

GM634

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Governorial Nominee, SEAN KNOX, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.
Report Title: Hawai'i Workforce Development Council
Description:
Companion:
Package:
Current Referral: LBR
Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by</u> <u>Date</u>	Status Text
3/9/2018	S Received.
3/9/2018	S Referred to LBR.
3/22/2018	S The committee(s) on LBR has scheduled a public hearing on 03-29-18 2:45PM in conference room 229.

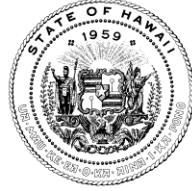
S = Senate | **H** = House | **D** = Data Systems | **\$** = Appropriation measure | **ConAm** = Constitutional Amendment

Some of the above items require Adobe Acrobat Reader. Please visit [Adobe's download page](#) for detailed instructions.

GM634

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LEONARD HOSHIJO
DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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March 29, 2018

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair,
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Leonard Hoshijo, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

GM 634 Sean Kamahale Knox to Serve on the Workforce Development Council

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Leonard Hoshijo and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR). I support the nomination of Mr. Knox to serve on the Workforce Development Council. Mr. Knox has extensive experience in recruitment, training, and hiring in Hawaii, as well as successful entrepreneurial and management experience, and a demonstrated commitment to public service. Mr. Knox is highly qualified to serve on the Workforce Development Council.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Knox to serve on the Workforce Development Council, where, if confirmed, he may offer valuable insights and perspectives to Hawaii's workforce development system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Knox.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN H. TASAKA
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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March 22, 2018

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Labor

From: Sunshine Topping, Member
Workforce Development Council

RE: GM 634 Gubernatorial Nominee Sean Knox to the Workforce Development Council for a
term to expire June 30, 2022
Hearing: Thursday, March 29, 2018 @ 2:45 p.m., State Capitol Room 229

POSITION: Strong Support

Good afternoon Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English and members of the Committee on Labor. I am Sunshine Topping, a member of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) testifying on behalf of the Council in strong support of Sean Knox's confirmation to the WDC for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. If confirmed, Sean would continue to fill a slot reserved for a private sector member on the Council.

The WDC is an attached agency to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and advises the Governor and Legislature on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for employers and employees.

The WDC is responsible for the administrative oversight and implementation of a federally mandated initiative, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 or WIOA. WDC is tasked with strategic planning and developing the infrastructure for a seamless common intake and referral system at the American Job Centers (or One-Stop Centers) so job seekers and employers can maneuver through the workforce system efficiently and receive employment, education, training and support services throughout the State. It's a "no wrong door" approach to workforce development.

Sean Knox is the Chief Executive Officer and President of Hawaii Employment Services, Inc. (dba HiEmployment) and was previously the owner and President of POI Employment, LLC. He has over eighteen (18) years of experience in professional staffing in Hawaii. Under Sean's

leadership and management HiEmployment has grown to exceed \$16 million in revenue, increased staff to 26, and placed 2,086 employees in 2017. HiEmployment currently has locations on all major islands and places employees in the agriculture, construction, office professional, hospitality, technical, and education sectors.

In the past twelve (12) months, Sean and his team have worked with over 300 different employers in positions from janitors in hotels, painters for military housing, substitute teachers at schools, and management of professionals at banks and insurance companies.

Sean serves as Vice Chair of the Sector Strategies & Career Pathways committee, of which I am Chair. We are a great team having known each other for many years. The federal law (WIOA) places more emphasis on engaging employers across the workforce system to align training with needed skills and matching employers with qualified workers, and developing educational pathways for in-demand occupations that will lead to a career.

Sean and HiEmployment have received several awards from Pacific Business News, Better Business Bureau and Hawaii Business Magazine recognizing leadership and success as a small business in Hawaii.

He is an active member of the community and serves on the Board of Directors for Hawaii Literacy and Muscular Dystrophy Association, Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau, Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, and the Chamber of Commerce in Honolulu, Kauai, and Kona.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Sean as a member of the Workforce Development Council where he can continue the good work he has been doing with the Council.

