

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

March 27, 2026

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

Date: Friday, March 27, 2026  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

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

**Re: G.M. 759, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER BURNETT, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.**

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

Mr. Burnett brings extensive experience in labor relations, workforce issues, and organizational operations, developed through positions with the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO, the United Public Workers, the Hawai'i Government Employees Association, and Helping Hands Hawai'i. His work has included guiding unions on political and policy strategy; coordinating training on legislative advocacy and leadership development; managing communications; and building relationships with community partners and public officials. His background reflects a strong understanding of the needs of workers, employers, and community organizations across the state.

Mr. Burnett's leadership roles have involved overseeing staff and operations within statewide labor organizations, as well as strengthening internal coordination and service delivery. Representing thousands of workers in investigations, grievances, and workplace matters has given him a clear understanding of systems that support workforce development and employment stability. He has also developed strategic plans, advised senior leadership, and improved operational processes across several large labor organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 759.



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

### COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair  
Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Friday, March 27, 2026, 3:00 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony on GM759 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER BURNETT, for a term to expire 06-30-2030**

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

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW") is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW **strongly supports** Governor's Message 759, which submits gubernatorial nominee, Christopher Burnett, for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council ("WDC"), for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

As the current Director of the Hawaii State AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education ("COPE"), as well as former staff at both the Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152 and United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO, Mr. Burnett has the experience and knowledge that may prove valuable to the WDC in its efforts to develop a competitive and skilled workforce that promotes and fosters a diverse and prosperous economy in Hawaii.

Through his work in the organized labor, most notably in his current role as COPE Director, Mr. Burnett has developed an understanding of current and emerging workforce needs in various sectors including maritime, construction trades, medical, creative industries, tourism, and public employment.

UPW strongly believes Mr. Burnett will prove to be a valuable member of the WDC, and we humbly ask that this committee recommend his appointment. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of GM579.

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**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades  
District Council 50**

March 25, 2026

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair  
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM759 (Nomination of Christopher Burnette to the  
Hawaii Workforce Development Council)  
Hearing Date : March 27, 2026  
Time : 3:00 p.m.

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Chair Elefante and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM759 submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council (the "Council"), Gubernatorial Nominee, Christopher Burnette.

The International Union of Painters and Allied trades, District Council 50, is an organization that consists of five (5) local unions: the Painters, Local 1971; the Glaziers Architectural and Glass Metal Workers, Local 1889; the Carpet Linoleum and Soft Tile, Local 1926; the Drywall, Tapers Finishers, Local 1944; and the Pearl Harbor Metal Trades Specialty Workers, Local 1941 – in all, approximately two thousand (2000) members statewide.

Mr. Burnette brings extensive experience in workforce training, labor relations, and collaborative leadership that is perfectly aligned with the Council's mission to strengthen Hawai'i's workforce and align training programs with current and future employer needs. Mr. Burnette's understanding of public sector employer needs will be a considerable resource for the Council, helping it make informed and effective decisions.

Having worked with him for many years through the Hawaii State AFL-CIO, we are confident that Mr. Burnette will serve with distinction, bringing balanced judgment, collaboration, and a strong sense of purpose to the Council's work. We therefore respectfully ask you to recommend Mr. Burnette's confirmation to serve as a member of the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM759.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Masatsugu  
Director of Government Affairs  
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades  
District Council 50

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# HAWAII PORTS MARITIME COUNCIL

affiliated with

Maritime Trades Department

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR and CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION

606 Kalihii Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

TELEPHONE: (808) 845-5222

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Member Unions:

March 25, 2026

*Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152* Senate Committee on Labor and Technology  
Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair  
Honorable Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

*Hawaii Pilots Association, MM&P Pilots Division* Members of the Committee on Labor and Technology

*Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific* RE: GM759 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAI'I WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHRISTOPHER BURNETT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030

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

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

*International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1186*

On behalf of the Hawaii Ports Maritime Council, we support Christopher Burnett to serve as a board member to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

*International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260*

*International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 142*

Mr. Burnett brings strong experience in labor relations, workforce development, and organizational leadership. As Director of the Committee on Political Education for the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO, he leads legislative strategy, coordinates trainings, and works with policymakers and community partners on key labor issues. He previously served as Statewide Director of Field Services for United Public Workers, overseeing operations, staff, and strategy. His experience representing workers in grievances, investigations, and negotiations gives him a practical understanding of Hawai'i's workforce needs and will be an asset to the Council.

*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*

Therefore, we respectfully urge a favorable recommendation.

*Marine Firemen, Watertenders, Oilers & Wipers*

Sincerely,

*Masters, Mates and Pilots, Offshore Division*

*Sailors' Union of the Pacific*

Randy Swindell  
President

*Seafarers International Union*

*Sheet Metal Workers Local 293*

*United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 480*

**GM-759**

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 9:12:34 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/27/2026 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)	Testifying for Pride at Work – Hawai‘i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i fully supports Governor Green's appointment of Christopher Burnett to the Hawai‘i Workforce Development Council.

We ask that you support his confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai‘i](#)



## **HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO**

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

March 27, 2026

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

**SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM759 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII'I WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHRISTOPHER BURNETT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030**

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

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is in strong support of GM759, confirming Christopher Burnett to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Mr. Burnett has been with the Hawaii State AFL-CIO since 2023 and brings more than a decade of experience in the labor movement. He has worked with numerous employers to improve workplace policies and has been directly involved in legislative engagement on issues affecting employment and economic opportunity.

His perspective will be a valuable addition to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council at a time when the State must remain focused on expanding access to employment and training opportunities.

We urge the committee to advance GM759.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Randy Perreira  
President  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO



**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

March 27, 2026

GM 759 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHRISTOPHER  
BURNETT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2030.

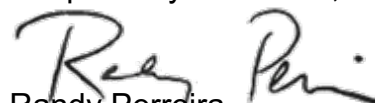
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination of Chris Burnett to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Mr. Burnett earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Hawaii Pacific University. Mr. Burnett currently serves as Director of the Committee on Political Action for the Hawaii State AFL-CIO, where he provides guidance to labor organizations on political strategy, legislative priorities, and policy-related decision-making. Prior to his current role, Mr. Burnett served as the UPW Statewide Director of Field Services and worked at HGEA as a Union Agent for five years.

Mr. Burnett possesses a vast array of knowledge in public employment and workforce needs, collective bargaining and negotiations, legislative and political action, fiscal policy and budgeting, and training and education, among other areas. We strongly believe that Mr. Burnett will be a valuable asset to the Council as it plays a vital role in aligning 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 Chris Burnett's nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council and respectfully ask for the favorable consideration of your committee.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Randy Perreira  
Executive Director