



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII\*  
**MAUI**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

April 9, 2008

Senator Russell Kokubun  
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Affordable Housing  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Kokubun:

Denise Cohen has been nominated by Governor Linda Lingle to serve on the State Board of Nursing. I have known Ms. Cohen since 1992 in her capacity as an instructor of the nursing faculty at Maui Community College. She was tenured in 2003 and currently holds the position of Assistant Professor of Nursing. She holds a master's degree in nursing and is a board certified family nurse practitioner. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she serves as the clinician in charge of the campus health center, the success of which is attributed to Ms. Cohen's instrumental role in the operations of the center.

My understanding is that the State Board of Nursing defines and regulates the practice of nursing including LPNs, RNs and APRNs.

I feel that Ms. Cohen is extremely qualified for the Board of Nursing as she has taught both LPNs, RNs and NPs. She has a firm grasp of the issues currently facing the nursing profession. Ms. Cohen plays a key role in addressing issues relating to nursing including: the nursing shortage, nursing faculty shortage, safe staffing issues, violence in the workplace and other issues. In addition, she served as vice-president of the Hawaii Nurses' Association, of which she was recently elected as a delegate. She has successfully served on two other State boards in the past which includes: the Hawaii State Coordinating Council on Deafness and Hard-of-Hearing and State Health Planning.

In light of Ms. Cohen's many years of experience as a nurse practitioner and as an Assistant Professor of Nursing, I firmly believe that she will be a valuable resource to the State Board of Nursing. As such, I strongly recommend Ms. Cohen's nomination to this Board.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Clyde Sakamoto.

Clyde Sakamoto, Ed.D  
Chancellor

Handwritten note: "Thank you for your consideration".



2002-2003  
MetLife Foundation  
Best-Practice College Award  
Recipient



2008  
Bellwether Award  
Recipient

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An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

University of Hawai'i

**MAUI COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Allied Health Unit / Career Ladder Nursing Program

April 11, 2008

Senator Russel Kokubun  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing  
Hawaii State Legislature

Dear Senator Kokubun:

It is my honor to write this letter of reference for Denise Cohen, MS, APRN-BC. I have known Denise for twenty-five years. She was a nursing student in my first class at Maui Community College. She is a true example of the success of Career Ladder Nursing education. She graduated from the Practical Nurse Program, returned to the Associate Degree Nursing Program after working as a practical nurse. She continued her education through UH Manoa, completing the BSN and MS Family Nurse Practitioner Program. She is currently enrolled in the Ph.D. in Nursing program.

Denise began teaching at Maui Community College in 1992. She has an unusually broad range of nursing experience, acute care, home health, and currently primary care in Maui Community College Campus Health Center. The Campus Health Center is an outpatient, nurse-managed clinic that provides health care services for students, faculty, staff, and the Maui community. Working with her excellent administrative assistant, Denise made the Campus Health Center a self-sustaining entity that generates revenues to benefit the College.

Denise serves her community in leadership roles from the Hawaii Coordinating Council on Deafness, Hawaii Nurses Association, Maui Aids Foundations, and most recently the Maui County SHPDA board. In each of these positions she has demonstrated strong advocacy for improving health care on Maui.

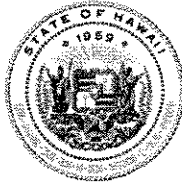
I urge you to approve Denise Cohen as the Maui representative on the State Board of Nursing. Denise will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Nancy Johnson, MSN, APRN

Allied Health Department Chair



LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
JAMES R. AIONA, JR.  
LT. GOVERNOR

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LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH  
DIRECTOR  
RONALD BOYER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2008

Monday, April 21, 2008  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 568.**

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TO THE HONORABLE RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE:

My name is Lawrence M. Reifurth, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 568, regarding the appointment of Denise L. Cohen, to the Board of Nursing ("Board"). The Department supports Ms. Cohen's appointment and respectfully requests that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to her appointment to the Board.

I am familiar with Ms. Cohen and her candidacy for appointment to the Board in that I have spoken with her about the Board and her interest in serving there. Based on my discussion with Ms. Cohen, I believe that she possesses the qualifications,

background, and experience to contribute in a positive and constructive manner on matters that will come before the Board.

Ms. Cohen is currently a nursing instructor at Maui Community College. She is also a nurse-practitioner at the College's Campus Health Center, where she teaches nursing theory and performs clinical supervision of student nurses.

Ms. Cohen is also active in professional associations. She is a member of the Hawaii Nurses Association and the President of the Maui Nurses Association. Ms. Cohen is also a member of Sigma Theta Tau (nursing honor society) and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Ms. Cohen is concerned about both the nursing and nursing faculty shortages in Hawaii and hopes to bring her academic and clinical experience to bear on the Board's efforts to address those issues.

I am confident that if given the opportunity, Ms. Cohen will prove to be an asset to the State through her service on the Board. I respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Ms. Cohen's appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Ms. Cohen's behalf.