

F. Don Parsa, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Certified, American Board of Plastic Surgery

Senator Jill N Tokuda
Hawaii State Senate
District 24

April 8, 2010

Dear Senator Tokuda,

I am honored to be nominated to the Hawaii Medical Education Council. What follows are my statements addressing the questions that were sent to me.

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

I have been in active practice of medicine in Hawaii since 1981 and have served on many committees and medical boards during this period. I have served or am serving on the following boards and activities that relate to medical education as well as the quality of patient care: the Hawaii Medical Board ,chairman of the Pan-Pacific Surgical association, chairman of Queen's Medical Center's plastic surgery peer review, Hawaii Medical Association's peer-review and investigative committee, medical school's selection committee, Chief of plastic surgery Queen's Medical Center, professor and chief of plastic surgery division at the University of Hawaii. C.V. is also attached for further information. Recently, in January 2010, I organized a major six days Congress at the Sheraton Waikiki for purposes of surgical education with over 20 educator speakers in attendance from various parts of the world.

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

There is a definite shortage of physicians in Hawaii and there is great need to improve recruitment of practice ready physicians. Currently the John A. Burns School of Medicine graduates about 60-64 physicians per year and the need particularly for primary care physicians is at least double that number. Training opportunities need to be created in Hawaii to address the problem of shortage in the state. The number of enrollments at the medical school will need to be increased in increments of 20 to 30 % per year until the final goal is reached and expand the number of residents in training where shortage exists such as in orthopedic surgery and primary care. In addition, new physicians need to be recruited to join the clinical faculty of the Medical School while more medical students are trained. The legislature should continue its support of the JABSOM in this regard. A

loan forgiveness program would greatly help in improving recruitment of physicians into underserved areas such as Molokai and the Big Island.

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

The primary challenge is the shortage of primary care physicians as well as certain specialties such as cardiology and orthopedic surgery as stated above.

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

Involve local businesses, community leaders in the process. Such a program is in place on the Big Island (Hawaii Island Health Care Alliance).

5. Any changes to my resume within the past three months?

Chaired and organized a major continuing medical education event (44 hours of CME credit) in Honolulu from January 9 to 16 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel that was attended by not only Hawaii plastic surgeons and physicians but also by physicians from abroad. C.V. is attached bellow.

Very sincerely,

F. Don Parsa, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery,
Chief, plastic surgery division,
University of Hawaii,
John A. Burns School of Medicine.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2010

April 13, 2010, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 329

By

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

And

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean and Professor of Medicine
Barry & Virginia Weinman Endowed Chair
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

GM 397 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, FEREDOUN DON PARSA, MD, for a Term to expire 06-30-2013

Aloha Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support** of GM 397, which endorses Gubernatorial Nominee, **Fereydoun Don Parsa**, for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council.

We believe that Dr. Parsa's professional experience as a physician and surgeon, and as a medical educator and researcher, and his proven leadership and commitment to public service uniquely qualify him for appointment to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council.

Dr. Parsa is currently a Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine. He also serves as Chief of Plastic Surgery at The Queen's Medical Center. By way of educational background, Dr. Parsa obtained his Medical Degree from the Lausanne Medical School, in Lausanne, Switzerland. He subsequently received his postgraduate medical education in General Surgery at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, Illinois and at the University of

California, Los Angeles. This was followed by additional subspecialty training in both Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and in Cardiovascular and Microvascular Surgery under the auspices of the Baylor College of Medicine and the prestigious Texas Heart Institute, in Houston, Texas. He is American Board of Surgery certified in both General Surgery and in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He has 89 peer-reviewed, scientific publications, book chapters, and scholarly presentations. Additionally, Dr. Parsa has won countless Teaching Awards from both Students and Residents in training. Moreover, he has been the recipient of innumerable honors and awards, such as the coveted Hawai'i Medical Association Physician of the Year Award. He has been active in a number of local, national, and international medical societies, and is the current Chairman of the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association and the President of the International Society of Simulation Surgery.

Most noteworthy, Dr. Parsa has demonstrated exemplary dedication to public service and to humanitarian endeavors. He has been an active volunteer for "IRAQ STAR" providing free plastic and reconstructive surgery to wounded and deformed American soldiers returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; he has been a prior Board member of the American Cancer Society; he has served as a respected member of the Hawai'i Medical Board since 2004; and he has also served on the Board of Directors of the Aloha Medical Mission, which provides free care to citizens of impoverished Nations. To this end, Dr. Parsa has been recognized by the State of Hawai'i House of Representatives in 1986, 1988, and 1990 for his volunteerism, as an altruistic individual who compassionately provided free care during a number of medical missions to the Philippines.

In summary, Dr. Parsa brings many years of experience as both a healthcare provider in the State of Hawai'i, and as a medical educator and researcher, along with outstanding academic credentials, strong leadership skills, and an unwavering commitment to public service that makes him the ideal candidate for the position to which he is nominated. We are in **strong support** of his nomination to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this testimony.