

GM590

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL WONG, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Report Title: Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board

Description:

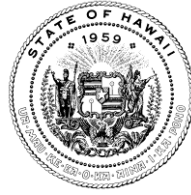
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
4/1/2015	S	Received.
4/1/2015	S	Referred to CPN.
4/2/2015	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 04-17-15 8:30AM in conference room 229.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
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DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2015

Friday, April 17, 2015

8:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON **GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 590**, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO **THE MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD**, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **RUSSELL WONG**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2019.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 590, nominating Mr. Russell Wong for membership on the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

Mr. Wong is an Oahu-based automotive salesperson who maintains a license in good standing with the State, and who has worked in management and executive positions for Honolulu based autodealerships since 2000 following several years in the

banking industry. Mr. Wong has also been a member of various industry and business groups, including serving as Director of the Better Business Bureau of Hawaii. With this background in mind, the Department believes that Mr. Wong has the requisite automotive and general business knowledge to successfully serve as an industry member on the Board.

It is also worth noting that Mr. Wong has shown an eagerness to understand the Board's processes and various functions, as well as having expressed a commitment to support the operations of the Board by regularly attending meetings and preparing so as to support the Board in effectively carrying out its business.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of Mr. Wong's nomination to the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board.



Bill van den Hurk, President
Dave Rolf, Executive Director

**Testimony in strong support of GM 590 – the nomination
of Gubernatorial Nominee Russell Wong to the
Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board
Presented to the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
by the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association, Hawaii's franchised new car dealers,
for the hearing 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 17, 2015
in Conference Room 229**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the committee:

HADA is pleased to offer strong support the nomination of Russell Wong for confirmation to an industry position on the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, term to expire 6-30-2019.

Mr. Wong brings extensive experience in the retail auto industry in Hawaii, combining both dealership management experience and extensive retail auto finance experience.

From 2010 to present, Mr. Wong serves as the Chief Operating Officer of Aloha Auto Group, Ltd., a company which operates franchised new car dealerships on all of the major Hawaiian Islands—Oahu, Maui, the Island of Hawaii, and Kauai.

Previously, from 2007 – 2009, he served as General Manager of Midpac Auto Center on Kauai—a Ford, Lincoln-Mercury, Mazda dealership, and from 2000-2007 as Vice President & General Manager/Partner of Jackson Auto Group—which included Volvo, Lincoln-Mercury, Pontiac and Isuzu dealerships.

His extensive banking background comes from serving as Vice President and Corporate Banking Officer for the Bank of Hawaii from 1998 – 2000, and as Vice President and Manager of the bank's Auto Finance Division from 1995-1998.

Prior to that service, Mr. Wong served from 1985-1995 as a Branch Manager for Ford Credit in Honolulu.

Mr. Wong obtained his M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1985, and has a B.B.A. in Business Economics & Quantitative Methods from University of Hawaii, Manoa—1983. He also is a graduate in the class of 1979 from Kamehameha Schools, and has a Diploma of Graduation from the Graduate School of Retail Bank Management, CBA, 1998.

His professional memberships include: Director, Better Business Bureau, Hawaii; Director, Kakaako Improvement Association, Representative, Western U.S. Isuzu National Dealer Council, Member National Automobile Dealers Association; and Member, Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association.

It is a privilege to offer the association's support for the confirmation of Mr. Russel Wong for this MVILB industry position.

Respectfully submitted,

David H. Rolf

For the members of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association



Commercial and Personal Insurance

April 15, 2015

Senate Committee
Testimony for Motor Vehicle Licensing Board

Re: Russell Wong, Nomination Number GM 590

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Russell Wong for his nomination for the Motor Vehicle Licensing Board appointment.

I have known Russ for over 15 years and Russ has always shown great integrity and character in his business and personal life. These traits provide a great foundation for business decisions that are presented to Russ. I have found Russ to be a fair and understanding leader who will always will listen to all sides of the issue before making his final decision.

As a business person, I completely trust that Russ would be a great addition to the Motor Vehicle Licensing Board. He would be fair to the business interests but also to the Consumers of our state of Hawaii. I think Russ would be the best possible fit for the needs of the Motor Vehicle Licensing Board!

Thank you,

Jim Cavanah, President
Cavanah Associates, Inc.

April 12th, 2015

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: Nomination Number GM590, Russell Wong, Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board

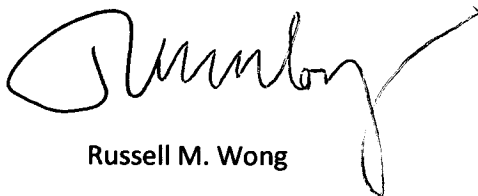
I am interested in serving on the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board because I have been involved in the automotive industry since 1984 and have seen the improvement in the credibility and reputation of our profession as higher standards have been expected by Regulators, Manufacturers, and Consumers. At this point in my career, I am very motivated to draw on my cumulative experiences to make a positive contribution to the community and the automotive industry. I feel that my background is a relevant fit for the specific issues managed by the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board, and I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board.

I believe that I am qualified to serve the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board and offer 30 years of professional work experience in the automotive industry including executive leadership positions in automotive finance and dealership operations. Additionally, in the past, I have served as a Director for the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Hawaii and understand the importance of a commitment to a consumer experience that exceeds expectations.

If appointed to the Board, my goal is to continue to improve the professionalism of all in our industry. In my role as COO for Aloha Auto Group, raising the professional standards of our sales staff has been a central priority. We currently require our sales team to obtain training and certification in key industry components such as compliance, ethics and operational processes. I believe it is imperative that we continue to build the professional reputation of the automotive industry.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Wong', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Russell M. Wong