

TESTIMONY OF  
L. MARTIN JOHNSON  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

March 19, 2012

GM508

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Naturopathic Medicine, Gubernatorial Nominee, L. Martin Johnson, for a term to expire June 30, 2014.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am here seeking confirmation for my nomination as a public member on the Board of Naturopathic Medicine. As a consumer, a business owner and as a psychologist, I have an active interest and commitment to the delivery of health care in Hawaii. I see serving as a public member on the Board of Naturopathic Medicine as a natural extension of this commitment.

As a consumer of health care and as a parent, my family has utilized the services of medical doctors, dentists, psychologists, naturopaths, acupuncturists, optometrists, chiropractors and massage therapists to maintain health and wellbeing. As a business owner I am aware of the increasing costs of health care and health care insurance and of the importance of a healthy workforce and general population. As a health care professional I work with other health care professionals to provide quality care while seeking to control and manage expenses.

These multiple perspectives on health care have led to me believe that better collaboration and communication between the different types of providers is very much needed. Another area of importance is continued public education relating to quality of care and cost aspects of care. This is particularly true of the business community who shoulders a major share of the cost burden. I believe that integrative, coordinated care with increased transparency and patient choice is the path to sustainable quality care.

Toward these ends, as a psychologist and the owner of a private psychotherapy center, I have worked consistently to provide training opportunities to doctoral students training in psychology; provided pro bono therapy to patients in financial difficulties who lack insurance; served on the advisory board to the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University; served as adjunct faculty to various local universities; chaired various committees providing public education and advocacy and served on the board of the Hawaii Psychological Association.

My understanding of the role of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine is to ensure the public welfare as it relates to the profession. Within that scope, the board works with both the legislative and executive branches of state government to advise and set standards appropriate to professional practice.

My qualifications for the board include my knowledge of the health care system as both a provider and consumer. Perhaps even more importantly, my work as a therapist, business owner, consultant and board member of various organizations, have given me the experience and skills to explore a given issue from multiple perspectives, engage all voices at the table, and work toward consensus. Should the Senate see fit to approve my nomination, I will welcome the opportunity to serve. I will also be grateful for the chance to continue to expand my experience, knowledge and understanding of healthcare in Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my nomination.