

TESTIMONY

GM683

**HTH
Committee Hearing
03-07-2012**

TESTIMONY OF
STEPHEN B. KEMBLE, MD
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON MARCH 7, 2012

G.M. 683

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Health Authority, STEPHEN B. KEMBLE, M.D. for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

Chair Green and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of my confirmation to the Hawai'i Health Authority. I regret that I am unable to attend this hearing in person due to prior commitments. I would like to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I consider it an honor and a privilege to have a role in developing a more equitable and cost-effective health care system that will better serve the needs of everyone in Hawai'i. I would also like to thank those who have submitted letters of support on my behalf.

I grew up in Hawai'i and attended the John A. Burns School of Medicine in the early years when it was a 2-year program, completing my M.D. degree at Harvard Medical School in 1973. I completed training in both internal medicine and psychiatry, and I have been practicing as a psychiatrist in Honolulu since 1985. I work in both private practice and in the Queen Emma Clinic at Queen's Hospital, serving a largely Medicaid population. I have had a strong interest in health care reform and in health system design for over 20 years, and I have always sought to look beyond complaining about what is wrong in health care and to ask the question, "What would work better?"

I have been involved in peer review for hospitals and health plans throughout my career, and for fourteen years I served on the Board of Directors of Mountain Pacific Quality Health, the Quality Improvement Organization for Medicare for Hawai`i, Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska. That experience has given me a thorough understanding of issues in health care quality improvement.

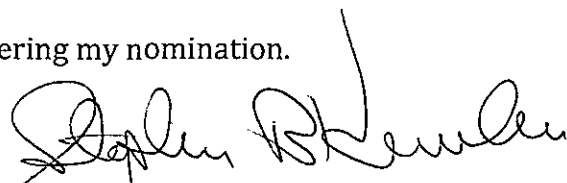
My health care public advocacy career began in 2008, when I submitted a resolution to the Hawai`i Medical Association supporting universal health care, and to my surprise, the HMA Council adopted it in March 2009. I started giving public talks on health care reform in 2009, including a televised talk on Olelo in September 2009. After an op-ed in the Honolulu Advertiser in November 2009 entitled, "Competition in Health Care Problematic," Sen. Clarence Nishihara called me and asked to talk about my ideas on health care reform. He encouraged me to continue with public speaking on health care, and suggested contacting churches. He also arranged a follow-up meeting with Sen. David Ige, and since then I have had numerous discussions about health care with Sen. Josh Green, Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland, and Sen. Rosalyn Baker.

Since 2009, I have published eight op-eds in local papers and online, and delivered more than fifteen talks on health care reform in various settings, including medical Grand Rounds, medical conferences, churches, and for health care advocacy groups. I served on Gov. Abercrombie's health care task force during his gubernatorial campaign, and in September 2011 he nominated me for the Hawai`i Health Authority. I consider this to be the culmination of my efforts in health care reform advocacy, and welcome the opportunity to bring my experiences and expertise to bear on developing a truly equitable, cost-effective, and sustainable health care system for the people of Hawai`i.

In thinking about what would work in health care reform, I have sought to clarify and articulate underlying principles, including both moral and ethical considerations and also the operational characteristics of effective health care systems. I have sought out examples of what has actually been shown to work, both within the U.S. and in other countries. I have tried to follow the money in health care financing, and to be quantitative and focus on the biggest drivers of wasted spending that does not add value to health care. These considerations have informed my writings and talks on health care, and I have already been applying them to the work of the Hawai'i Health Authority since my appointment in September 2011. I was recently appointed to be the representative from the Hawai'i Health Authority to the Governor's Hawai'i Healthcare Transformation Council.

At the time of my appointment to the Hawai'i Health Authority I was serving on the Board of Directors of University Health Alliance, a health insurance company. I resigned that position as soon as I received word of my appointment, as it would have been a conflict of interest. I am currently president-elect of the Hawai'i Medical Association, but since physicians are an essential component of health care, I do not consider that representing physician interests is a conflict of interest in the duties of the Hawai'i Health Authority. Furthermore, my highest priority is that our health care system serves the needs of the people of Hawai'i, above any special interests of physicians.

In closing, I would like to thank the Senate Health Committee for their advocacy on behalf of the people of Hawai'i, and for their vision and role in passing the bill to create the Hawai'i Health Authority. Thank you for considering my nomination.



Stephen B. Kemble, MD



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February 29, 2012

Josh Green, MD
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 683, Dr. Stephen Kemble's Nomination to the Hawaii Health Authority

Dear Senator Green:

I wish to strongly recommend Dr. Stephen Kemble to the Hawaii Health Authority. As you are well aware, Dr. Kemble has been a visionary in the area of health plan conceptualization to meet the future needs of the State of Hawai'i and its people. He has a strong national reputation as a thoughtful innovator in health policy.

Dr. Kemble understands the literature and evidence relevant to health care reform. Indeed, his articles have been some of the most innovative and powerful in recent years. He is fully committed to health care reform that puts the needs of patients first. He is also dedicated to health care reform that protects the physician-patient relationship. He has given much of his personal time over the past few years to educate physicians and the community on issues relevant to health care reform. I have attended and learned from many of his presentations.

Please create the opportunity for Dr. Kemble to contribute to the future of Hawai'i's health through the Hawaii Health Authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerris R. Hedges".

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean and Professor of Medicine
Barry & Virginia Weinman – Endowed Chair

Green4 - Mailene

From: Sen. Josh Green
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 9:22 AM
To: Green4 - Mailene
Subject: FW: Recommendation
Attachments: Kemble Recommendation.jpeg

-----Original Message-----

From: Deane Neubauer [<mailto:deanen@hawaii.edu>]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 9:44 AM
To: Sen. Josh Green
Subject: Recommendation

Attached please find a recommendation for the confirmation of Dr. Stephen Kemble to the Hawaii Health Authority. Best regards, Deane Neubauer



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February 29, 2012

Josh Green, MD
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
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Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM
Dean and Professor of Medicine
Barry & Virginia Weinman – Endowed Chair



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

DATE: Wednesday, March 7, 2012
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229

To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

From: Hawaii Medical Association
Dr. Roger Kimura, MD, President
Dr. Linda Rasmussen, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Joseph Zobian, MD, Legislative Co-Chair
Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: GM683 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Health Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEPHEN KEMBLE, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

In Support

Chairs & Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Association strongly supports the nomination of Stephen Kemble, M.D. to the Hawaii Health Authority. Dr. Kemble has long been a steady advocate of health care in the state, as well as an early advocate of health care reform measures consistent with those currently advanced by the Administration. His dedication to the wellness of Hawaii's residents and to implementation of sound health care policy to care for Hawaii's patients is without question.

It is without reservation that the Hawaii Medical Association supports the nomination of Stephen Kemble, M.D. to the Hawaii Health Authority.

OFFICERS

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