

**GM 473**

**TRACY H. OKUBO**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, TRACY H. OKUBO, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

March 18, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 215  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Ige,

My name is Tracy H. Okubo, Gubernatorial Nomination (GM) 473, for a four-year term to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, submitted to the Hawai'i State Senate for consideration on March 12, 2009.

I have over ten years of experience in government, working in various capacities with the legislature, including my current position as a Researcher for the House Judiciary Committee. One of the measures that I have worked very closely on for Chair Jon Riki Karamatsu this session is H.B. 1782, H.D. 2, which the Senate Committee on Health will be hearing this Friday, March 20, 2009. In addition to my experience in public (health) policy, I am also a consumer, having been diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythamatosi and Rheumatoid Arthritis nearly 15 years ago.


My professional experience, as well as my personal commitment as a patient makes me a dedicated and highly qualified individual who will serve on the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea with committed desire to improve the quality and access of Hawai'i's healthcare system.

For those I reasons I respectfully request that GM 473 be scheduled for hearing by the Senate Committee on Health, with a favorable recommendation for Senate confirmation.

I have attached GM 473, its status sheet and my resume for your convenience. Please feel free to contact me at 808-778-9531 or [tracyhylokubo@yahoo.com](mailto:tracyhylokubo@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy H. Okubo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tracy H. Okubo  
GM 473 Nominee

April 14, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senator David Y. Ige  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health

**FROM:** Tracy H. Okubo  
GM 473 Nominee

**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 this opportunity to submit 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.

I am honored to be considered and subsequently nominated by Governor Lingle to serve on the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, pending confirmation by the Hawaii State Senate.

Serving as a member on the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea provides me with a year-round opportunity to contribute new ideas and initiatives for our State's Health Planning Development Agency, whose #1 responsibility, in accordance with §323D-12, is to "Have as a principal function the responsibility for promoting accessibility for all the people of the State to quality health care services at reasonable cost."

When I was 15 years old I was diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythamatosi and Rheumatoid Arthritis. Being diagnosed with serious, debilitating, life-long diseases at such a young age showed me the importance of having a good healthcare system and access to quality healthcare. I have seen the importance of having strong advocacy for causes, and hope to be an advocate for improving access to quality healthcare for others. To me, healthcare is the most important thing we can focus on; without healthy residents we cannot guarantee healthy employees, healthy services, or even healthy businesses.

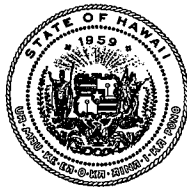
As a member of the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, it will be my mission to ensure that Hawaii continues to remain one of the top healthiest states in the country. The Health Planning Council was established to create an entity that would prepare and revise (as necessary) state health services and facilities plans, appoint members to the review panel (to review certificates of need), and provide recommendations and input on state health programs and services.

I am committed to developing innovative healthcare initiatives that benefit the residents of our state. My strong research skills and daily effort to read several local and national news publications related to health, health IT and other related topics also make me a powerful asset to any decision-making body, while my devotion to equal impartiality and balance will make me a fair and open-minded member with no other agenda other than to ensure that Hawaii's residents have easy access to quality healthcare at all times.

As a member of the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, I hope to continue to bring my innovative health initiatives as potential solutions to our always continuous efforts to improve Hawaii's healthcare system. Hawaii has been #2 after Vermont for the past few years in the Healthiest States rankings. We should be #1. During my term on the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, I hope to address some of the issues that are utilized to measure the state's rankings by developing ways to improve in the areas where we lag, and strengthen our efforts in the areas where we are strong.

I am, and will continue to be a strong advocate for healthcare. My outspoken, passionate commitment to advancing the adoption of innovative and efficient healthcare practices are qualities that will help best serve the mission of the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea. I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve on the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea.

I respectfully request your support for GM 473, nominating TRACY H. OKUBO to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, for a term to expire 06-30-2013.



