals working in electric utility generation, transmission, and distribution, as well as government, professional, and broadcast service contracts throughout the State of Hawai'i, in Guam and Wake Island.

IBEW 1260 supports GM 706 which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Electricians and Plumbers (E&P Board), Gubernatorial Nominee, **JAMES TAM**, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

The E&P Board is charged with carrying out the provisions of Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 448E as it relates to the established standards and licensure of electricians and plumbers in the state of Hawaii, and to insure the safety and welfare of the general public (*see* HRS 448E-4). Specific to electrical work, and according to HRS 448E and HAR 16-80-3, electrical work performed by a licensed electrician is limited to that within the scope and purpose of the National Electrical Code.

To the extent that decisions made by the E&P Board may directly and/or indirectly impact electrical work performed outside its authority and jurisdiction, we believe that as a member of the E&P Board representing the *public*, Mr. Tam's legal experience and background will allow him to critically consider and objectively decide on the many complex and often controversial issues that come before the Board without bias or predisposition. We look forward to working with Mr. Tam on issues important to the electrical industry and to IBEW Local 1260.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Founded 1889

PLUMBERS AND FITTERS LOCAL 675 UNITED ASSOCIATION



April 04, 2024

LATE

Chair Keohokalole , Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee;
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
RE: James Tam (GM706)

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

It is with great honor that I give support testimony (**GM706**) on behalf of James Tam to the Electricians and Plumbers Licensing Board. Chartered in 1919, the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 675 is one of the oldest of the organized labor unions in Hawaii. We are one of just 3 licensed skill construction trades with a rich history for being a construction pioneer here in the islands and industry leader for our specific crafts.

I have known James for over 10 years as we worked together on our ERISA Funds. James has helped us navigate the complex issues and responsibilities associated with Trust Funds. James has been a valuable addition to our fund council and always worked well with our team. James has been associated with the construction industry for many decades and is well respected in the trades, on both labor and management teams.

James has always been a good voice of reason. He is an independent thinker and will bring a wide range of knowledge to the board. At his capacity, James has been exposed to many of the different challenges that are unique to our industry. With James' experience and knowledge, he will be a solid asset as a public member of the Board. James is always punctual, contributory, and works well within a group.

For these reasons, I hope you will consider James as a member of the Electricians and Plumbers Licensing Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Matt Brady
President / Business Agent

