

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/7/2026 10:01:15 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen May	Testifying for Hawaii Job Corps	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

On behalf of Hawai'i Job Corps, I am submitting a written testimony in support of Trang Malone's nomination as the Vice Chair of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council (WDC). Our organization has benefited from the dedication Trang has provided in strengthening Hawai'i's workforce pipeline. Specifically, by helping to ensure our students have access to training, career pathways, and economic opportunity in the health care industry. Trang supports our workforce council initiatives and makes herself available to enhance our processes. Her service in the armed forces for 28 years is inspiring, and her commitment to serve continues by way of providing economic empowerment opportunities for our young adults. ***Please accept this testimony as an enthusiastic endorsement and support of Trang Malone as the Vice Chair.***

Mahalo,

Ellen May, Center Director

Hawaii Job Corps

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 LIMAHAHA

March 11, 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, March 11, 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. 629, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, TRANG MALONE, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

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

Ms. Malone serves as Workforce Initiative Manager at CVS Health, where she leads efforts to align workforce strategies with business objectives. Her work focuses on building partnerships with government agencies, nonprofits, and community organizations to expand access to career opportunities and promote diversity through hands-on training programs in pharmacies and retail settings.

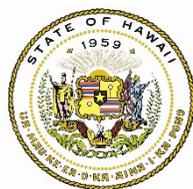
Ms. Malone specializes in removing employment barriers through innovative workforce strategies, and her leadership in this area will continue to be an asset to the Council. She is also a proven mentor whose guidance has driven measurable improvements in workforce performance. Her ability to navigate challenges and support employees through crises demonstrates a deep commitment to advancing Hawai'i's workforce and serving the state's best interests.

The Department supports her appointment through June 30, 2029, and looks forward to her continued contributions to the Council's work.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 629.

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, March 11, 2026

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

From: Bennette E. Misalucha

Executive Director, Workforce Development Council

Re: GM 629: Gubernatorial Nominee, Trang Malone

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of the Senate confirmation of **Trang Malone** to serve on the Workforce Development Council.

Trang Malone represents the business sector and serves as a Workforce Manager at CVS Health, where her work centers on talent development, career pathways, and workforce engagement covering Hawaii and a few other states. Her professional experience is complemented by a deeply personal commitment to workforce development that is evident in both her leadership and service.

In November 2025, Trang was elected Vice Chair of the Workforce Development Council, reflecting the confidence and respect she has earned among her peers. She is widely recognized as a collaborative, thoughtful, and action-oriented leader who consistently contributes meaningfully to Council initiatives.

Prior to becoming Vice Chair, Ms. Malone served as Chair of the WDC Military and Veteran Affairs Committee, where she was instrumental in elevating the Council's focus on military spouses, transitioning service members, and veterans. A veteran herself, Trang led the Committee to strengthen partnerships across the military, public, and private sectors to improve employment pathways and workforce opportunities for military families in Hawai'i. Her work has helped bring greater visibility to

the unique workforce challenges faced by military spouses and has contributed to policy discussions aimed at improving employment access and career mobility for this important segment of our community. Her leadership in this area has been both substantive and impactful.

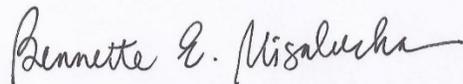
One of Trang's most notable contributions has been her hands-on work in developing opportunities for young people. She played a key role in building, from the ground up, a Registered Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship pathway connected to numerous high schools across the state, Kapiolani Community College, and community-based organizations including Hawaii Job Corps, all of which create exposure and career possibilities for students interested in pharmacy-related fields. This initiative is a powerful example of workforce development in practice: connecting education, industry, and student aspiration in a way that produces tangible outcomes.

Trang is also known for her creativity, dedication, and ability to inspire others. She connects naturally with students and young adults, often sharing her own incredible story of grit, perseverance and resilience. Her authenticity and positive outlook resonate strongly with youth, making her an exceptional advocate for career awareness and opportunity. These qualities, combined with her professional expertise, make her an invaluable asset to the Council.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the confirmation of **Trang Malone**. She embodies the leadership, commitment, and practical insight that are essential to advancing Hawai'i's workforce priorities.

