



LATE

April 10, 2009

Testimony RE: GM 473

TO: Senator David Y. Ige

Chair, Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Cheryl Ann Jong, President

Lupus Hawai'i

**RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 473,
NOMINATING TRACY H. OKUBO TO THE HEALTH
PLANNING COUNCIL, HONOLULU SUBAREA, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-09.**

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in strong support of GM 473, nominating TRACY H. OKUBO to the Health Planning Council - Honolulu, for a term to expire 06-30-09.

I have been involved with Lupus Hawai'i for 4 years now, and have known Ms. Okubo through the foundation. She was a former Board Member and is still very active with us in the capacity as an advocate and volunteer. She has shown great generosity and grace in representing us professionally while speaking knowledgably in public for us and we are very proud to have her. Her experiences allow for sensitivity that many people don't have.

I am a patient of Systemic Lupus Erythamatosi and have been a patient of chronic illness most of my life. It is a disease that is often misdiagnosed and misunderstood. Tracy understands is empathetic.

Also, I strongly believe that it is important to have an advocate on the council with a strong understanding of our community as well as our state of health (literally). She has shown great commitment to keeping abreast with national health news & updates over a wide scope of concerns. This is of great importance to our local needs and interests. Tracy knows this. She has kept me in the loop in many areas and I appreciate it.

Please accept this testimony as my support for Tracy Okubo RE: GM 473, nominating TRACY H. OKUBO to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, for a term to expire 06-30-2013.

Mahalo.