

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. 628, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONA FUKUMOTO, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.**

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Rona Fukumoto to the Workforce Development Council.

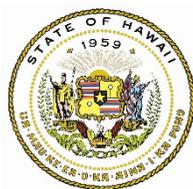
Ms. Fukumoto serves as President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific, an organization dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities and seniors to live independently and thrive. She brings over 25 years of experience in social service leadership, guiding programs that provide essential support and create pathways to employment. Her work has emphasized collaboration and innovation to ensure that people of all abilities have access to meaningful opportunities.

In addition to her role at Lanakila Pacific, Ms. Fukumoto has contributed to statewide efforts through participation on advisory councils and community boards. Her background in program development and her commitment to inclusive workforce strategies will continue to strengthen the Council's mission to prepare Hawai'i's workforce for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 628.

**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 628: Gubernatorial Nominee, Rona Fukumoto**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN STRONG SUPPORT**

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

Rona Fukumoto represents the nonprofit sector and serves as Chief Executive Officer of **Lanakila Pacific**, one of Hawai'i's most respected organizations dedicated to creating opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Her leadership reflects both professional excellence and a deep commitment to community impact, making her perspective especially valuable to the Council's work.

Within the Workforce Development Council, Rona serves as Vice Chair of the Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee. In this capacity, she consistently brings practical, real-world insight to discussions about workforce access, training pathways, and system design. Her experience leading a mission-driven organization that directly supports individuals facing employment barriers adds an important and grounded dimension to Council deliberations.

Rona is widely regarded as a thoughtful and highly effective leader. She has earned strong respect within Hawai'i's business and nonprofit communities for her strategic mindset, collaborative approach, and

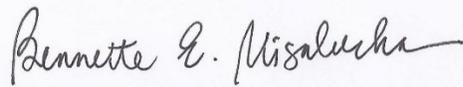
ability to guide complex organizations. Her leadership has been recognized across the community, reflecting both her professional capabilities and her dedication to service.

What distinguishes Rona's contributions is her measured, solutions-oriented approach. She engages constructively with diverse viewpoints, carefully considers long-term implications, and consistently centers discussions on outcomes that benefit individuals, employers, and the broader community. These qualities are essential for effective Council service, particularly in a system as interconnected and consequential as workforce development.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the confirmation of Rona Fukumoto. Her expertise, leadership, and commitment to expanding opportunity make her an invaluable 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 cursive script that reads "Bennette E. Misalucha". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Bennette E. Misalucha  
Executive Director  
Workforce Development Council



## HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 597-1441 • Fax: (808) 593-2149

February 25, 2026

The Thirty-Third Legislature  
The Senate  
Committee on Labor and Technology

**SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM628 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII’I WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA FUKUMOTO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029**

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO supports GM628, which submits for consideration and confirmation Rona Fukumoto to the Hawai’i Workforce Development Council (WDC). The strength of Hawaii’s workforce depends on steady, experienced leadership committed to opportunity and accountability. Important decisions made by the WDC affect whether working people have meaningful access to training, advancement, and stable employment.

Ms. Fukumoto has demonstrated a sustained commitment to expanding economic opportunity and strengthening systems that serve working families. Her perspective will continue to contribute to thoughtful and responsible governance at a time when Hawaii must remain focused on long-term workforce stability.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Perreira".

Randy Perreira  
President  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO



HAWAII HEALTH  
& HARM REDUCTION CENTER  
*The New Chapter for Life Foundation and The CHOW Project*

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February 24, 2026

To: Committee on Labor and Technology

When: February 25, 2026 3pm

Subject: Letter of Support for GM 628, Rona Fukumoto for Hawaii Workforce Development Council

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

The Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) writing in strong support of GM 628, Rona Fukumoto, for appointment to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. I have known Ms. Fukumoto for almost 20 years and she has the passion, commitment, experience and expertise necessary for this appointment. She has dedicated her life to serving our community and has worked with some of our most vulnerable populations and is currently with Lanakila Pacific where she supports autonomy and independence building through job training and employment placement.

HHHRC's mission is to *reduce harm, promote health, create wellness and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific*. We focus our efforts on those disproportionately affected by social determinants of health, including but not limited to: people living with and/or affected by HIV, substance use, and the transgender, LGBTQ and the Native Hawaiian communities.