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 473, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee,**

**Tracy Okubo**

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

**April 15, 2009**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation of Ms.  
2 Tracy Okubo to the Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the Honolulu  
5 Subarea Health Planning Council. Ms. Tracy Okubo is an Executive Administrative Assistant with the  
6 Hawaii Charter School Administrative Office. She previously served as Policy Analyst/Legislative  
7 Liaison with the Hawaii Department of Human Services; Legislative Researcher for the House Minority  
8 Research Office; Officer Manager in the Office of Representative Corinne Ching; and Legislative Aide  
9 in the Congressional Office of Representative Patsy Mink. She has been active in community service  
10 including the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Cultural Center, Lupus  
11 Hawaii, and the Kam Society of Hawaii.
- 12 We ask for your support in the confirmation of Ms. Okubo to serve on the Honolulu Subarea  
13 Health Planning Council.

April 14, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senator David Y. Ige  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health

**FROM:** Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu  
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary

**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.**

I am pleased to support the nomination of TRACY H. OKUBO to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, for a term to expire 06-30-09.

I have known Tracy for 11 years, both in a personal and professional capacity. Over the years Tracy has always demonstrated admirable qualities of insightfulness, tenacity, and thoughtfulness; always focusing on what is in the best interest of the State overall.

As a personal friend, Tracy has always been loyal, both to me as a friend, as well as to her beliefs and principals. Despite our opposing political affiliations, Tracy has always been able to see beyond party lines, and will compromise when it is in the best interest of our State.

This legislative session I have also been fortunate to work directly with Tracy; she accepted a Researcher position with the House Judiciary Committee in my office. Though I have always known Tracy to be an intelligent young woman, particularly in the health and human services field, it wasn't until I began to work directly with her on a daily basis that I came to see that she is just as knowledgeable in a variety of other issues. Together she and I have worked hard for improved access to quality health care, the reduction of crime and domestic violence, and equal civil rights for all, to name a few.

**Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu ~ Chair, Judiciary Concerns**  
*District 41: Waialeale, Royal Kunia, Village Park, Waipahu*  
State Capitol, Room 302 – Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: 586-8490 – Fax: 586-8494  
E-Mail: [repkaramatsu@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repkaramatsu@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Her diligence makes her an excellent Researcher, and her awareness of what is happening on the Federal level, as well as in other states, ensures that Tracy will continue to bring initiatives to Hawaii that keep us ranked as one of the “healthiest states in America”.

I have no doubts that Tracy will serve as a member of the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea with integrity, diligence, and a sense of advocacy and conviction. With her on the Council, I am confident that the Hawaii State Health Planning Development Agency will receive insightful and innovative healthcare initiatives that will continue to improve affordable access to quality healthcare for the residents of our State.

Again, it is my pleasure to lend my strong support for GM 473, Nominating TRACY H. OKUBO to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, for a term to expire 06-30-2013.

**Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu ~ Chair, Judiciary Concerns**

*District 41: Waialeale, Royal Kunia, Village Park, Waipahu*

State Capitol, Room 302 – Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 586-8490 – Fax: 586-8494

E-Mail: [repkaramatsu@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repkaramatsu@capitol.hawaii.gov)



Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 2:45pm, CR 016

To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association  
Gary A. Okamoto, MD, President  
Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair  
April Donahue, Executive Director  
Richard C. Botti, Government Affairs  
Lauren Zirbel, Government Affairs

Re: GM473 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, TRACY H. OKUBO, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) supports the confirmation of Tracy Okubo to the Health Planning Council.

Ms. Okubo's knowledge on health policy and information technology would be an asset to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

*OFFICERS*

Gary Okamoto, MD  
President

Robert Marvit, MD  
President Elect

Cynthia Jean Goto, MD  
Immediate Past President

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Jonathan Cho, MD  
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Executive Director

Hawaii Medical Association  
1360 S. Beretania St.  
Suite 200  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
(808) 536-7702  
(808) 528-2376 fax  
www.hmaonline.net



April 15, 2009

To: Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

From: Susan Yamamoto

Subject: G.M. 473 – Gubernatorial Nomination of Tracy H. Okubo to the Health Planning Council,  
Honolulu Subarea

I strongly support the nomination of Tracy H. Okubo to the Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council.

Ms. Okubo will bring a broad perspective to the Health Planning Council both as a consumer and working experience on health as well as public welfare issues at the national, State legislative, State departmental , and private agency level. I know her to be a passionate advocate for improved access to health care and will be an involved and valuable member of the Health Planning Council .