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

Professional Recommendation

March 09, 2026

Ramon F. Ruiz, LVER
(Local Veterans Employment Representative)
DLIR, Workforce Development Division
680 Iwilei Rd., Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96817

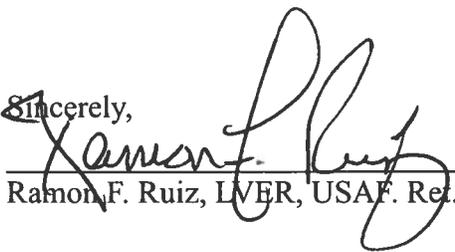
Dear Honorable Members of the Senate,

It is a privilege to recommend **Trang Malone**, for the position of Vice-Chair of the Workforce Development Council. I am Ramon Ruiz, the Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) for the State of Hawai'i. With over eleven years of experience in veteran employment services—including four years as a DVOP (Disabled Veteran Outreach Program) Specialist—I specialize in bridging the gap between business leaders and our veteran workforce. In my current role, I develop strategic partnerships with employers like Trang Malone at CVS Health to address organizational staffing needs while advocating for veterans facing qualifying employment barriers. I have also been an appointed member of the SRC (State Rehabilitation Council) since 2024.

I have worked closely with Trang Malone since we first met at an American Job Center-Hawai'i Partners meeting nearly five years ago. Throughout her tenure as Advisor for Workforce Initiatives at CVS and her volunteer leadership as Chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee (MVAC), I have witnessed her remarkable professional progression. To those of us who know her, her success is not a surprise, but an expectation rooted in her unique skills and selfless commitment to our veteran community. In every capacity, Trang has proven to be a leader who does more than manage programs—she builds the ecosystems necessary for veterans to thrive.

What sets Trang Malone apart is her ability to translate the high-stakes discipline of a military officer into the nuanced language of corporate and state-level workforce policy. This is a valued characteristic that I observed when we first met. At CVS Health, she hasn't just filled roles; she has identified systemic barriers to employment and designed the "on-ramps" necessary to overcome them. Her work is characterized by a "mission-first" mindset that is essential for a Vice-Chair who must balance the needs of diverse stakeholders, from state legislators to private-sector CEOs. Her impact as the WDC Chair for the MVAC is perhaps the best evidence of her readiness for this Vice Chair role. Leading a state committee as a volunteer requires a specific kind of influence—one rooted in credibility rather than rank. She successfully navigated complex bureaucratic hurdles to streamline veteran employment initiatives, demonstrating a level of political savvy and persistence that is rare even among seasoned executives. In my experience, the most effective Vice-Chairs are those who can see the "big picture" without losing sight of the individuals the Council serves. Trang Malone is that leader. She brings the integrity of an officer, the strategic mind of a Fortune 500 advisor, and a genuine passion for workforce equity. I recommend Trang Malone for this position with the highest level of confidence.

Sincerely,



Ramon F. Ruiz, LVER, USAF. Ret.

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/8/2026 9:31:27 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Brown	Testifying for U.S.VETS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of the Nomination of Trang Malone as the Vice Chair on the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

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

My name is Tanya Brown, and I serve as the Executive Director of U.S.VETS Wai‘anae, one of Hawai‘i’s largest providers of services to veterans and local families experiencing homelessness on the leeward coast. I also serve as Chair of Partners in Care, O‘ahu’s Continuum of Care, which coordinates the island-wide system of housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

I am writing to offer my strong support for the nomination of Trang Malone to serve as the Vice Chair on the Hawai‘i Workforce Development Council (WDC).

Workforce development plays a critical role in the pathway to stability for the individuals and families we serve. Employment is often the bridge that connects housing stability to long-term economic mobility. Leaders like Trang Malone understand this intersection and have demonstrated a genuine commitment to building workforce opportunities that uplift our communities.

Under Trang’s leadership at CVS Health, U.S.VETS Hawai‘i has developed a strong partnership with CVS that is already producing meaningful impact. Because of this collaboration, we will be opening a CVS Career Lab in May at the State of Hawai‘i’s 18th Kauhale project, Kauhale Kulia I Ka Nu‘u, located on the Wai‘anae Coast. This Career Lab will serve not only veterans but the broader Wai‘anae Coast community, helping residents access career pathways, workforce training, and employment opportunities that support long-term stability.

Trang’s leadership has been instrumental in making this partnership possible. She brings a collaborative, solutions-driven approach that bridges the needs of employers with the aspirations of individuals seeking opportunity. Her ability to connect corporate leadership with community impact reflects exactly the type of leadership needed to strengthen Hawai‘i’s workforce system.

