

TESTIMONY

GM 357

JONATHAN J. CHUN
2954 MOKOI STREET
LIHUE, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766

April 8, 2009

Via Email Only

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Labor
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 357 Confirmation of Jonathan J. Chun
State Workforce Development Council, for a term to expire 6/30/13

Dear Chair Takamine and Members:

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of my confirmation to the State Workforce Development Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2013.

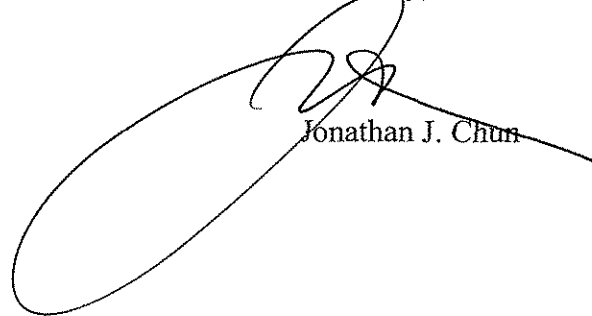
Unfortunately I am not able to attend in person due to meetings I have scheduled that I must attend on Kauai. I currently serve on the State Workforce Development Council and I have been nominated for reappointment to the Council. I am actively involved in the work of the State Workforce Development Council and currently sit on the Council's Planning Committee. I have actively participated in all of the Council's previous planning sessions and have attended almost all of the quarterly meetings held on Oahu. I firmly believe in the goals and objectives of the Council and believe that the Council can greatly assist the State in improving the training of our workers to meet the needs of the 21st century. I am interested in continuing my service on the Council in order to assist it in focusing on the challenges in reviewing the myriad number of employment and training programs within the State of Hawaii. The Council is required by HRS Section 202-2 to do a number of things, but I feel my role on the Council is to: (1) provide the Council with feedback as to how the local workforce investment boards (LWIB) are fulfilling its role under the Federal Workforce Investment Act; (2) encourage the Council to focus on actions that it can do as opposed to areas we have little or no control over or are best left to other agencies (i.e., improving the education system or increasing the availability of housing for our workforce); and (3) educating other agencies or groups that I work with in my private practice about the Council.

Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair
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In addition to my position on the Council, I also serve on the executive committee of County of Kauai's LWIB. I previously served as the chair of Kauai's LWIB and have a fairly good working knowledge of the LWIB and the requirements of the WIA. Through my private practice as a lawyer and as a member of various community organizations I come into contact with many employers and employees and I am able to understand the needs and challenges of both groups. If there is one thing I would like to accomplish as a member of the Council is to support, encourage and develop the Council into an "information clearinghouse for all workforce development programs in the State, including workforce training and education programs" as described in HRS Section 202-2(3). On its face, the development of a good information clearinghouse does not seem too significant or important, but given the vast number of workforce development and training programs spread throughout different State agencies and departments, such a clearinghouse will greatly assist our workers in accessing these programs. All too often members of the public and our workers do not know what programs are available to them and it is a daunting task to obtain this information. Often times these individuals give up and end up not availing themselves of programs that could help them. The public really does not have the time, knowledge or patience to access all of these programs. Even for agencies, such as the Council, this is not an easy task. If the Council can accomplish this task it will be a huge benefit to the public. I hope this letter has given you some idea as to what my goals would be as a member of the Council.

Thank you for your kind consideration and support of my confirmation.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jonathan J. Chun

Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.
Mayor



Gary K. Heu
Administrative Assistant

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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**TESTIMONY OF THE
COUNTY OF KAUA'I
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

April 9, 2009
2:45 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON **GM 357**, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JONATHAN J. CHUN.

TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor, providing testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Jonathan J. Chun to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council who has been nominated for a term to expire on June 30, 2013.

The Council was established to for the purposes of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 and has the important duty to assist the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive five-year State workforce development plans and aligning public workforce investment activities within the State.

Mr. Chun is a practicing attorney and community volunteer whose expertise and personal commitment to the Kaua'i community makes him an excellent nominee.

We ask you to confirm his nomination, and thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this matter.