Thank you for this opportunity to support the nomination of Tracy H. Okubo to the Honolulu Subarea Health Planning Council.

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**From:** Derick Dahilig [ddahilig@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2009 7:36 AM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony of support for GM 473 Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 2:45 p.m.

**Categories:** Green Category, Blue Category

To Honorable David Y. Ige  
Chair, Senate Health Committee

RE: Support for Tracy Okubo to serve on the Health Planning Council  
GM 473 Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 2:45 p.m.

Tracy Okubo is a woman of character, class and dignity, who I firmly will do an outstanding job as a member of the Health Planning Council. She is reliable, trustworthy and attentive in everything she does and this alone has earned her the respect and admiration of family, friends and co-workers. Ms. Okubo brings practical, doable solutions to problems, while always maintaining a fresh, can-do attitude. She is a woman with tremendous poise and enormous, untapped talent.

Ms. Okubo is a woman who wears many hats. Her work in social services, education and the Legislature make her qualified to fill the role of Health Planning Council member. No matter where she is, Ms. Okubo always brings the same enthusiasm and compassion to every job. She takes pride in her accomplishments and abilities, yet is always effusive in her praise for others. Ms. Okubo is a great manager of time, taking care not to waste time that could be used to support her co-workers, friends and family.

Regardless of how difficult the task, Ms. Okubo is a woman that looks at the bigger picture and more importantly the brighter picture. She represents the rare combination of thinker and doer and follows through on her words, ideas, and commitments.

Ms. Okubo pursues every endeavor with a passion for people. She is a great communicator who conveys ideas with clarity, tact and sensitivity. Ms. Okubo is a go-to person, not because people have to go to her, but because they want to go to her.

If given the opportunity, I know that Tracy Okubo will be an invaluable part of the Health Planning Council team.

Sincerely,

Derick Dahilig

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**From:** ROBERT BELLIZZI [rbellizzi@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2009 10:46 AM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Subject:** RE: GM 473 Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 2:45 p.m.

**Categories:** Green Category, Blue Category

The Honorable David Y. Ige Chair, Senate Health Committee  
Tracy Okubo nomination to the  
Health Planning Council, Honolulu Subarea

Dear Senator Ige;

The nomination of Tracy Okubo is a rare opportunity to bring a new, vigorous, fresh face to Health Planning in Honolulu. Ms. Okubo's compassion and empathy for those burdened with healthcare issues is only exceeded by her intelligence and personal knowledge of the Hawaii Healthcare system.

I have personally observed Ms. Okubo assist mental health clients navigate the current maze of agencies and regulations. Her ability to identify solutions and take effective action is impressive.

You would be very lucky to have her work on this important Council.

Robert J Bellizzi, PE  
2101 Nuuanu Ave. Apt 805  
Honolulu, Hi 96817  
808-551-4780 cell

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2009 11:16 PM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** ayokubo@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM473 on 4/15/2009 2:45:00 PM

**Categories:** Green Category, Blue Category

Testimony for HTH 4/15/2009 2:45:00 PM GM473

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Allan Y. Okubo  
Organization: Individual  
Address: P.O. Box 10225 Honolulu, HI  
Phone: 735-6582  
E-mail: [ayokubo@hotmail.com](mailto:ayokubo@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2009

**Comments:**

While I may be prejudice regarding Tracy, as I am her father, I can honestly say that she is very dedicated and informed about the issues she will be asked to make decisions about. She is very knowledgeable about health issues from working for the Department of Human Services and having drafted many of the bills which were passed dealing with the many health and welfare problems the State has faced. She works well with both parties (Democrats and Republicans) and is respected by the legislators she comes in contact with from working for Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu. She has worked for both parties here and in Washington, D.C., where she worked for Congresswoman Patsy Mink. She has shown the ability to be productive under trying circumstances and will continue do so if appointed. I respectfully ask her appointment be confirmed.

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**From:** Grant S. [grant18@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2009 12:54 PM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Subject:** GM 473

**Categories:** Green Category, Blue Category

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Tracy for 7-8 years, and I do not know anyone better suited for a career in Public Service. Her peers know she is a very hard-worker who works very well under pressure and displays grace and confidence under fire. Her nomination comes from Governor Linda Lingle and that should speak volumes. Thank you.

~Grant Shiira