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



April 11, 2016

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Letter of Recommendation: KNOX, Sean K.
Hearing Date: April 14, 2016 - GM 764

Dear Governor Ige,

It is an honor to express my support for the nomination of Sean K. Knox to the Workforce Development Council. Having worked side by side with Sean for the last 6 years, I know him to be an individual of strong character and excellent work ethic.

Sean and I became business partners in 2010. Together we formed Hawaii Employment Services, dba HiEmployment. Under Sean's direction, a small "mom and pop" staffing agency has now grown to \$15 million in revenue, internally employs 22 internal staff, and provides employment opportunities to thousands of workers. In under 6 years, Sean and HiEmployment have been recognized as winners of the BBB Torch Award (2013), PBN Fastest 50 growing companies in Hawaii (2013, 2014), and PBN Best in Small Business (2012, 2014).

He has developed an agency that supports our clients as well as job seekers. One of the programs he organized matches individuals incarcerated in Kauai Community Correctional Center with work release opportunities. He has also held resource fairs at the Federal Detention Center of Honolulu. Another program Sean has nurtured is a bi-weekly job fair where the Honolulu Institute for Human Services brings prospective employees, many of whom are homeless, to our office for employment reviews and job opportunity discussions.

Beyond his business responsibilities, he is a passionate contributor to the community. Sean is directly responsible for creating and encouraging participation in the bi-annual Hawaii Group Blood Drive. He is also very involved with Hawaii Literacy and other non-profit organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Sean in his nomination to the Workforce Development Council. He is a valued member of the Hawaii Group team and I am confident he will be a successful contributor to the Workforce Development Council.

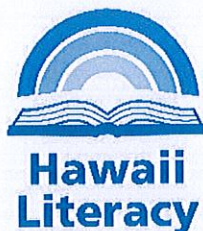
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SM", written over a white background.

Scott Meichtry
Chairman & CEO

The Hawaii Group, Inc.

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The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Ige,

Aloha. I am writing to express my utmost strong support for the nomination of Sean K. Knox to the Workforce Development Council. I truly cannot think of a better candidate than Sean. As the President and owner of a successful business in the human resources and employment services sector, Sean will bring invaluable experience and expertise in workforce needs and priorities of the private sector and in the current skills and training needs of the workforce seeking employment. This dual perspective will bring great value to the Council's work.

As Executive Director of Hawaii Literacy, where Sean has served as a Board member since 2007, and as Chair of several Committees, including Policy & Personnel, I can also share firsthand the great value Sean would bring as a member of this Council. I can honestly say I have seen Sean consistently fulfill every one of the nine expectations listed for Council members. These include, among others, providing expertise, sharing a wide range of connections, providing strategic direction, getting to know the people and work of an agency, and remaining an active, prepared member.

Sean is very intelligent and thoughtful and his counsel is sought by our Board and leadership on the strategic direction and implementation of our agency's work. Sean excels at placing possible courses of action into a bigger picture. He prioritizes meeting attendance, arrives prepared, and is actively engaged in the work and mission. His cooperative spirit, insights, and commitment to action bring positive outcomes. Sean seeks to make a meaningful difference in the Board's work and his 'can-do' attitude motivates other members to achieve more as well.

Sean is very well connected to many sectors of our community, and from all I have met through Sean in the past eight years, is extremely well respected as a business owner, community leader, and person. Sean is a natural "connector" and takes the time to introduce people from different sectors who may be aligned. He has also taken the time to learn about our agency and programs in detail, getting to know staff and volunteers and visiting numerous program sites.

I am honored to lend my full support to the selection of Sean K. Knox for the Workforce Development Council and believe his service on the Council will benefit the state's workforce development efforts and future opportunity for both businesses and employees in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Skjold
Executive Director
Hawaii Literacy