HHHRC works at the intersection of homelessness, mental health, substance use, chronic disease and the criminal justice system, and most of our clients and patients need support with education, job skills training and employment. We have been collaborating with Rona on increasing access to workforce development options, as well as collaborating on the Access to Justice Commission upon which we both serve. Rona is responsive, inclusive and effective at community building, and would be an asset to continue on the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Sincerely,

Heather Lusk, LCSW  
Executive Director, HHHRC



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### **SUPPORT FOR GM 628: FOR THE HAWAII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, NOMINEE RONA FUKUMOTO**

TO: Senate Committee on Labor and Technology  
FROM: Tina Andrade, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Hearing: Wednesday, 2/25/25; 3:00 PM; CR 225 or Videoconference

Aloha Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members, Committee on Labor and Technology:

I am Tina Andrade from Catholic Charities Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **Strong Support of GM 628**, which considers the confirmation of Rona Fukumoto to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council (WDC), for a term to expire on 06-30-2029. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and the importance of selecting leaders who will strengthen the work of this Council.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax-exempt, Community-Based Organization that has provided social services in Hawaii for more than 78 years, now serving over 40,000 individuals statewide each year. CCH has programs serving children, families, elders, individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for Hawaii's most vulnerable.

Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports the nomination of Rona Fukumoto to this Council. Her extensive experience working with diverse populations has given her a deep understanding of the challenges faced by people struggling to become active, self-sufficient members of our community. She brings a thoughtful, compassionate, and informed perspective to this work.

Confirming Ms. Fukumoto for a second term on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council would reinforce the strong partnerships now forming between education, employers, government agencies, and the WDC. Her expertise has been utilized to identify Hawaii's Generational Workforce Commitment. Her ongoing leadership would help ensure that the unique needs of people with disabilities – as well as youth and kupuna - are considered as partnerships and programs are developed. Youth and kupuna may not identify as having a disability, but clearly have barriers to work.

Ms. Fukumoto's enthusiasm, critical thinking abilities, and dedication to expanding appropriate employment opportunities for people with barriers to work make her an invaluable asset to the Council. We respectfully urge you to confirm Rona Fukumoto for the Workforce Development Council.





**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Labor and Technology

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 25, 2026

GM628 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA  
FUKUMOTO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2029.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination of Rona Fukumoto, to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Ms. Fukumoto has over three decades of nonprofit experience and currently serves as the President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific. In addition to her current role, Ms. Fukumoto also serves on the Board of the Access to Justice Commission and the Hawaii Food Bank. Ms. Fukumoto graduated from the University of Hawaii, and holds a bachelor's degree in English, and a master's degree in Public Administration. We believe that Ms. Fukumoto will continue to be a valuable asset on the Council as they play a vital role in aligning our workforce programs with the state's economic development strategies and addressing unmet workforce and economic development needs across the state.

We offer our unequivocal support and endorsement of Rona Fukumoto's nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council and kindly ask the favorable consideration of your committee for her candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



# HAWAII PORTS MARITIME COUNCIL

affiliated with

Maritime Trades Department

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR and CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION

606 Kalihi Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

TELEPHONE: (808) 845-5222

FAX: (808) 841-1191

Member Unions:

February 24, 2026

*Hawaii Government  
Employees Association,  
AFSCME Local 152*

*Hawaii Pilots Association,  
MM&P Pilots Division*

*Inlandboatmen's Union  
of the Pacific*

*International Brotherhood of  
Boilermakers, Iron Ship  
Builders, Blacksmiths,  
Forgers and Helpers  
Lodge 627*

*International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local 1186*

*International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local 1260*

*International Longshore and  
Warehouse Union Local 142*

*International Union of  
Elevator Constructors  
Local 126*

*Ironworkers Union  
Stabilization Fund  
Local 625*

*Laborers' International Union  
of North America Local 368*

*Marine Engineers'  
Beneficial Association*

*Marine Firemen,  
Watertenders, Oilers & Wipers*

*Masters, Mates and Pilots,  
Offshore Division*

*Sailors' Union of the Pacific*

*Seafarers International Union*

*Sheet Metal Workers Local 293*

*United Food and Commercial  
Workers International Union  
Local 480*

Senate Committee on Labor and Technology  
Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair  
Honorable Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

RE: GM628 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAI'I WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (WDC), GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONA FUKUMOTO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-29

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Ports Maritime Council strongly supports reappointment of Rona Fukumoto to serve as a board to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Through her work with community based organizations such as Lanakila Pacific, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, and Winners at Work, Rona has demonstrated a deep commitment to serving individuals with disabilities, seniors, and those facing barriers to employment. Her firsthand understanding of workforce challenges and employer needs brings valuable insight to workforce planning and policy discussions.

Rona consistently advocates for practical workforce solutions, strong community partnerships, and equitable access to training and employment opportunities. Her continued service would help ensure that the Workforce Development Board remains connected to frontline service providers and the populations they support.

