

GM623

CHRISTINE SAKUDA

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTINE SAKUDA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015 (Replaces GM612).

Report Title: Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Connector (Replaces GM612)

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.



SENATE COMMITTEE 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 623, which nominates Christine Sakuda 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 Christine Sakuda to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Connector.

Christine Sakuda is the Executive Director of the Hawaii Health Information Exchange, which has been established to create the infrastructure necessary to facilitate the transmission of health care information among organizations with disparate health information systems. The ultimate goal is safer and more timely, efficient, effective, and equitable patient-centered care. Ms. Sakuda has spent her entire professional career in the field of health information technology.

Section 435H-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires the membership of the Hawaii Health Connector Board to reflect the diverse interests of stakeholders. Health information technology is an increasingly important aspect of health care. As such, Christine Sakuda will be able to make significant contributions to the Board, and I am confident that she will serve with dignity, wisdom, and integrity.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports GM 623.

Personal Statement: Christine Mai'i Sakuda

Member nominee for the Hawai'i Health Connector

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my continued interest as a Board member for the Hawai'i health Connector.

Although my resume and references speak to my educational and experiential qualifications, I feel that what makes me a vital candidate as a Board member of the Hawai'i Health Connector is more than my credentials or extensive curriculum vitae. It is, my status as a patient and as a native resident with lifelong encounters involving the benefits and shortcomings of Hawai'i's health information infrastructure.

In my current role as Executive Director of the Hawai'i Health Information Exchange, I partner with a dynamic Board of Directors and lead a skilled team from a diverse healthcare and IT background. Together, we are working towards implementing Hawai'i's safe, effective and quality state health information exchange. Additionally through our Hawai'i Pacific Regional Extension Center Program, we are supporting physicians' adoption of electronic health records and federal reporting requirements to Medicare and Medicaid. Yet, it is from my perspective as a patient and mother of small children that drives me to use my skills and resources towards promoting sustainability and access to quality health information.

As the previous Information Officer for the Hawai'i Primary Care Association, I exercised expert oversight of the health information technology program and worked closely with Hawai'i's Federally Qualified Community Health Centers and Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems. However, it is my ongoing experience as a recipient of healthcare that reinforces this expertise, compelling my belief in the crucial need for an effective transference of health information.

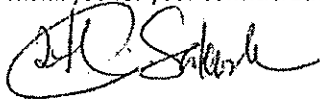
Residing on the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i County Beacon Community Consortium affords me an interactive relationship with other neighbor island leaders and their issues of timely and secure access to care, and it is this very advantage that enhances my identification with other counties and broadens the impact of improved health information exchange, and therefore improved healthcare, for the people of Hawai'i.

As this healthcare consumer wearing the hat of a working professional involved in the industry of health IT for the past 14+ years, I have been privileged to be a part of the initiatives above that have strived to affect change in the current infrastructure, and Boardship on the Hawai'i Health Connector is a natural extension of this. As an interim Board member for the Hawai'i Health Connector I've lead the executive search of its first and current Executive Director, assisted in the development of the fiscal intermediary RFP, and chair the IT committee.

Much like the Hawai'i Health Information Exchange, the Hawai'i Health Connector is a pioneering body representative of several key areas and committed to the planning and further development of access to proper healthcare and its relationship to: non-profit issues, health information technology and reporting, funding and information exchange.

The missions of HHIE and HHC are symbiotic and for that reason I respectfully submit my interest to continue as a Board member of the Hawai'i Health Connector.

Thank you for your consideration.



Christine Mai'i Sakuda