

THE SENATE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR**

Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Hearing: Thursday, February 19, 2015

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: State Capitol, Room 016

**TESTIMONY OF LOWELL CHUN-HOON RE: GM 536, THE  
APPOINTMENT OF LEONARD HOSHIJO AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

Chairman Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding the appointment of Leonard Hoshijo to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I completely support this excellent appointment.

I am a practicing labor lawyer with thirty-seven years of experience appearing before the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations representing individuals and labor unions in workers compensation, unemployment, prohibited practice, and temporary disability insurance claims. I have also personally worked with Mr. Hoshijo when he served as the International Vice President of ILWU Local 142 and as a colleague at the A.Q. McElrath Fund for Economic and Social Justice.

Mr. Hoshijo is one of the ablest and most thoughtful union officials I have ever had the privilege of working with. He is highly intelligent, responsible, and considerate in his relations with his colleagues. Among the attributes he will bring to his work is a broad vision of social responsibility and a sophisticated, nuanced approach to problem solving. His personal discipline, objectivity, perseverance, and broad knowledge of labor relations will also make him an impartial and efficient government administrator.

Mr. Hoshijo, for example, has done outstanding work creating affordable housing for low income tenants at the 143 unit Jack Hall Memorial Housing project in Waipahu. He also was very active with the late Justice Edward Nakamura in preserving and restoring the renowned mural created by Pablo O'Higgins at the ILWU Local 142 headquarters at 451 Atkinson Drive. His supportive background work was also instrumental in bringing to fruition Tom Coffman's celebrated biography of Justice Nakamura, *I Respectfully Dissent*. In my own work with the A.Q. McElrath Fund for Economic and Social Justice, Mr. Hoshijo has helped to fund projects that promoted

racial diversity, gay rights, internal union education, and organizations that helped make medical care accessible to victims of human trafficking victims through grants issued by the Fund.

I mention this array of activities to underscore that Mr. Hoshijo's work continues the best of organized labor's historical tradition as a visionary and transformative social force that is concerned with more than the accumulation of wages, pensions, and ancillary benefits in union contracts. As important as these basic daily issues are, Mr. Hoshijo has consistently sought more wide ranging reforms of enduring value that benefit our entire community. Thus, he has promoted the value of art in celebrating the struggle to achieve equality and justice for workers of all nationalities, and has used his position as a union official to address the urgent need for housing in our state. If confirmed, I believe he will help conceive and espouse similar programs and, even in a time of fiscal restraint and austerity, will find imaginative ways in which government may fulfill its mission to train and uplift the workforce and promote a vigorous economy.

While I cannot speak for the business community, it is my belief that community-minded entrepreneurs and business owners will also welcome his appointment because of Mr. Hoshijo's deserved reputation for integrity, constructive engagement, and fair dealing.

I therefore urge that Mr. Hoshijo swiftly be confirmed. Thank you very much for considering my remarks.



**To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair**  
**Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair**  
**Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

**Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015**

**Time: 9:00 am**

**Place: Conference Room 016**

**State Capitol**

**415 South Beretania Street**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 536**

Automated HealthCare Solutions submits the following testimony in support of GM 536 (Leonard Hoshijo for Deputy Director of the DLIR):

Leonard Hoshijo's professional experience spans decades in which he has worked on behalf of those who labor in Hawaii and gained valuable insights about the role employers play in solving workplace issues. He has run member-education programs, participated in the successful negotiation of contracts and Project Labor Agreements, and administered contracts. Prior to this, he carried out various responsibilities for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union including Housing Representative, Organizer, International Representative and International Vice President. He is an active nonprofit board member for a number of organizations including the Hawaii Housing Development Corp., the Labor Education Advisory Board, University of Hawaii Center for Labor Education and Research, and the Hawaii Labor Heritage Council, among others.

He is well respected by both those within labor and the businesses that grow our economy, create jobs and hire local employees.

