

GM678

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, GERARD K. AKAKA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Report Title: Hawai'i Medical Board

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
L.T. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
www.hawaii.gov/dcca

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

EVERETT KANESHIGE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2011

Wednesday, April 13, 2011
9:15 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 678

WRITTEN ONLY

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Keali'i S. Lopez, and I am the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA" or the "Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 678, regarding the appointment of Gerard K. Akaka to the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). The Department supports Dr. Akaka's appointment and respectfully requests the Committee to recommend that the Senate advise and consent to his appointment to the Board.

I have spoken with Dr. Akaka regarding his candidacy for appointment to the Board, and based on my discussion with him, I believe that he possesses the qualifications, background, and experiences to serve on the Board, and to contribute in a positive and constructive manner on matters that will come before the Board.

Dr. Akaka is currently employed as Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of The Queen's Medical Center where he serves all the physicians and allied health care professionals to insure that their patients receive quality care and services. In addition, he is the Medical Director of the hospital's Native Hawaiian Health Program along with serving as Assistant Professor of the clinical faculty of his alma mater, the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at the University of Hawaii.

Dr. Akaka has dedicated his considerable talents and compassion to serving his community over the years. After attending the University of Hawaii and receiving his medical degree from JABSOM, he began his career as a physician in urgent care for the N.P. Medical Group and St. Francis Medical Center on Oahu. He also served as a Medical Officer for the United States Air Force 544th Medical Group in Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. Dr. Akaka returned to Hawaii in 1995 to work for the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center as a staff internist and was appointed to the position of Medical Director in 1998. He went on to work for The Queen Emma Clinics in Honolulu as the Medical Director from 2002 to 2007.

Dr. Akaka has received numerous awards for his service and dedication, most recently as The Queen's Medical Center's Outstanding Physician of the Year in 2004. In addition, he received the Excellence in Teaching Awards in internal medicine residency program at The Queen Emma Clinics, and in ambulatory medicine for University of Hawaii's transitional residency program.

Considering his extensive experience and passionate commitment to community service, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Dr. Akaka will prove to be a valuable asset to the State through his service on the Board. I respectfully request that

DCCA Testimony of Keali'i S. Lopez
April 13, 2011
G.M. No. 678
Page 3

the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Dr. Akaka's appointment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

April 7, 2011

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Regarding Support of Gerard Akaka, MD, for Hawai'i Medical Board

Dear Senator Baker:

This letter is in support of Dr Gerard Akaka for a position on the Hawai'i Medical Board. I have known Dr Akaka for the past 3 years and have great admiration for his service to Hawai'i. He has held several challenging leadership roles. I have found him to be considerate and collegial when working through challenging professional issues.

As Dean of the John A Burns School of Medicine, I believe that Dr. Akaka will bring many personal and professional strengths to the Hawai'i Medical Board. Given the Hawai'i Medical Board's mission is to "protect the general public" of Hawai'i by assuring that it's practitioners are competent to provide services in accordance with their training, someone having Dr. Akaka's character and knowledge is required for the post. The board fulfills an essential role for Hawai'i by assuring that the people of Hawai'i will have competent, high quality providers.

In his current role as the VP for Medical Affairs & Chief Medical Officer for The Queen's Medical Center, Dr Akaka is familiar with credentialing and privileging. In his role, he works with challenging physician issues and must determine which areas of practice (if any) are best suited for specific licensed practitioners. He has done this with quiet dignity and compassion.

I believe that Dr. Akaka can support the mission of the board through collaborative work with the other members, as well as, through thoughtful examination of issues that may come before the board.

I hope that you can consider Dr Akaka as a worthy member of the Hawai'i Medical Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerris R. Hedges' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean and Professor of Medicine
Barry & Virginia Weinman Endowed Chair

F. Don PARSA, MD, FACS

*Certified by the American Board of Surgery and by the American Board of Plastic Surgery
Professor of Surgery. Chief, division of Plastic Surgery
University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine*

April 10, 2011

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Roslyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, April 13, 2011
TIME: 9:15am

GM 678 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, GERARD K. AKAKA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Honorable Senator Baker and Senator Taniguchi,

It is an honor for me to recommend Dr. Gerard K. Akaka for consideration as a member of the Hawai'i Medical Board. I have known Dr. Akaka for over 20 years and I can attest that no one that I know of is better qualified to serve the public and the medical community better than him. He was the director of the Queen Emma Clinic for many years and currently is the vice-president of the medical affairs at the Queen's Medical Center. In all the positions that he has held, he has done a superb job with great honesty and sincerity and has become a most respected and liked figure in the medical as well as in the public community.

I most strongly support Dr. Akaka's application to the Medical Board without any reservation.

Sincerely,

F. Don Parsa, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery,
Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery,
University of Hawaii,
John A. Burns School of Medicine.

baker2 - Kelli

From: Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 7:23 AM
To: CPN Testimony
Subject: Testimony: 678

Testimony: GM 678, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, GERARD AKAKA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Wednesday, April 13, 2011
9:15am
Conference Room 229
State Capitol

Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Board, strongly supports the appointment of GERARD AKAKA to the Hawai'i Medical Board for a term to expire in 2015. Dr. Akaka has continuously distinguished himself as a leader in our community and in health care. He brings to this appointment his gentle, resolute manner and a firmness based upon his desire to improve and health and wellbeing of all who live in our Hawai'i Nei.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support this measure.

