

GM620

ROBERT HIROKAWA

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROBERT HIROKAWA, for a term to expire 6-30-2014 (Replaces GM609).

Report Title: Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector (Replaces GM609)

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
2/6/2012	S	Received.
2/6/2012	S	Referred to CPN.
3/1/2012	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 03-23-12 9:00AM in conference room 229.



HINAMAUKA

GM 620 Confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector,
Gubernatorial Nominee, ROBERT HIROKAWA

- ✦ SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair; Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair
- Friday, March 23, 2012; 9:00 a.m.; Conference Room 229

Good morning Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Distinguished Committee Members:

Hina Mauka supports Confirmation for Robert Hirokawa

Robert Hirokawa is the Executive Director of the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), providing invaluable services to our Community Health Centers (CHC). While Healthcare Reform will dramatically impact CHCs, the HPCA has volumes of information relevant to this shift in financial infrastructures. Mr. Hirokawa can well represent primary care provider to help address and understand key health services.

Active in the community, Robert Hirokawa currently serves on the Board of Directors of Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) and is the President Elect. HPHA is an association of community members, public health professionals and organizations dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

Mr. Hirokawa has been a collaborator with various providers and government agencies to determine effective policies that benefit the community at large. We believe Mr. Hirokawa's background and experience will greatly benefit the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector.

Respectfully,

Alan Johnson



SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Conference Room 229
March 23, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

**Testimony in support of GM 620, which nominates Robert Hirokawa
to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Connector**

My name is George W. Greene, President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), whose membership includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, two-thirds of the long term care beds, home care agencies and hospices, and other related provider organizations. Our provider members employ more than 40,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the nomination of Robert Hirokawa to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Connector.

Hawaii complies with the health insurance exchange requirements of the federal Affordable Care Act by establishing the Hawaii Health Connector statutorily and requiring it to:

- (1) Facilitate the purchase and sale of qualified plans and qualified dental plans;
- (2) Connect consumers to the information necessary to make informed health care choices; and
- (3) Enable consumers to purchase coverage and manage health and dental plans electronically.

Hawaii statute also creates a Board of the Directors for the Hawaii Health Connector and requires it to reflect geographic diversity and the diverse interests of stakeholders.

Robert Hirokawa is the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association and has worked in health care for the past 25 years. This experience has enabled him to gain a broad understanding of the multitude of issues in the complex health care environment. This perspective is critical to the effective functioning of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Connector.

I am confident that Robert Hirokawa will participate enthusiastically in the activities of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Connector and will serve with dignity, wisdom, and integrity.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports GM 620.



HPCCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

The Hon. Rosalyn Baker, Chair

The Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of GM20
Submitted by Hawaii Primary Care Association
March 23, 2012, 9 am, Conference Room 229

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, **strongly supports** the nomination of Robert Hirokawa to the Hawaii Health Connector Board of Directors.

Mr. Hirokawa currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), where he was previously the Chief Information Officer. He possesses a broad and varied background, carrying over twenty-five years of experience as a primary care provider and healthcare professional. It is the combined effect of those experiences that has allowed Mr. Hirokawa to seamlessly direct the HPCA in a time of transition, always focusing on the improvement and sustainability of the Hawaii health community.

As a member of the Connector board, the HPCA believes that Mr. Hirokawa will be invaluable in ensuring: (1) That the Connector remains true to its stated goals and mission; (2) Is compliant and transparent in all aspects of operations; (3) Is accountable to users; and (4) Ensures that consumers and the greater Hawaii health community are at the forefront of all deliberations and decisions.

The HPCA would also like to support the nomination of Mr. Hirokawa on the basis of his character and his unflagging commitment to the betterment of the State of Hawaii. He has been a champion for the underserved populations of Hawaii and will work tirelessly as a member of the Connector board to ensure that health disparities across the state continue to receive the attention they deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Robert Hirokawa's nomination to the Hawaii Health Connector Board of Directors.

Robert Hirokawa

711 Kilani Avenue, Wahiawa, HI 96786 · (808) 927-3173 · roberthirokawa@gmail.com

February 27, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Nomination of Robert Hirokawa to the Hawaii Health Connector Board of Directors

Dear Senator Baker:

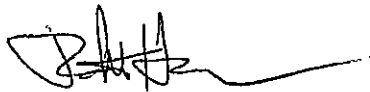
I am writing to you to express my interest in being appointed to the Hawaii Health Connector (HHC) Board of Directors. I currently sit on the interim Board as a representative of Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers.

I want to be a member of the permanent Board so that I can continue to contribute to the planning, execution, and evaluation of the HHC so that it remains consumer centered. The HHC must provide a transparent mechanism that seamlessly and easily allows consumers to compare/contrast and choose appropriate Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) and allows them to find and apply for subsidies (where applicable). HHC success will be based on its impact on increasing consumer access to quality health plans and reducing the number of uninsured without negatively impacting the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act.

As a board member, I have a fiduciary duty to see that the HHC (1) remains true to its stated goals and mission, (2) is compliant and transparent in all aspects of its operations at all times, and (3) is accountable to its users.

I have been involved in Hawaii's healthcare system for over 25 years, either as a provider, a public health professional, and most recently, an active participant in Hawaii's Community Health Center movement. I believe this provides me with the insight and experience necessary to offer a very important perspective to the HHC Board – the positive impact the Connector can have in mitigating the health disparities and inequities that continue to exist in Hawaii, especially amongst our vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your consideration,



Robert Hirokawa, DC, MPH, DrPH