Trang is also a veteran, and she carries with her a deep sense of service, not only to our country, but to the communities she continues to support through her leadership and advocacy. Her heart

for service, coupled with her strategic insight and employer perspective, will be an invaluable asset to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support Trang Malone's nomination as Vice Chair of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Tanya Brown
Executive Director, U.S.VETS Wai'anae
Chair, Partners in Care - O'ahu Continuum of Care

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/7/2026 12:28:51 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moana Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Trang is committed to strengthening Hawaii's workforce pipeline and ensuring that residents have equitable access to training, career pathways, and economic opportunity. Serving on the WDC will allow Trang to contribute to statewide strategies that uplift workers, support employers, and build a resilient, future-ready workforce. She has served on the board for three years and chaired the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Trang will be a great asset to WDC.

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/7/2026 5:02:42 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maille Malone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Preseident Ronald D. Kouchi, Members of the Senate, and everyone else who may read this,

My name is Maille Malone. I am writing this testimony from a unique and deeply personal perspective. For the past 18 years, I have been raised by Trang Malone, and I can say with certainty that no one has made me feel more prepared for my future or more supported in my journey.

This isn't just a daughter's pride; it is a reflection of her character. The way she has mentored and connected with me is the exact same way she connects with her community. I have watched countless others seek her guidance and leave feeling the same way I do: empowered, seen, and ready to contribute. It is this rare ability to prepare people for the challenges of tomorrow that makes her the ideal candidate for Vice Chair.

My mom possesses a drive to help others that is truly rare. I have witnessed her consistently sacrifice her own time, energy, and personal well-being to ensure the success of those around her. To her, "workforce development" isn't just a policy term. It has become a personal mission to ensure that every individual in Hawai'i has the tools they need to provide for their families and thrive in our islands.

Her contributions to the field of are already profound. She has spent years creating genuine connections with those around her, advocating for the growth of others that foster long-term resilliance, and always leading by example to encoruage everyone to perform at a high level.

The Hawai'i Workforce Development Council needs a leader who understands that at the heart of every economic statistic is a human being. My mom is that leader. She has spent nearly two decades preparing me for the world, and she has spent just as long doing the same for the people of Hawai'i.

I recommend her for Vice Chair with the utmost confidence and heart.

Mahalo and God bless,

Maille Malone

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/7/2026 6:40:38 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Cross	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Trang Malone as Vice Chair of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council for the term to expire June 30, 2029.

I have had the privilege of serving alongside Trang Malone on the Workforce Development Council, where she served as Chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee while I served as Co-Chair. Through that work, I witnessed firsthand her deep commitment to strengthening pathways for service members, veterans, and military spouses as they transition into Hawai'i's civilian workforce.

Trang brings exceptional leadership shaped by 28 years of service in the United States Army and continued service within our community. She leads with integrity, strategic insight, and a genuine commitment to ensuring that Hawai'i's workforce systems create real opportunity for our residents.

During her tenure on the Council, Trang has consistently worked to bridge gaps between employers, workforce programs, and the military community. Her ability to collaborate across sectors and keep the focus on practical outcomes for all workers including military-affiliated families has made a meaningful impact on our work.

Her perspective, experience, and dedication make her exceptionally well suited to serve as Vice Chair of the Workforce Development Council. I am confident she will continue to strengthen the Council's efforts to build a resilient and inclusive workforce for Hawai'i.

I respectfully urge the committee to confirm Trang Malone for this important leadership role.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Cross; Member, Workforce Development Council representing the Private Sector and Co-Chair Employer Engagement Committee

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/7/2026 9:28:55 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Christianson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Trang Malone for over 25 years and I believe she would be a tremendous asset to any company or organization, especially one that is civic-minded. Trang is an absolute "doer." She brings passion, intelligence, and energy to the causes that she commits to. She loves her community and it shows in her priorities and efforts. She is an extremely hard worker and is a great role model of service.

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/8/2026 7:02:41 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrina Stoskopf	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of Trang Malone’s nomination to the Hawai‘i Workforce Development Council. I have known Trang for over twenty years, first serving with her in the United States Army and later growing alongside her as family and community.

From the Army to civilian life, Trang has always led with integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to helping others. She is the person who steps in without being asked, who lifts people up, and who brings calm, discipline, and heart to every challenge. Her dedication to service has never been limited to a uniform — it shows up in her family, her community, and her work to create opportunities for others.

Trang is driven, trustworthy, and grounded in values that Hawai‘i can be proud of. I fully support her appointment and know she will serve the Workforce Development Council with the same character and commitment she has shown throughout her life.

