

# GM681

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, PALASI PULETASI, 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  
LT. GOVERNOR

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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. 681**

**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. 681, regarding the appointment of Palasi Puleyasi to the Hawai'i Medical Board ("Board"). The Department supports Mr. Puleyasi'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 Mr. Puleyasi regarding his candidacy for appointment to the Board, and based on my discussion with Mr. Puleyasi, 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.

Mr. Puletasi is a retired disabled person diagnosed with Guillain Barre Syndrome. He has been through many painstaking experiences such as being on a ventilator and being wheelchair bound. He was hospitalized at various locations and had numerous contacts with physicians, nurses, specialists, therapists, and medical personnel. Therefore, based on his own personal experiences with the various medical professions, he has come to strongly believe in patients' rights insofar as being able to receive adequate, safe, and efficient health care. He looks forward to serving as a public member of the Board.

Mr. Puletasi was a Senior Special Agent with the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security for 17 and one half years. He participated, managed, and dealt with public and health safety laws consistent with the provisions, acts, rules and regulations, and statutes of the United States Code.

Mr. Puletasi is also an entertainer and an excellent master of ceremonies. He performed in Christmas programs at the Polynesian Cultural Center and appeared in Olelo programs. He is multi-talented!

Considering his extensive experience, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Mr. Puletasi will prove to be an asset to the State through his service on the Board. I respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Mr. Puletasi's appointment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Barbara Melvin. I have served with Sam Puleasi on two boards and am aware of his work on other boards and community organizations and have found him to be helpful, efficient and a true force for getting people to work together in a friendly and responsible manner. When tempers get heated as is sometimes the case in community organizations, Sam can cool things down. He is also great at reducing convoluted arguments into simple yet meaningful terms that members can accept. He's a pleasure to work with.

## Written Testimony of Palasi "Sam" Puleasi

Thank you for the opportunity to present background information about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Hawaii Medical Board.

I am currently a retired disabled individual diagnosed with Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS). I have been since upgraded from nearly death, being on the ventilation, pacemaker, tube feeding, wheelchair bound, walkers, legs braces and cane. I was hospitalized at various rehab and hospitals with numerous contacts with physicians, nurses, specialists, therapists and medical personnel. Therefore, based on my own personal experiences, I strongly believe in patients' rights in receiving adequate, safe, and efficient health care. Although my illness had severely affected me in many aspects of life, however, with the love of God, nothing was impossible.

I am a 48 year old single parent, an American Citizen who was born in American Samoa, and I have been a resident in the State of Hawaii since 1982. I am also bilingual in the English, Samoan and Spanish languages.

I am and have been an active volunteer to many community activities and have utilized my entertainment talent in numerous fundraising events. I am an active member of a political party and a board member with various organizations. I am also a member for the State of Hawaii Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Being able to serve the people is my passion; therefore, having the opportunity to be on the State of Hawaii Medical Board will be an honorable privilege and my way of significantly giving back and helping the community.

I realize that this board maybe time-consuming and challenging with its critical obligations, however, I believe I will be able to apply myself accordingly as I have always done with any other organizations that I have been involved. I am not a physician, but I know that I will take pride and dedication in volunteering, helping, supporting, and learning all board duties which are beneficial to the board and the people of the State of Hawaii.

Since part of the fundamental role of the board is to evaluate physicians' competency prior to issuing their medical license, I believe in the critical role of a board member in establishing the proper requirements for physicians to demonstrate qualification for medical licensure throughout their career. It is also important that physicians' educational needs and preferences for maintenance of competency must be supported.

As a former Senior Special Agent with the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security for 17 1/2 years, I have participated, managed and dealt with public and health safety laws consistent with the provisions, acts, rules and regulations, statutes of the United States Code. As such, I have been highly trained to utilize various techniques, skills and methods such as auditing, inspection, investigations, interviews, and interrogations, and delivered these efforts

through the U.S. Attorney's Office and the courts in order to insure compliance. Therefore, I believe my skills which I have acquired through my former professional career will provide me the backbone for a competent member of the Medical Board.

I believe my personal and professional experiences have given me an immense understanding, wisdom, and compassion to be thoroughly aware of the pros and cons regarding health and safety issues. I am living proof that a person can overcome and survive an illness through competent, compassionate, and highly efficient health care providers. Therefore, based on my own personal experiences, I believe I am capable of making competent decisions based on the required elements that are necessary in order provide a safe and adequate healthcare, and ensure that the people of Hawaii are served by a qualified community of medical providers.

I kindly and humbly ask for your support of my nomination to the Medial Board. I look forward to the challenges ahead. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Palasi Sam Puleyasi  
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