

TESTIMONY

GM541

**HTH
Confirmation Hearing
03-12-2012**

Office of Senator Josh Green, M.D.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
green4@capitol.hawaii.gov
Phone: (808) 586-6833
Fax: (808) 586-9391

March 1, 2012

Dear Senator Green,

Thank-you for allowing me the opportunity to introduce myself through this statement. Due to my patient care responsibilities in the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU), it will be unlikely that I would be able to attend the confirmation hearing.

Although born and raised in a small town on the west coast of Scotland, Hawaii has been my home for the last 25 years. The majority of my graduate and medical education has been through the University of Hawaii and the John A. Burns School of Medicine where I now hold an Assistant Professor appointment and serve as an Associate Director of Medical Education within the UHIMRP medical residency training program. Following specialty training in California, I have been employed by The Queen's Medical Center (QMC) as Medical Director of the MICU and serve as Assistant Chief to the Department of Medicine. I was also honored there to receive the Ke Kauka Po'okela (Physician of the Year) award in 2006.

Last year, I was fortunate to be appointed by Governor Abercrombie to serve on the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. My understanding is that as part of the State Health Planning and Development Agency, this Council is primarily responsible for the preparation and revision of the State Health Services and Facilities Plan, advising the State Agency, and administering the certificate of need (CON) program. I have already participated in several meetings and discussions and I am proud to be able to serve the healthcare needs of my community and state through this valuable Council membership.

As a clinician, I am passionate about improving both the quality and access to healthcare for all the people of our state. I have been employed by QMC for the last almost eleven years and have taken to heart their mission statement - "to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawaii" - trying my best to extend this outwards from a "QMC-centric" to a "Hawaii-centric" model. With QMC support, I have been able to leverage the QMC resource infrastructure to grow a Pulmonary and Sleep clinic on Molokai - providing access to consultation, diagnostic, and higher levels of care on-island to the primarily Native Hawaiian population there. To further decrease off-island travel, and through the assistance of Hawaiian Health funds, I have been able to see the genesis of a tele-medicine program that will allow patients to remain on Molokai, their physicians receiving high-level consultation and assistance from our QMC Pulmonary and Critical Care physician group. Later, the aim is to expand this access to facilitate the provision of other badly needed consultative services (such as dermatology) and perhaps, ideally, to other neighbor islands. Again, the goal being to provide convenient access to high quality and specialty care on-island. If the usual notion is of patients coming to a hospital, I am trying to turn this upside down and envision the hospital and its resources reaching out to patients.

The role and responsibilities of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council would be to not only ensure that identified community health needs are met with fiscally sound programs which are congruent with the State Health Plan, but to also listen to the potentially changing health needs of the community to be able to provide insightful revision and input to the State Health Services and Facilities Plan itself.

Many things, such as the healthcare needs of our growing aging population and the projected physician work-force and long-term patient care needs, may appear quite predictable and comfortably projected within the current State Health Plan. Unfortunately, dynamic situations, such as the closure of the Hawaii Medical Center facilities and the acute needs that have resulted, were less well incorporated into the Plan. During my term of service, I would hope to see the Statewide Health Coordinating Council grow into an even more nimble and responsive agency that can adapt to the numerous challenges that will be presented as the face of healthcare, reimbursement, quality indicators, and regulatory demands rapidly evolve over the very near and foreseeable future. I would also hope to see the Council's crucial role in ensuring the availability of necessary, quality, and fiscally sound programs is reflected in its becoming a more self-sustaining entity.

Having been intimately associated with healthcare in Hawaii as a patient, researcher, educator, administrator, and both general and specialty healthcare provider for over the last 25 years, I feel I am qualified to serve well on the Statewide Health Coordinating Council, my decision-making ability drawing on the broad perspective my background allows. I am passionate about improving the healthcare of all the people in our state, I am sensitive to and respectful of the rather unique aspects of our island culture, I am driven by a desire to promote and ensure excellence, and I am not uncomfortable with the ambiguities inherent in the complex system dynamics comprising healthcare today.

Conflicts of interest, whether real or perceived, will likely arise during my term. As in the recent past, when they have, I have sought and will continue to seek the counsel of the State Ethics Commission (SEC). Whether or not I personally feel able to participate in an unbiased manner, I will defer to the input of the SEC and recuse myself from those particular discussions and decisions. I strongly believe that the people of Hawaii deserve a decision-making process that is open and untainted from even the very perception of conflicts of interest.

Again, thank-you for the opportunity to present myself to you in this statement and I would be happy to respond to any further questions you might have.

I would appreciate your support of my confirmation to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council and look forward to continuing to serve the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely yours,



T. Scott Gallacher, MS, MD, FCCP

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

**GM 541, Gubernatorial Nominee to the
Statewide Health Coordinating Council**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

**Monday, March 12, 2012
1:30 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
2 of Thomas Scott Gallacher to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the
5 SHCC Gubernatorial Nominee, Thomas Scott Gallacher, M.D.. Dr. Gallacher is Medical
6 Director, Medical Intensive Care Unit, at the Queen's Medical Center; Assistant Chief of
7 Medicine at the Queen's Medical Center; and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University
8 of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Medicine. He also serves as
9 Associate Director of Medical Education for the University of Hawaii Integrated Medical
10 Residency Program at the Queen's Medical Center.