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/8/2026 3:14:45 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Racquel Junio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Trang Malone to serve on the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

I have had the privilege of knowing Trang both personally and professionally, and I can attest to her deep commitment to strengthening opportunities for individuals and communities across Hawai'i. She is a thoughtful leader who consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, integrity, and a genuine passion for helping others succeed.

Trang's previous service on the Workforce Development Council, including her leadership as Chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, reflects her dedication to ensuring that service members, veterans, and local residents have meaningful access to career pathways and workforce opportunities. Her ability to connect people, programs, and resources makes her an effective advocate for a stronger and more inclusive workforce system.

Hawai'i's workforce challenges require leaders who understand collaboration across government, education, industry, and community organizations. Trang brings that perspective along with the experience, professionalism, and commitment needed to help guide statewide workforce strategies.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support Trang Malone to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully,

Racquel Junio

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/8/2026 3:56:38 PM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Wienke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I give my highest recommendation for Trang Malone to serve as Vice Chair of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council (WDC). In addition to her current professional and volunteer achievements, Trang demonstrated her stellar leadership and expertise as a senior officer during her 28 years of active military service. I retired from the Army as a Colonel in December 2024, and I was honored to serve with Trang as a coworker in the same career field, Health Services Human Resource Management. Trang's character is beyond reproach. Confident, caring, and dependable, she exemplifies the spirit of aloha with her exceptional work ethic, selfless service, and integrity.

Trang is passionate about Workforce Development. She already demonstrated her dedication, caring, and effectiveness during her distinguished Army career and the three years she has already served on the WDC. In addition, she chaired the WDC Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. She goes above and beyond to promote equity, career opportunities, and professional development for the workforce of our Hawai'i 'ohana.

Mahalo for your time and consideration!

GM-629

Submitted on: 3/9/2026 9:19:26 AM

Testimony for LBT on 3/11/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina T. Ly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Trang Malone has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to strengthening workforce development systems and expanding career opportunities for individuals seeking meaningful employment.

Her leadership reflects a collaborative approach and a clear understanding of how education, workforce agencies, and industry partners can align to support regional economic growth.

Trang Malone has been a valuable advocate for community colleges, particularly in advancing workforce pathways within healthcare and pharmacy technology programs. She recognizes the importance of building responsive training programs that prepare students with the skills required by today's healthcare employers.

Through her engagement with educational institutions and workforce partners, she has helped foster stronger connections that support student success, industry engagement, and employment outcomes. Furthermore, Trang Malone is widely respected for her professionalism, integrity, and dedication to public service. I am confident that her leadership, and commitment to workforce development will bring meaningful contributions to the Workforce Development Council.

Testimony in Support of Trang Malone – Nomination as Vice Chair, Hawai‘i Workforce Development Council

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

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Trang Malone to serve as Vice Chair of the Hawai‘i Workforce Development Council.

For more than 30 years, I have worked in Hawai‘i’s government-run workforce development system, serving in roles ranging from line staff to executive leadership. Through that experience, I have come to appreciate the importance of strong partnerships between workforce programs, employers, and community organizations in creating real opportunities for Hawai‘i’s residents.

Through my interactions with Trang and our shared involvement in Hawai‘i’s workforce development community, I have seen firsthand her commitment to strengthening workforce pathways for our residents.

Trang brings thoughtful leadership through both her professional experience and her continued commitment to public service. She served 28 years in the United States Army and has continued that spirit of service through her work on the Workforce Development Council over the past three years, including as Chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. In that role, she has been a steady and engaged voice in discussions focused on strengthening Hawai‘i’s workforce pipeline.

In her current role with CVS Health as Workforce Initiatives Manager, Trang has helped develop and implement pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training opportunities that create meaningful career pathways for youth. Through these efforts, young people are introduced to careers in the healthcare and pharmacy field, gaining exposure to industry training, workplace expectations, and advancement opportunities in a high-demand sector. Experiences like these not only build practical skills but also help young people see a future for themselves in meaningful careers.

Trang understands the importance of aligning workforce initiatives with industry needs while ensuring that Hawai‘i’s residents, including youth and veterans, have access to real opportunities for advancement. Her perspective as both an employer partner and workforce leader will be a valuable asset to the Council in the role of Vice Chair.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of her nomination. I respectfully encourage the committee to support Trang Malone’s appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Leina‘ala H Nakamura
Honolulu, Hawai‘i