

GM 288



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Senate Committee on Human Services

GM 288 Gubernatorial Nominee for Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs

**Testimony of Noemi Pendleton
Director of Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

Thursday, February 25, 2010

1:15 P.M.

Department's Position: The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is writing in support for the confirmation of Mr. Michael Sumja's appointment to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

Fiscal Implications: None

Purpose and Justification: Mr. Sumja has been a member of the PABEA since July 1, 2006 and an active participant in the PABEA Legislative Committee as well as the former chair of the Board. He is the countywide community liaison for Hawaii County Office of Aging and the 2005 Outstanding Older American Honoree for Hawaii County. He brings valuable insights on aging issues and has shown a sincere regard for the needs of the elderly, especially in the Big Island. Mr. Sumja has contributed so much of his time and talents to the PABEA during his first term and has made a difference in the lives of our State's kupuna and their family caregivers.

We, therefore, ask you to support his reappointment as a member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Date: Feb. 25, 2010 - Conference Room 016 – 1:15 p.m.

Re: GM 288 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Michael B. Sumja, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Committee Members:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with approximately 150,000 members in Hawaii. We are committed to championing access to affordable, quality health care for all generations, providing the tools needed to save for retirement, and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

AARP strongly supports the confirmation of Mr. Michael Sumja to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

Mr. Sumja, a Big Island resident, has been a strong advocate improving the quality of life of Hawaii's seniors in the State and is a former Older Americans Award recipient for Outstanding Senior Citizen Volunteers.

Mr. Sumja was the Chair of PABEA for two consecutive years. Under his leadership, seniors were strongly represented before the legislature and with the State Administration. He successfully spearheaded the passage of SB 868 (Act 60, SLH 2008) which maintains a policy of open communications with boards and commissions when a department director is considering invoking their rights under section 26-35(a)(1), HRS, to represent a board or commission before the legislature. He has also collaborated well with Hawaii's senior organizations towards a common goal.

AARP Hawaii is in strong support confirming Mr. Michael Sumja to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services
Thursday, February 25, 2010
Conference Room 016; 1:15pm**

RE: GM 288 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Michael B. Sumja, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wes Lum and I am support of re-appointing Mr. Michael Sumja to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

As a former Assistant Specialist with the University of Hawaii Center on Aging who provided staff support for PABEA's Legislative Committee for four years, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Michael as he navigated our government structure to successfully advocate for the best interests of the Executive Office on Aging, Hawaii's seniors, and their families.

Michael was elected as Chair of PABEA for two consecutive years, which demonstrates his leadership abilities and commitment to our kupuna. I ask for your favorable consideration to re-appoint Michael for another four-year term to PABEA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 3:18 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM288 on 2/25/2010 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/25/2010 1:15:00 PM GM288

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
Organization:
Address:
Phone: 261-2095
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/19/2010

Comments:

Senator Chun Oakland and members of the Committee:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a member of the PABEA Legislative Committee, however my testimony today is as an individual who has known and worked with Michael Sumja on legislative matters for several years. I strongly support his renomination for another term on PABEA.

Mr. Sumja has demonstrated a deep concern for Hawaii's older citizens, and the ability to express that concern through his leadership in making PABEA a strong voice for seniors and their families. He has worked effectively with EOA staff; advocacy volunteers; and legislators. He has shown his dedication to PABEA's work by using personal resources, when necessary, to attend meetings and conduct other business. And he is both liked and respected by his colleagues on the PABEA Legislative Committee. Please vote to reappoint Michael Sumja to PABEA.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

ChunOakland3 - Serena

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 4:58 AM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: manis@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for SCR79 on 2/25/2010 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/25/2010 1:15:00 PM SCR79

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laura manis
Organization: Individual
Address: 1350 Ala Moana Ave.#1511 Honolulu 96814
Phone: 597-8838
E-mail: manis@lava.net
Submitted on: 2/24/2010

Comments:

I am on the legislative committee of PABEA and have found Mr. Sumja to be fairminded, tolerant and judicious. He has been Chair of PABEA and served a term as Chair of the Legislative Committee. He has taken his responsibilities seriously and is greatly respected for his hard work. On his watch, the work of the committees have improved greatly. PABEA needs his presence.