

HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

Christi Keliipio 4-3-09

1. What qualifications and experiences do you bring to the Hawaii Medical Education Council?

I have been a member of the Hawaii Medical Council from inception. I work in the health care arena and I have firsthand experience related to the physician shortage areas. I have spent hours in the evenings/weekends trying to find neurology and/or orthopedic coverage for patients. It is one of the most helpless feelings when one cannot find the right health care professional to care for a sick patient. I am currently working on my doctorate in health administration and I have had the opportunity to explore/examine health care through a different venue.

2. What recommendations would you make to the legislatures and the Board of Regents to improve healthcare training programs in the state?

I believe a detailed review of the medical and nursing school's curriculum and the relationship it has in meeting the health care needs of the community. To provide tax incentives to individuals pursuing their health care training in the State of Hawaii and to health care providers who work in the underserved rural areas. Malpractice reform has been addressed in the legislature and is again passing through the legislature in its many forms— is this a physician retention problem and is it a “real” problem for practicing physicians. If so than malpractice reform is necessary. The last thought is a piece of the health care pie may be missing related to public health training programs.....

3. What challenges do you see facing our healthcare industry, specifically relating to our workforce needs?

First we must look at what we are facing today and then look at how this will affect our future. There is a necessity to step out of the box to look at nontraditional ways of providing health care. Health care reform in whatever form it takes will be the greatest challenge---because no one really knows what health care is and what it should look like.

4. During these difficult economic times, how can we ensure adequate funding for our healthcare training programs?

In Pogo's timeless words, “We have met the enemy and he is us.” I do believe once all egos and personal agendas are set aside healthcare training programs can be developed with efficiency in areas such as funding, quality and safety. Adequate funding is not new regardless of the economic times. Covey (2006) states, “You can't talk yourself out of a problem you've behaved yourself into.... No, but you can behave yourself out of a problem you've behaved yourself into.....and often faster than you think.” A strategic working plan must be developed with measurable outcomes and time lines to review all possible and potential funding sources/opportunities. It is holding one's self accountable, holding others accountable and taking responsibility for results.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my thoughts.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Conference Room 225

April 7, 2009 at 1:15 p.m.

Testimony in support of GM 465.

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii advocates for its member organizations that span the entire spectrum of health care, including acute care hospitals, two-thirds of the long term care beds in Hawaii, as well as home care and hospice providers. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of GM 465, which nominates Christi Keliipio to the Hawaii Medical Education Council.

Ms. Keliipio is currently the Director of Clinical Services & Perioperative Services at Kapiolani Medical Center at Pali Momi. She is a registered nurse who has also been on the faculty of the University of Phoenix in Honolulu. In addition, she has served as the Executive Director of the Hawaii Nurses Association and an Administrator in the Department of Public Safety. Furthermore, she has work experience with various health care organizations on the mainland.

Ms. Keliipio has been active in the Healthcare Association, having served as the representative of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Organization of Nurse Executives to our Government Relations Committee. I have had the pleasure of working with her on various health care projects and have found that she understands the complex health care environment and is knowledgeable about a wide range of health care issues. Her knowledge of health care and the academic world make her an outstanding candidate for the Hawaii Medical Education Council.

Ms. Keliipio has served on the Council since 2003, and the approval of GM 465 would extend that service. I endorse the nomination of Christi Keliipio to the Hawaii Medical Education Council.