

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

February 25, 2026

To: The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
The Honorable Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Labor and Technology Committee

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: G.M. 504, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DENISE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **supports** the confirmation of George Denise to the Workforce Development Council.

Mr. Denise is an accomplished Director of Project Management with Turner & Townsend, a global professional services firm specializing in real estate, infrastructure, and natural resources. His role involves overseeing complex projects and ensuring successful delivery through strategic planning and collaboration.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Mr. Denise serves on the General Contractors Association's Workforce Development Committee, which is dedicated to strengthening Hawai'i's construction workforce. The committee focuses on cultivating the next generation of skilled professionals through hands-on experiences and educational initiatives that prepare students for careers in construction, management, and related fields.

Mr. Denise's deep understanding of the construction industry and its workforce needs, combined with his leadership experience, will be an asset to the Council as it works to expand career pathways and address critical labor demands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 504.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/25/2026

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 225 & Videoconference

Committee: LBT

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: GM504, DENISE, RESUME.PDF, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GEORGE DENISE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the confirmation of Mr. George Denise for the Workforce Development Council.

As the Workforce Development Committee Chair of the General Contractors Association of Hawaii, Mr. Denise has demonstrated a strong commitment to workforce growth and supporting the Department's efforts in preparing students for a career in the construction industry. His efforts to strengthen the connection between education and industry through initiatives like BreakingGround 808 have expanded the professional network of our high schools, enabling teachers to partner with industry professionals to provide students with authentic learning experiences. Beyond his professional expertise, Mr. Denise's dedication to community service, such as his involvement with Sleep in Heavenly Peace Hawaii, reflects his passion for service.

The Department is confident that Mr. Denise's knowledge and leadership will make a meaningful impact on the Council's work and help drive positive change for Hawaii's workforce and economy.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message Number 504.



February 25, 2026

TO: SENATOR BRANDON ELEFANTE, CHAIR, SENATOR RACHELE LAMOSAO, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 504. SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAI'I WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GEORGE DENISE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030**

HEARING

DATE: February 25, 2026
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Capitol Room 225

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

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of approximately five hundred (500) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. Our mission is to elevate Hawaii's construction industry and strengthen the foundation of our community.

GCA **supports** GM 504, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DENISE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

GCA believes that Mr. Denise has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in workforce development to be a valuable member of the Workforce Development Council. Mr. Denise has over 26 years of real estate and construction experience. His experience includes four years as a laborer and carpenter, twelve years as a general contractor, and 10 years as a development manager. Mr. Denise currently chairs the Workforce Development Committee for the General Contractors Association of Hawaii, which allows him to have a direct pulse on issues related to workforce development. We've always found Mr. Denise to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

February 25, 2026

TO: HONORABLE BRANDON ELEFANTE, CHAIR, HONORABLE RACHELE LAMOSAO, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 504**. Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DENISE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

HEARING

DATE: February 25, 2026
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225

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

Ralph S Inouye Co, Ltd (RSI), a Hawaii general contractor for over 60 years, **supports GM 504**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DENISE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

RSI believes that Mr. Denise has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in workforce development to be a valuable member of the Workforce Development Council. Mr. Denise has over 26 years of real estate and construction experience. His experience includes four years as a laborer and carpenter, twelve years as a general contractor, and 10 years as a development manager. Mr. Denise currently chairs the Workforce Development Committee for the General Contractors Association of Hawaii, which allows him to have a direct pulse on issues related to workforce development. We've always found Mr. Denise to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Denise's nomination.

Leonard K.P. Leong
President

February 25, 2026

TO: HONORABLE BRANDON ELEFANTE, CHAIR, HONORABLE
RACHELE LAMOSAO, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 504.** Submitting for consideration and
confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DENISE, for a term to expire 06-30-
2030.



HEARING
DATE: February 25, 2026
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225

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

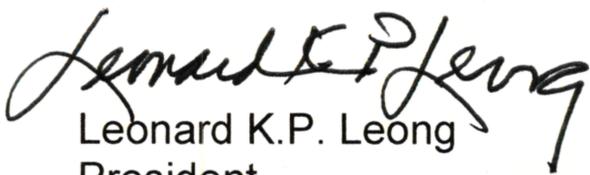
ROYAL CONTRACTING CO., LTD

ROYAL CONTRACTING CO., LTD supports GM 504, which submits for
consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DENISE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

ROYA CONTRACTING CO., LTD believes that Mr. Denise has demonstrated
the required experience and expertise in workforce development to be a valuable
member of the Workforce Development Council. Mr. Denise has over 26 years
of real estate and construction experience. His experience includes four years
as a laborer and carpenter, twelve years as a general contractor, and 10 years
as a development manager. Mr. Denise currently chairs the Workforce
Development Committee for the General Contractors Association of Hawaii,
which allows him to have a direct pulse on issues related to workforce
development. We've always found Mr. Denise to be fair, competent, and
knowledgeable.

