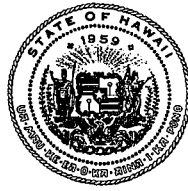


GM 338

## Angel B. Ramos

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Drug Product Selection Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANGEL B. RAMOS, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committee on Health**

**GM 338 and GM 430, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Drug  
Product Selection Board, Gubernatorial Nominees,**

**ANGEL B. RAMOS and**

**VENKATARAMAN BALARAMAN, M.D.**

**for Terms to Expire June 30, 2013**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**March 11, 2009  
2:45pm**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department supports the reappointment of Angel B. Ramos and  
2 Venkataraman Balaraman, M.D. to the Drug Product Selection Board.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health supports the confirmation of Angel B. Ramos  
5 and Venkataraman Balaraman, M.D. to the Drug Product Selection Board. This will be their second  
6 term to the Board.

7 Mr. Ramos has been capably serving the Board as the representative for the Department of  
8 Health since April 2006. He is currently an inspector for the Food and Drug Branch, conducting food  
9 safety inspections. Previous duties with the Branch included being temporarily assigned to the  
10 Prescription Drug Safety Specialist position. In that capacity, Mr. Ramos attended and supported the  
11 Board in carrying out their duties.

1           In addition Mr. Ramos has experience as a health care provider in managing care facilities for  
2 the elderly. His experience as both a regulator and health care provider has proven valuable to the  
3 Board in providing a well-rounded perspective to issues pertaining to prescription drug safety and  
4 efficacy.

5           Dr. Balaraman has represented the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine as  
6 member of the Board since April 2005. As an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and  
7 his experience as a practicing physician in pediatric medicine, he brings a unique and valued perspective  
8 to the Board.

9           The Department appreciates the willingness of both Mr. Ramos and Dr. Balaraman to serve a  
10 second term on the Drug Product Selection Board. We look forward to the contributions they will  
11 continue to bring to help fulfill the Boards function of evaluating prescription drug safety and efficacy.

ANGEL B. RAMOS  
Drug Product Selection Board

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS:

1. Why do I wish to be DPSB member?

This is my re-appointment. I want to continue my role and responsibility to safeguard the health and safety of the people of Hawaii by reviewing and monitoring the prescription drugs – first time generic drugs and additions/deletions to the Hawaii drug formulary, which follows the FDA Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations also known as the “Orange Book”.

- 2 Role and responsibilities of DPSB member and qualification.  
My resume outlines my qualification, experience and references.

The DPSB role and responsibilities have been minimized with the passage of Act 28 law in 2004 that allows the Department of Health to approve and adopt FDA approved generic drugs and the additions and deletions to the monthly Hawaii drug formulary which is equivalent to the FDA “Orange Book”. This law in essence expedites the approval and availability of prescription and over the counter drugs to the public. It does not require prior review and approval by the DPSB.

The DPSB at its discretion could continue to review and monitor drugs and make recommendations to the Director of Health. There is a wealth of professional people in this 7 member board: 2 M.D., 2 pharmacists, 1 UH Medical School/Public Health representative, 1 DOH representative and the Director’s designee. This wealth of talent should be utilized appropriately.

3. Hope to accomplish.

I realize that the Department of Health has the responsibility of approving and adopting the FDA approved drugs and the DPSB has to abide by this action. This action, I think, does not preclude the Board to conduct its own informal review and to make recommendations to the Director of Health.

I would like to see expanding the availability and familiarity of the “Orange Book” to all interested individuals which includes medical professionals that have prescriptive authority such as M.D., physician assistants, nurse practitioners, dentists, podiatrists, veterinarians, medical professional organizations and health insurance companies so that they will be informed and access the approved generic and current drug information in the FDA website. At the present time, only the pharmacists and some interested people are notified monthly.

4. Qualities

Please refer to my resume and references

5. Previous experience that would benefit the DPSB

I was an interim Prescription Drug Specialist prior to becoming a Food Specialist in the DOH Food & Drug Branch

I also managed Skilled Nursing Facilities and Adult Residential Care Home.

6. Conflict of Interest

None