

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. 626, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, SEAN NAKAMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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

Mr. Nakamura serves as Corporate Controller and Treasurer for TradeWind Group, where he directs financial strategy and oversees operations that ensure organizational strength and growth. With over six years of experience in financial leadership, he brings expertise in budgeting, compliance, and organizational governance that is critical to sustaining Hawai'i's business environment.

Mr. Nakamura's insight into workforce needs within the technology and corporate sectors equip him to add significant value to the Council's objectives. His background in managing complex financial systems and aligning resources with strategic objectives will help advance initiatives that strengthen career pathways and economic resilience across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 626.



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February 23rd, 2026

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: GM626, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, SEAN NAKAMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

DATE: Wednesday, February 25th 2026, 3:00 PM, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee:

My name is Kelly J. Ueoka, and I am the President and CEO of Pacxa, a locally owned and operated technology consulting firm. I am writing in strong support of Sean Nakamura and his nomination and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Workforce Development Council. I have known Mr. Nakamura for over 5 years in his professional capacity as Controller of TradeWind Group, a local, Hawai'i based company.

In my professional interactions and working closely with Mr. Nakamura, I have experienced thoughtful, collaborative approach and his genuine commitment to strengthening Hawai'i's workforce through him lending his financial expertise and support of a workforce development program built by Pacxa. He brings practical, real-world financial and accounting expertise, consistently engaging stakeholders with respect and purpose, making him well suited to contribute meaningfully at the council level and potentially at the committee chair level as well. As the former Performance Measures and Accountability committee chair, I can attest that with his technical expertise, I am confident that Mr. Nakamura will be tactically helpful in creating sustainable opportunities for Hawai'i residents and supporting the long-term economic vitality of our state.

Please support GM626 and Mr. Nakamura's nomination to the Workforce Development Council. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KJ. Ueoka'.

Kelly J. Ueoka
President, Pacxa

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 626: Gubernatorial Nominee, Sean Nakamura

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN STRONG SUPPORT

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

Sean Nakamura represents the private sector in the Council and serves as **Corporate Controller and Treasurer of Tradewind Group, Inc.**, a Honolulu-based investment holding company with a long-term, Hawai'i-centric focus on insurance, information technology, real estate and private equity.

In this role, he is responsible for financial strategy, controls, and stewardship within an organization that supports business growth, capital investment, and portfolio management. Companies under the Tradewind Group umbrella include Island Insurance, Pacxa, and Tradewind Capital.

His professional experience offers valuable perspective on financial governance, performance measurement, and long-range planning, all of which are directly relevant to the Council's oversight responsibilities.

Sean's professional credentials are particularly noteworthy. He is both a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA), designations that reflect deep expertise

in financial management, strategic analysis, and organizational accountability. These qualifications represent precisely the type of technical and analytical skill set that strengthens the Workforce Development Council's ability to exercise sound fiscal and performance oversight.

Although relatively new to the Council, Sean has already demonstrated strong engagement and leadership. As Chair of the Performance Management and Finance Committee, he has contributed thoughtfully to discussions concerning reporting frameworks, financial discipline, and accountability mechanisms. His analytical approach and careful attention to detail help ensure that Council decisions remain grounded in data, transparency, and responsible governance.

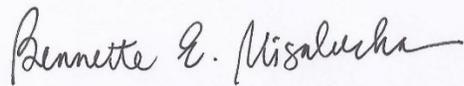
Sean is widely regarded as deliberate, thoughtful, and purpose driven. He approaches issues with clarity and professionalism, fostering productive dialogue while maintaining a strong focus on outcomes. These leadership qualities, combined with his technical expertise, make him an important asset to the Council.

His commitment to community service further reflects his character and values. Sean has been actively involved with organizations such as HAPA Young Leaders, Lanakila Pacific, Parents and Children Together, and the Association of Governmental Accountants, demonstrating a consistent dedication to professional excellence, leadership development, and community engagement.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the confirmation of **Sean Nakamura**. His expertise, judgment, and commitment to service will continue to benefit the Workforce Development Council and 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 the typed name and title.

Bennette E. Misalucha
Executive Director
Workforce Development Council

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOV. MSG. NO. 626
CONFIRMATION OF SEAN NAKAMURA
HAWAI'I WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Sean Nakamura to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council (WDC), as transmitted in Governor's Message No. 626.

Mr. Nakamura brings to the Council a strong combination of private-sector leadership, workforce development experience, and demonstrated commitment to building Hawai'i's next generation of leaders. His career reflects hands-on engagement in business development, operations, and strategic growth, experience that is critically important for a Workforce Development Council charged with aligning industry needs with education and training pipelines.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Nakamura has demonstrated:

- Executive leadership and operational management experience, providing real-world insight into employer needs, workforce readiness, and organizational performance.
- Business development and strategic planning expertise, equipping him to assess emerging industry trends and translate them into workforce priorities.
- Commitment to community and workforce initiatives, including engagement with programs that strengthen career pathways, mentorship, and industry partnerships.
- Experience navigating Hawai'i's economic landscape, understanding both the challenges of talent retention and the opportunities for sector growth.

The Hawai'i Workforce Development Council plays a critical role in implementing the State's Unified Plan, strengthening sector partnerships, and ensuring federal WIOA funds are deployed strategically. At a time when Hawai'i is prioritizing workforce alignment in healthcare, technology, creative industries, construction, energy, and food systems, it is essential that the Council include members who:

- Understand employer expectations;
- Can assess return on investment in training programs;
- Advocate for industry-driven curriculum alignment; and
- Support measurable outcomes tied to employment, wages, and retention.

Mr. Nakamura's background positions him to contribute meaningfully to these responsibilities. His perspective will help ensure that workforce initiatives remain employer-informed, data-driven, and results-oriented, key to reducing brain drain, strengthening local talent pipelines, and supporting economic diversification.

Additionally, his leadership style reflects collaboration and accountability, qualities necessary for a Council that must coordinate across state agencies, counties, education systems, and private industry.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the confirmation of Sean Nakamura to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Mahalo for your consideration.