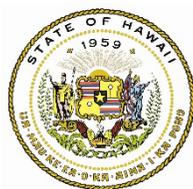
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Denise's
nomination.

Sincerely,


Leonard K.P. Leong
President

DR. JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE BUTAY
DLIR DIRECTOR

WILLIAM KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

KEITH DEMELLO
CHAIRPERSON

BENNETTE E. MISALUCHA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 317, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8815 Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

To: The Honorable Senator Brandon Elefante, Chair,
The Honorable Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice-Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

From: Bennette E. Misalucha

Executive Director, Workforce Development Council

Re: GM 504: Gubernatorial Nominee, George Denise

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the Senate confirmation of **George Denise** to serve on the Workforce Development Council.

George Denise represents the private sector, bringing critical expertise from Hawai'i's construction industry: a sector that continues to face significant workforce challenges and policy considerations. His professional background and industry engagement make his perspective particularly valuable to the Council's work.

George currently serves in a senior project management leadership role with **Turner & Townsend**, where he leads complex projects and advisory functions.

He brings more than 25 years of multinational experience across real estate, construction, and project management environments, including leadership positions with globally recognized organizations. His career reflects deep technical competence as well as a practical understanding of how workforce capacity, project delivery, and economic development intersect.

What distinguishes George's contributions is the breadth of his experience across the construction ecosystem. Beginning his career as a laborer and carpenter, he developed firsthand knowledge of the trades before advancing into general contracting, project executive leadership, and owner's representative roles. This progression gives him a uniquely grounded view of workforce development, skills pipelines, and industry needs at every level, from entry-level workers to large-scale project management.

George is also deeply engaged in workforce development efforts within the industry. He serves as Chair of the Workforce Development Committee for the General Contractors Association of Hawai'i, where he actively supports initiatives that strengthen the talent pipeline and address persistent workforce gaps.

His involvement reflects both professional investment and a genuine commitment to advancing opportunities for Hawai'i's workforce.

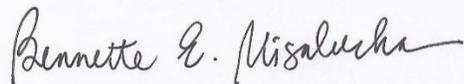
In addition to his professional accomplishments, George is widely respected for his integrity, leadership, and community engagement. His background includes strong academic credentials, professional licensure as a contractor in the State of Hawai'i, and technical expertise in sustainability and project controls. He is known for a deliberate, thoughtful approach and for his ability to connect strategic planning with operational realities.

George's longstanding commitment to service further underscores his qualifications. His leadership in community organizations and volunteer initiatives demonstrates a consistent dedication to improving the lives of others and strengthening Hawai'i's communities. These qualities align closely with the public service responsibilities of Council membership.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the confirmation of George Denise. His expertise, industry knowledge, and commitment to workforce development will be a significant asset to the Workforce Development Council and to the State of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennette E. Misalucha". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular background.

Bennette E. Misalucha
Executive Director
Workforce Development Council

RICHARD HELTZEL
1108 AUHAI STREET APT 305
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

February 24, 2026

TO: HONORABLE BRANDON ELEFANTE, CHAIR, HONORABLE RACHELE LAMOSAO, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 504**. Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DENISE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

HEARING

DATE: February 25, 2026
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225

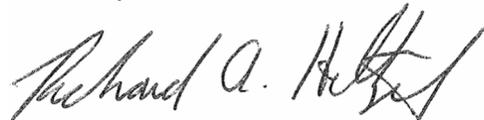
Dear Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee,

I've been an executive and employee of local general contractor and subcontractor Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. for 46 years and am providing this personal written testimony **SUPPORTING GM 504**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DENISE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

I believe that Mr. Denise has demonstrated the required experience and expertise in workforce development to be a valuable member of the Workforce Development Council. Mr. Denise has over 26 years of real estate and construction experience. His experience includes four years as a laborer and carpenter, twelve years as a general contractor, and 10 years as a development manager. Mr. Denise currently chairs the Workforce Development Committee for the General Contractors Association of Hawaii, which allows him to have a direct pulse on issues related to workforce development. We've always found Mr. Denise to be fair, competent, and knowledgeable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Denise's nomination.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Heltzel

LATE

GM-504

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:14:18 PM

Testimony for LBT on 2/25/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
K. Piltz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Elefante and Committee Members:

RE: For consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, GEORGE DENISE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030

I strongly support the nomination of Geoerge Denise for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council for a term to expire on 06-30-2030.

Mr. Denise will be a valuable member of the Workforce Council. He has a long record of working in industries that promote workforce development, both in the private and non-profit sectors. His knowledge and experiences, especially in the construction, real estate and development industries will help provide the Workforce Development Council with possible opportunities for workforce growth.

I have worked with Mr. Denise and believe that he will will be a great addition to, and will serve the Workforce Development Council well. I urge you to strongly support the confirmation of George Denise to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.