

GM 571

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Procurement Policy Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KATHY
SUZUKI-KITAGAWA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

TESTIMONY
OF
KATHY SUZUKI-KITAGAWA
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS
ON

G.M. 571

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Procurement Policy Board, Nominee,
KATHY SUZUKI-KITAGAWA, for a term to expire June 30, 2013.

Chair Espero and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear
before you today.

I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I truly consider this a
privilege to be considered as a member of the Procurement Policy Board. I want to also extend
my thanks to everyone that submitted letters of support on my behalf for this nomination.

For the past 12 years I have been actively involved in Health and Human Service issues
through my work with the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA). HPCA promotes and
supports primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services to Hawaii's medically
underserved and underinsured through the federally qualified health centers, or community

health centers. My job responsibilities include applying, implementing, and managing numerous state contracts, such as the Hawaii Immigrant Health Initiative, Outreach and Education, and Dental Appropriations grants. All these programs required our organization and community health centers to go through state procurement, which was often a complicated process for us to understand.

By serving on the Procurement Policy Board, I hope to serve the state and our communities by offering my experience in health and human service issues towards the review of procurement policies and rules. I want to understand the process more thoroughly and ensure that both the process is fairly upheld and the public is heard.

Since this would be my first time on a state board, I also look forward to working with a team of experts in the various areas that make the procurement process as equitable and efficient as possible. I know I will learn a lot by serving on this board.

In closing, I would like to thank this Committee for the hard work you do for the State of Hawaii and for giving me the opportunity to be here today. Thank you for considering my nomination, and at this time I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

February 19, 2012

Senator Will Espero
Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Kathy Suzuki-Kitagawa's nomination to Procurement Policy Board

Honorable Will Espero:

As instructed in your letter dated February 14, 2012, I am submitting following answers to the questions:

1) *Why do you wish to be a member of the Procurement Policy Board?*

I want to be a member of the Procurement Policy Board for two reasons: to serve and to learn. I would like to offer my expertise in health and human services to assist the board and State in ensuring that the procurement of goods and services is an equitable, efficient, and transparent process. I would also like to learn more about procurement and its policies because it is a highly complex process and learning about the details will help me in my work with Hawaii's communities.

2) *Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Procurement Policy Board, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Procurement Policy Board.*

As I understand it, the seven member Procurement Policy Board is required to have at least two members with significant experience in the field of health and human services. I have over 12 years of experience in health and human services through my work at the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA). The HPCA is a private nonprofit dedicate to fostering primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services to Hawaii's medically underserved through the state's community health centers.

Over the years I have been responsible for applying for, negotiating and implementing several contracts with the state DOH and DHS, including the Hawaii Immigrant Health Initiative, Outreach and Education, and Dental Appropriations grants. This experience has taught me that while it is important to have an efficient procurement process, it is equally important to have a process that is fair to the people and population it is intended to serve.

3) *What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?*

I hope to be the “third” eye to the procurement process, meaning that as part of the board I would be reviewing administrative rules and state statutes and asking questions and offering advice when appropriate. I want to attend public hearings so I can hear feedback from the public about these rules, how they affect them, and how they can be improved. Ultimately, I’d like to be part of a team that makes procurement a beneficial and fair process to all involved.

4) *Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Procurement Policy Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?*

At this time I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interests that may arise during my service on the Procurement Policy Board. However, if an issue regarding conflict of interest does arise, I will immediately inform the board and recuse myself from any discussion or decision-making on the issue.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DEAN H. SEKI
ACTING COMPTROLLER
JAN S. GOUVEIA
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
DEAN H. SEKI, ACTING COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
February 23, 2012

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 571

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE PROCUREMENT
POLICY BOARD, KATHY SUZUKI-KITAGAWA

Chair Espero and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on
G.M. 571. The Department of Accounting and General Services supports Ms. Kathy Suzuki-
Kitagawa's confirmation to the Board.

Section 103D-201, HRS, requires that the Board have two members with significant high
level procurement experience in the field of health and human services. Ms. Suzuki-Kitagawa is
the Chief Operating Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. Her appointment fulfills
the statutory requirement for representation on the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



February 21, 2012

Senator Will Espero
Chair, Public, Government Operations and Military Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Kathy Suzuki-Kitagawa's Nomination to the State Procurement Policy Board

Dear Senator Espero:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a letter of support for Mrs. Kathy Suzuki-Kitagawa in her nomination to the state Procurement Policy board.

I've known Kathy for over ten years in the various administrative roles she's held at the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA). In her current position of Chief Operations Officer (a position she has held since 2004), Kathy has demonstrated impeccable integrity, attention to detail, and scrupulous business practices.

As the chair of the board for the Hawaii Primary Care Association, I had the privilege of working closely with Kathy when she assumed the position of interim CEO in 2011. Her expertise, dedication, professional demeanor, and calm congenial manner ensured that the nationwide search for a new CEO was transparent, well-documented, and comfortable for the candidates.

Kathy is well versed regarding procurement, having administered contracts for programs in the health and human service arena at both federal and state levels; in conjunction with the community health centers and in stand alone projects administered solely at the HPCA.

I strongly support Kathy Suzuki-Kitagawa as a nominee for the Procurement Policy Board and believe that the board, the state, and the citizens will clearly benefit from her high standards and attention to legal requirements.

Sincerely;



Sheila Beckham, RD, MPH
CEO, Waikiki Health Center
Board Chair, Hawaii Primary Care Association

Beth Giesting
1443 Aupupu St.
Kailua, HI 96734

**Committee on Public Safety,
Government Operations, and Military Affairs**

The Hon. Will Espero, Chair
The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
February 23, 2012, 2:00 p.m. Room 224

**Support for GM 571:
Nomination of Kathy Suzuki-Kitagawa
to the Procurement Policy Board**

Aloha, Senator Espero, Senator Kidani, and members of the Committee. I'm pleased to have the opportunity to support the nomination of Kathy Suzuki-Kitagawa to the Procurement Policy Board. Kathy worked for me at the Hawai'i Primary Care Association (HPCA) from July 2000 through August 2011. Kathy was hired to develop "special projects," a miscellaneous category that included promising new initiatives as well as a wide variety of activities that didn't fit in with any other staff member's responsibilities. She did this work so competently and cheerfully that it wasn't long before she became the chief operating officer, a position in which HPCA's funding and projects gave her new opportunities to work on state proposals and contract compliance.

I believe that Kathy Suzuki-Kitagawa will be a fine addition to the Procurement Policy Board. Not only has she worked with the system established in Hawai'i but also brings the wider experience of working with grants and contracts across a variety of federal programs and private foundations. Kathy is a pragmatic leader who will contribute to the Board by being detail-oriented, prepared to contribute constructively to discussion and group processes, and by being pleasant, personable, and respectful of others.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this nomination. I have every confidence that Kathy Suzuki-Kitagawa will serve the State well on the Procurement Policy Board.