



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

by

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WRITTEN ONLY

GM 606 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Gubernatorial Nominee, Scott T. Murakami, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Governor's Message 606 and the appointment of Mr. Scott T. Murakami, MAcc, MBA, to serve as the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) for the State of Hawai'i.

I have known Scott for over ten years and worked in partnership with him on multiple initiatives at the University of Hawai'i, most recently in his role as Director for the UH Community Colleges Workforce Development program. He has provided support and the opportunity for placement in workforce development programs and partnerships for University of Hawai'i (UH) Community College students through his work as liaison with both state agencies and private industry cooperative partnerships that he established. I can assure you that Scott is an excellent, dedicated and respected leader and I am confident he would continue as such if confirmed as the Director of DLIR for the State of Hawai'i.

Scott has spent his entire career giving back to his community through his commitment to advanced technology training and education. His passion and dedication for increasing workforce development opportunities for all students at the UH Community Colleges is clearly demonstrated through over ten years of progressively responsible service to UH culminating in his leading role as Director for the UH Community Colleges Workforce Development Program. Prior to that, Scott served as the Director of the Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training (PCATT), a statewide consortium of our UH community colleges offering courses, training and services in the advanced technology fields.

I am confident that Scott would work diligently for the collective good of our residents as the Director of DLIR and would leverage his vast knowledge and understanding of the educational and workforce challenges and opportunities faced in Hawai'i. Scott understands first-hand the need for creative and thoughtful solutions to hard problems and he knows what it takes to implement strategic initiatives at scale. These characteristics, and his extensive experience in strategic coordination, planning and development of training programs that support Hawai'i's economy will be a huge asset in his service at DLIR. The state will also be well-served through the positive relationships Scott has developed with stakeholders in both the public and non-profit sectors. He has been an articulate and steadfast representative of University of Hawai'i and I am confident Scott would serve with distinction as Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message 606 and I respectfully urge you to consent to Mr. Scott T. Murakami's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.