

**HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION COUNCIL  
SUSAN R. MURRAY**

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

I have been a healthcare professional for over 20 years. During that time most of the hospitals I worked in had residency programs, including my current hospital, Kaiser Foundation Hospital at Moanalua. Every executive team I have worked on has been involved with medical staff recruitment, development and enhancing the educational experiences offered.

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

The legislatures and Board of Regents need to be advocates of healthcare by making it attractive to be educated in Hawaii and have a medical career here, especially on our neighbor islands. Being an MD is no longer as attractive as it once was; paying off educational loans, malpractice insurance and life style issues along with shrinking, inadequate reimbursements and a litigious culture have dimmed the allure of medicine as a career.

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

The physician population is aging and not being replaced adequately, especially in certain specialties. The growing demands of an aging baby boomer population will not be met especially outside of Oahu. Reimbursement will also be a challenge and increase the reluctance of practitioners to treat Medicaid and Medicare patients.

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

Adequate funding for our healthcare training program will be an issue. Support for training will need to include a broader range of resources than hospitals, tuitions and state budget allocation. We will need to educate our community to the value of medical education and include them in formulating a solution at the local level as the federal government is working on a solution through healthcare reforms.

  
Healthcare Association  
of Hawaii

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April 2, 2009

The Honorable Jill Tokuda  
Senate Higher Education Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI, 96813

  
Dear Senator Tokuda:

On behalf of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, I would like to express my support for the nomination of Susan Murray to the Hawaii Medical Education Council. The matter is being considered as GM 466 by the Senate Higher Education Committee on April 7, 2009.

We have also submitted formal testimony to the committee (attached). Ms. Murray's thorough understanding of the complex health care industry, along with her understanding of the broader community, make her an exceptional candidate for that position.

With warmest personal regards and Aloha,

  
RICHARD E. MEIERS, FACHE  
President and CEO



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 466.**

I am Rich Meiers, President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which represents 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 466, which nominates Susan Murray to the Hawaii Medical Education Council.

Ms. Murray is currently the Regional Hospital Administrator for Kaiser Foundation, who is responsible for the overall operations of the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Hawaii, including a staff of more than 2,000 employees and a budget of \$300 million. I have worked with Ms. Murray on a variety of health care issues since she was appointed to this position seven years ago. In fact, she has served as the Chair of the Healthcare Association's Board, and she continues to be an active member of the Board.

During her professional career Ms. Murray has worked for other health care organizations in Hawaii, including Kapiolani Medical Centers and Straub Clinic and Hospital. In addition, she has experience with health care organizations on the mainland, including hospitals in Nashville, Baton Rouge and Dallas. She is recognized by her peers, having made presentations at various national conferences. She is also involved in community organizations and professional associations.

The depth and breadth of Ms. Murray's knowledge of the complex health care environment, along with her understanding of the community, makes her an exceptional candidate for the Hawaii Medical Education Council. I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of Susan Murray to the Hawaii Medical Education Council.

GOODSILL ANDERSON QUINN & STIFEL

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Sen. Jill Tokuda  
Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee

**FROM:** Christopher G. Pablo, Esq.

**DATE:** April 4, 2009

**RE:** GM 466 SUSAN R. MURRAY  
Nomination to the Hawaii Medical Education Council

Higher Education Committee Hearing  
Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 1:15 pm

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**I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Susan R. Murray to a second term on the Hawaii Medical Education Council.** I had the pleasure of supporting her nomination to the Council when Governor Lingle first nominated her. At that time we were colleagues at Kaiser Permanente. She has brought to the Council a wealth of experience in healthcare as the Regional Hospital Administrator and Vice President for Quality/Service for Kaiser Foundation Hospital since 2002. During this time she has also served as Chairman of the Board of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii. Prior to her returning home to Hawaii, she served in executive positions in hospitals on the mainland.

I understand that the Council has focused its attention on the physician shortage in Hawaii and in particular the impact on the neighbor islands. And, they have compiled data about physician practice patterns to gain a greater understanding of the problem. On the training side, the Council has reviewed medical school strategy for recruiting students and retention for residency and practice. With a new Dean in place, Jerris Hedges, MD, at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, the Council is hopeful that plans will be developed to address the physician workforce shortage issue. I look forward to the Council's next steps. This is a critical time in healthcare in Hawaii and this problem must be addressed with collaborative efforts and adequate resources.

It is for these reasons, I urge your Committee to confirm the nomination of Susan R. Murray, to the Hawaii Medical Education Council.