Therefore, the Hawaii Ports Maritime Council enthusiastically recommends her reappointment to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Respectfully,

Randy Swindell  
President



**HAWAII ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS**  
An Affiliate of Alliance for Retired Americans  
(AFL-CIO)

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF G.M. 628**  
**RONA FUKUMOTO**  
**Workforce Development Council**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 25, 2026; 3:00 p.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
Videoconference

Senate Committee on Labor and Technology  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair  
Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Lamosao, Members of the Senator Committee on Labor and Technology:

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans (HARA) supports G.M. 628 for the confirmation of RONA FUKUMOTO to the Workforce Development Council.

*HARA is an organization of senior organizations that represent some 16,000 retirees in Hawaii. HARA's affiliates include retired members of HGEA, HSTA, ILWU, UPW, Kokua Council, and the Hawaii Caregivers Coalition.*

Rona Fukumoto has a long and strong resume as an advocate for employment and training, in addition to services to kupuna and the disabled. As President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific since 2018, Rona oversees a large workforce, which supports Lanakila Pacific's mission of serving disabled individuals and kupuna living in their own homes. Lanakila Meals on Wheels is a model program that not only provides meals to kupuna but provides job training opportunities for those with significant disabilities.

Rona has spent her entire career in the nonprofit sector, working for Catholic Charities, Winners at Work, and Lanakila Pacific, but also serving as President of Project Dana, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving kupuna in their homes by connecting them with volunteers who provide friendly visits, transportation, and chore services.

Rona understands the workforce in Hawaii—for able-bodied individuals, but particularly for those living with significant disabilities. She has brought a unique perspective to the Workforce Development Council about employment and training as a means to help individuals with disabilities to become self-sufficient and live independently.

The Hawaii Alliance for Retired Americans is honored to support the confirmation of **Rona Fukumoto** to continue her service on the Workforce Development Council and urges the Committee to move GM 628 forward to the full Senate. Thank you for considering our testimony.

**GM-628**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:43:35 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paige Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing today in my personal capacity in strong support of the nomination of Rona Fukumoto to serve on the Workforce Development Council.

I have had the privilege of serving on the board of Lanakila Pacific and have seen firsthand Rona's innovative, collaborative style in building coalitions that support seniors, individuals with disabilities, and local businesses. She possesses a unique set of skills that shows her deep commitment to inclusion paired with operational excellence. Under her leadership, programs have evolved to better serve individuals with barriers to employment, to partner more strategically with employers, and to align training with actual labor market demand.

At a time when Hawaii faces significant workforce shortages across multiple sectors, we need innovative and inclusive voices at the table and Rona's perspective will be invaluable. I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm her reappointment to the Workforce Development Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.

**GM-628**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:31:26 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**In Support of the Reappointment of Rona Fukumoto to the Workforce Development Council**

**Hearing: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 | 3:00 PM**

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

My name is Amy Miller, and I am writing in strong support of the reappointment of Rona Fukumoto to serve a second term on the Workforce Development Council.

I have the privilege of serving with Rona in her capacity as a member of the Hawai'i Foodbank Board of Directors, where she is an invaluable and deeply engaged board member. In that role, Rona consistently brings thoughtful, empathetic, and strategic insight to complex discussions, while always centering the voices and lived realities of the people and communities we serve.

Rona is a collaborative and trusted thought partner who contributes meaningfully to systems-level conversations, asks the right questions, and helps organizations stay grounded in mission while navigating policy, partnerships, and implementation. She is particularly intentional about uplifting perspectives that are too often underrepresented, ensuring that decisions reflect both equity and real-world impact.

These qualities translate directly to the work of the Workforce Development Council. Rona's ability to bridge community-based experience with strategic, cross-sector collaboration makes her an asset to statewide workforce efforts, especially as Hawai'i works to strengthen alignment among education, employers, government, and community organizations.

For these reasons, I strongly support Rona Fukumoto's reappointment to the Workforce Development Council and respectfully urge you to confirm her for a second term. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Miller

**LATE**

To: Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Labor and Technology (LBT)

Date: February 25, 2026 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of GM628

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of GM628 regarding the appointment of Rona S. Yagi Fukumoto.

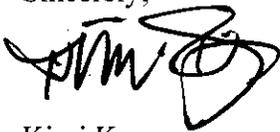
The nominee brings decades of highly relevant executive leadership in workforce development and human services. Currently serving as the President and CEO of Lanakila Pacific, she's successfully managed an organization where 75 percent of the direct labor workers are individuals with significant disabilities.

Her impressive background includes over a decade of leadership at Catholic Charities Hawai'i and Winners at Work, demonstrating a lifelong commitment to housing assistance and community-based employment for vulnerable populations. Coupled with a Master of Public Administration and active volunteer service on the Workforce Development Council and the Access to Justice Commission, the nominee possesses the exact expertise needed for this role.

I strongly urge the committee to pass GM628.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimi Koge', written in a cursive style.

Kimi Koge  
Community Member