As a business that is committed to the health, safety and welfare of our State's workers, we are proud to wholeheartedly support Mr. Hoshijo as Deputy Director and believe that he will be a tremendous asset to the Department. Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy Wilson, Senior Regional Director

# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President  
P. O. Box 270126 \* Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

## In strong support of GM 536

### Senate Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, 9 a.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senator Gilber S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson,  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President, Filipino American Citizens League

Subject: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEONARD  
HOSHIJO, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As vice president of the Filipino American Citizens League, I am proud to submit our full support of this bill. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

Hawai'i's diverse working people and business sectors will be served well by Mr. Hoshijo's contract expertise and labor relations acumen. He brings to the administration extensive knowledge and lessons learned in Hawai'i's labor equity history. He has made significant contributions in his service on the Labor Education Advisory Board, University of Hawaii Center for Labor Education and Research, and the Hawaii Labor Heritage Council, and more. Because of this, Mr. Hoshijo is the right person who can lead us through tough economic times to ensure that the most vulnerable in our society is not forgotten, while at the same time foster conditions for a healthy economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President  
Filipino American Citizens League

## **Filipinos for Affirmative Action**

3432 B-1 Kalihi Street, Honolulu, HI 96819

### **In strong support of GM 536**

#### Senate Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, 9 a.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson,  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson,  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair  
Filipinos For Affirmative Action

Subject: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
LEONARD HOSHIJO, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

My name is Amy Agbayani. As Co-Chair of Filipinos for Affirmative Action, a proponent of civil rights, I submit strong support for the confirmation of Gov. David Ige's gubernatorial appointee, Leonard Hoshijo, as Deputy Director of the Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations.

The complexities of our changing economy necessitate a leader like Leonard Hoshijo, who understands the fragile balance between generating state revenue and work force needs. I am confident that he will provide a reasoned, balanced and fair view of labor relations from both the employees' and employers' perspectives. The appointment of Mr. Hoshijo brings trust and respect to Gov. Ige's administration from stakeholders of labor equity and prosperity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony and for your consideration of its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Agbayani, Ph.D.  
Co-Chair, Filipinos For Affirmative Action



## **In strong support of GM 536**

### **Senate Committee on Judiciary**

Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, 9 a.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

To: Senator Gilber S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chairperson,  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Rouel Velasco, Chair  
National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12

Subject: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEONARD HOSHIJO, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

My name is Rouel Velasco, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which strongly supports this nomination. NaFFAA Region 12 represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA Region 12 believes that Mr. Leonard Hoshijo will serve the people of Hawai'i honorably and competently as the Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. He is highly qualified with an exemplary career in labor relations and public service.

Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to submit our strong support.

Sincerely,

Rouel Velasco, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12

HAWAII OPERATING ENGINEERS  
INDUSTRY STABILIZATION FUND



Amended AFL-CIO  
CPEIU - C - AFL-CIO

*Uniting our strengths and working together  
for a better tomorrow.*

February 19, 2015

Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
And members of the Committee on Judiciary & Labor  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 221  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Governor's Message 536 relating to the Appointment of Leonard Hoshijo as  
Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee,

My name is Kimberly Ribellia, Government Liaison, of the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund (HOEISF), a labor management fund representing 4000 unionized members in heavy engineering site work and 500 general contractors specializing in heavy site and vertical construction.

HOEISF would like to submit its strong support of the Governor's appointment of Leonard Hoshijo as Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Mr. Hoshijo has an extensive background and knowledge of labor related issues. Mr. Hoshijo's experience and ability to work well with both employers and employees will be invaluable asset to the department. HOEISF looks forward to working with Mr. Hoshijo on issues relating to compliance to ensure prevailing wages are correctly paid to the correct labor classification public work projects and strengthening apprenticeship program.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly Ribellia".

Kimberly Ribellia  
Government Liaison  
HOEISF

George M. Waialeale

LATE TESTIMONY

February 19, 2015

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 536

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEONARD HOSHIJO, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

I have known Leonard Hoshijo for over two decades and have found him to be an advocate for working people and objective in his decision making.

I believe that Leonard will make a great addition to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

I ask that he be confirmed as the Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

George M. Waialeale

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'George M. Waialeale', written over the printed name.