11 Dr. Gallacher received the Ke Kauka Po`okela, Physician of the Year, the Queen's
12 Medical Center, 2006 award; Best Teaching Attending Award, the Queen's Medical Center,
13 2004-05 award; Best Teaching Fellow Award, University of California (Irvine) Medical Center,
14 1998-99 award; Program Director's Award (Senior Resident), 1996-97; and Attending
15 Physician's Award (Senior Resident), Kuakini Hospital, 1996-97.

1 Throughout his medical training, Dr Gallacher has worked closely with the Hawaii State
2 Department of Health including employment as Pharmacologist for the HIV Drug Assistance
3 Program (HDAP) an outgrowth of the Hawaii Seropositivity and Medical Management
4 (HSPAMM) project and assisting in data collection for several other "grassroots" projects. He is
5 committed to serving the people of Hawaii, most recently evidenced by his creation and
6 ongoing support of a Pulmonary Medicine clinic on Molokai caring for the specialty needs of
7 this primarily Hawaiian population.

8 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Dr. Thomas Scott Gallacher to the
9 Statewide Health Coordinating Council.



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 538-9011 • FAX: (808) 547-4646 • www.queens.org

January 20, 2012

Josh Green, M.D.
Chairman, Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 222
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Green:

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Scott Gallacher to serve on the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. I am the Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer at The Queen's Medical Center and Dr. Gallacher reports to me as an employed physician of Queen's.

Dr. Gallacher has served as the Medical Director of Queen's Medical Intensive Care Unit for the past 7 years. In that position he has truly served the people of Hawai'i by providing care for extremely ill patients from all islands. Over the years, he has dealt with issues involving quality care, patient safety and utilization. He has gained valuable experience as he has had to interact with many healthcare stakeholders.

I feel that the Statewide Health Coordinating Council will truly benefit from Dr. Gallacher's knowledge, experience and passion.

Sincerely,

Gerard K. Akaka, M.D.
Vice President, Medical Affairs and
Chief Medical Officer



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February 1, 2012

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Health Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

I am writing to you as a professional colleague of T. Scott Gallacher, MD, MS, FCCP Medical Director of Medical ICU who is subject to confirmation of his appointment by Governor Abercrombie as a member of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. I have known Dr. Gallacher for over 5 years and support his nomination for the position. Over the years, Dr. Gallacher has clearly demonstrated he is a person of high integrity and sound moral character. Dr. Gallacher is collaborative, patient focused, and maintains a strong commitment of achieving excellence.

I feel that the Statewide Health Coordinating Council would truly benefit from the appointment of Dr. Gallacher to this position

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia Kamikawa, RN, MS, NE-BC
Vice President of Nursing, ED, Trauma & CNO



RONALD A. MORTON, M.D.
INTERNAL MEDICINE

January 19, 2011

Josh Green, M.D.
Chairman, Senate Health Care Committee

Dear Dr. Green,


It is my great pleasure to recommend Dr. Thomas Scott Gallacher to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. I have known Dr. Gallacher personally for the past 10 years. I have worked with him on a regular basis in my role as the Chief of the Department of Medicine at the Queen's Medical Center. I have also appointed Dr. Gallacher to be one of my Assistant Chiefs at Queen's and he has served in that capacity since 2007.

I have found Dr. Gallacher to be very passionate over the delivery of health care to all of the citizens of Hawaii and especially to the underserved population. His care is exemplary and he has been recognized on multiple occasions both locally and nationally for his care. He has helped me in my role as Chief of Medicine to look critically at our programs and to offer his expertise in program development, peer review, education and utilization of resources.

I believe that he will be a strong asset to your committee and would strongly recommend that he be confirmed in this role.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have regarding Dr. Gallacher.

Sincerely,


Ronald A. Morton, M.D.
Internal Medicine

MARK H. YAMAKAWA

1602B Alewa Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

January 17, 2012

Senator Josh Green
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

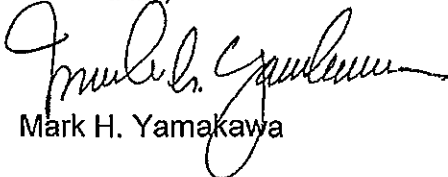
RE: GM541 – Thomas Scott Gallacher, MD

Dear Senator Green:

I am writing in support of Thomas Scott Gallacher, MD who has been nominated to the State Health Planning and Development Agency's Statewide Health Coordinating Council. I have known Dr. Gallacher for several years in his capacity as Medical Director of The Queen's Medical Center's Medical Intensive Care Unit and he has always demonstrated his commitment to excellent patient care for our community. His appointment to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council will bring a unique and valuable perspective that would significantly benefit the Council's discussions and deliberations. In my position as Executive Vice President /Chief Operating Officer of The Queen's Health Systems/The Queen's Medical Center, I have confidence in Dr. Gallacher's analytical thought process, experience as a physician, and broad community perspective to always be in the best interest of our patients.

I sincerely appreciate the significance of your selection of individuals who will best serve the needs of our community and the commitment from those who give back to our community. I strongly support Dr. Gallacher's appointment and ask for your favorable consideration.

Yours truly,



Mark H. Yamakawa