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director
Papa Ola Lokahi (Native Hawaiian Health Board)
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-597-6550

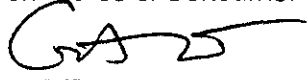


REHABILITATION HOSPITAL
OF THE PACIFIC

Rebuilding Lives Together

April 12, 2011

TO: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair
Members, Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

FROM: Gary A. Okamoto, MD 
Senior VP and Chief Medical Officer
Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific

RE: Confirmation of **Gerard Akaka, MD** for Membership,
Hawai'i Medical Board – SUPPORT GM678
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2011
Hearing Time: 9:15 a.m.
Conference Room: (Room 230)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of Governor's Message **GM678** to the Hawai'i Medical Board. I have known Gerard Akaka, MD, for nearly twenty years, following his career as Medical Director at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center and subsequently at the Queen Emma Clinic, and as Chief Medical Officer at the Queen's Medical Center with responsibility for over 1,200 providers. I have also known him as a primary care physician. In either administrative or clinical role, he has been outstanding.

I believe that Dr. Akaka can contribute constructively to the Hawai'i Medical Board, helping to assure the competency and ethics of physicians, osteopaths, and allied health professionals for the people of Hawai'i. He is grounded in the basic principles of modern medical practice. He has a working knowledge of discipline-specific standards of care. He has exposure to the wide diversity and depth of physician expertise, behaviors, and good citizenship. His vast network of physicians, nurses, and other health care providers enables him to understand the nature of individual physician practices. His optics allow him to see the bright and dark sides of physician performance. He has a corporate understanding of physicians.

Dr. Akaka is fair-minded and principled and would recuse himself appropriately. He can be trusted to bear the burden of highly confidential information.

I strongly urge your Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection to approve Dr. Gerard Akaka's nomination to the Hawai'i Medical Board.

baker2 - Kelli

From: ARTHUR USHIJIMA [AUSHIJIMA@queens.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2011 4:52 PM
To: CPN Testimony
Cc: GERARD AKAKA
Subject: Testimony in Support of Gerard Akaka, MD, - Hawaii Medical Board Nominee - GM 678, Wed, Apr 13, 2011; 9:15 am

I am Arthur A. Ushijima, President & CEO of The Queen's Health Systems, and would like to submit testimony in support of Gerard Akaka, MD.

I have known Dr. Akaka for approximately ten years, when he joined Queen's as the medical director of the Queen Emma Clinics, a multi-specialty hospital-based ambulatory center, serving patients unable to pay for their medical care, treating about 35,000 patient visits annually. About five years ago, Dr. Akaka was appointed Vice President, Medical Affairs, at The Queen's Medical Center, where he is responsible for the professional practice of medicine at Queen's, working with the leadership of the medical staff, to assure that patients receive care consistent with current medical practice and standards of care. The medical staff is comprised of 1,100 physicians in nearly all medical and surgical specialties. Dr. Akaka is responsible for providing support over the credentialing and privileging process which appoints and re-appoints physicians to the medical staff. He is also involved in the peer review process of the medical staff and works with the medical leadership in addressing any corrective or disciplinary actions involving physicians.

Dr. Akaka is very committed to high quality and safe patient care and is fair and firm in his dealings with physicians and other staff. I recommend him highly to the serve on the Medical Board. If any conflicts-of-interest matters should arise, he will recuse himself from participation and decision-making. He is a person of the highest integrity.

If there are questions that I may respond to, please to not hesitate to contact me (547-4688).

Mahalo,

Arthur A. Ushijima

Aloha to the Selection Committee for the Hawaii Medical Board:

The board's mission to "protect the general public" from dishonest, fraudulent, unskilled or otherwise unqualified practitioners is important and must be maintained to high standards.

In order to provide the best and safest care for our patients, we must assure that they have competent providers of care. An excellent framework is made through the Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 16, DCCA, Chap 85, Medical Examiners. However, optimal implementation of these rules must occur through a body of wise and prudent practitioners.

As the VP Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer of The Queen's Medical Center, I am honored to serve a large number of physician, podiatrists, allied health professionals as well as a large number of patients who receive care at Queen's. As an advocate for practitioners, I want to help them obtain licenses in order to provide excellent care within their competencies. When they do not abide by the standards of practice or behavior I work with the appropriate physician leaders to bring about improvement through corrective actions.

As an advocate for the people of Hawaii, I want to make sure that their providers are competent to provide safe and high quality care to our people.

I am able to collegially work through challenging issues within a group and have gained some experience through my years of working with providers at Queen's and the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. My current level of authority makes me keenly aware of the great responsibility we have to assure the best care for our patients.

I humbly request your consideration for this position on the Hawaii Medical Board.

Sincerely,
Gerard Akaka, MD