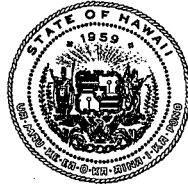


GM 430

Venkataraman Balaraman

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Drug Product Selection Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, VENKATARAMAN BALARAMAN, 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.



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March 3, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Ige:

Re: Dr. Venkataraman Balaraman's Nomination to Serve on the Drug Product Selection Board (DPSB)

This letter is in support of Dr. Balaraman's nomination to the Drug Product Selection Board (DPSB). Dr. Balaraman has been a member of this Board since 2004. I wish to nominate Dr. Balaraman for another term on the Board.

Dr. Balaraman is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and is a practicing Neonatologist with Kapiolani Medical Specialists at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. He has been on the faculty of the University of Hawaii – Manoa since 1991, and he has lived and worked in Hawaii since 1987.

He is qualified for this position based on his experience working on the Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children for over 15 years. He currently is the Chairman of that vital hospital Committee. Further, as an active practicing physician, he is well versed in the Pharmaceutical needs of the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerris R. Hedges".

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean and Professor of Medicine
Barry & Virginia Weinman – Endowed Chair



March 2, 2009

Senator David Ige
Chair, Senate Health Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Dr. Balaraman's nomination to serve on the Drug Product Selection Board

To the Honorable Senator Ige:

This letter is in support of Dr. Balaraman's nomination to the DPSB. Dr. Balaraman has been a member of this Board since 2004 and is being nominated to serve another term on the Board.

Dr. Balaraman is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) and is a practicing Neonatologist with Kapi'olani Medical Specialists at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children (KMCWC). He is the Division Head of Neonatology in the Department of Pediatrics at JABSOM. He has been on the faculty of University of Hawaii since 1991 and has lived and worked in Hawaii since 1987.

He is qualified for this position based on his greater than 15 yrs of experience as a member and current Chair of the KMCWC Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee for Women and Children. Further, as active practicing physician, he is well versed in all aspects of issues related to Pharmaceutical needs in the medical community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Nakamura', followed by a horizontal line.

Kenneth T. Nakamura, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer, Kapi'olani Medical Specialists
Professor of Pediatrics, John A. Burns School of Medicine
Staff Neonatologist
Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children
1319 Punahou St
Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone: 808-983-8020
Fax: 808-983-6343
Email: kennethn@kapiolani.org

Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Health

March 11th, 2009

Venkataraman Balaraman

Drug Product Selection Board (GM 430)

Chairman Ige, members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to present background about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Drug Product Selection Board.

I was born in India and did my training in medicine in India. After my pediatric training in Kingston, Jamaica, I moved to Hawaii to complete my fellowship training in Neonatology and since the completion of the same in 1989, have been a practicing neonatologist at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. I am currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and the Head of the Division of Neonatology in the Department of Pediatrics and at Kapiolani Medical Specialists.

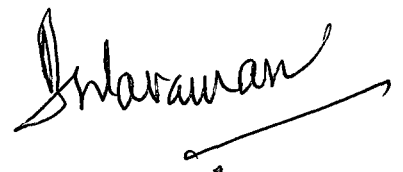
I have been a member of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children for over 15 years and currently am the Committee Chair. I have been volunteering for this position secondary to my intense interest in the use of medicines in the prevention and treatment of various disease processes.

I was initially appointed to the Board for a one year term in 2004 and a subsequent four year term from 2005-2009. I have enjoyed working with the Board and now have an appreciation for the challenges of the same. I truly believe that I have contributed positively to the functioning of the Board.

The current economic situation has the potential for us to review the state formulary and availability of drug products to the community closely. I am committed to working diligently to help in this process and believe as a practicing clinician, I possess the expertise that is needed to do this.

I do not foresee any direct conflict of interest in my serving on the Board.

I welcome the challenges ahead. My personality, background, education and experience give me the tools to succeed. I ask for you to support my nomination to the Drug Product Selection Board. Thank you.



1