

TESTIMONY

GM691

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

Eric Tash
1717 Mott-Smith Drive
Honolulu Hawaii 96822

March 7, 2012

The Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol

Re: Appointment to the Board of Health Hearing, Room 229, Wednesday, March 7, 1:30 PM.

Dear Chairman Green, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

Thank you for considering my nomination to the Board of Health. I am honored to be nominated for the Board of Health and am sorry I'm not able to testify in person.

I am passionate about public health and the critical role the department plays in improving the safety and wellbeing of the community. I feel my experience in public health would be a benefit to the Board of Health in assisting the Director in planning for the future and in bringing community issues and concerns to her attention.

I have 35 plus years experience in public health planning, policy development, implementation and management. My work areas have included communicable disease education, HIV counseling, health survey data collection, physical fitness, and injury prevention with an emphasis on working with community-based agencies, organizations, task forces and coalitions.

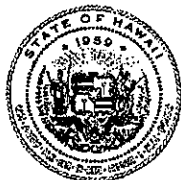
Although I retired in March 2010, I have continued to work with the Department of Health as a member of the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee and its Steering Committee.

I would be honored to serve on the Board of Health and hope you will consider my nomination.

Sincerely,

Eric Tash

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

March 7, 2012

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

G.M. 691, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawaii Board of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Eric Tash, for a term to expire 6-30-2016

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports confirmation of Eric Tash to
2 serve on the Hawaii Board of Health for a term to expire on June 30, 2016.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None

4 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointment of Eric Tash to serve on the Board of Health.
5 Eric Tash is a retired public health educator with many years of experience in developing and managing
6 public health programs. Prior to retirement, Mr. Tash was program manager for the department's Injury
7 Prevention and Control Program for sixteen years.

8
9 Mr. Tash has extensive public health experience and has managed programs in tobacco control, physical
10 activity, immigrant health, infectious disease control, and injury prevention. Mr. Tash previously has
11 served on the Board of Health for one year in an interim appointment. His professional experience in
12 public health will be an asset to the Board. We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable
13 consideration in confirming Eric Tash to serve on the Board of Health.

14
15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this appointment.



March 7, 2012, 1:30pm

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Dear Chairman Green and Senate Committee on Health,

Subject: **Governor's Message NO. 691 – Eric Tash**

The Injury Prevention Advisory Committee is honored to offer testimony in **strong support** of Eric Tash's nomination to the Board of Health. He is eminently qualified and brings integrity to the position as a strong public health professional with years of public service.

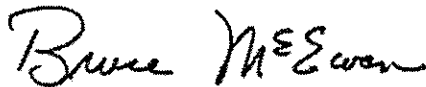
Eric Tash received his M.P.H. from the University of Hawaii in 1974. He worked for twenty five years at the Hawai'i State Department of Health, including nearly two decades as the program manager of the Injury Prevention and Control Section under Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch.

Mr. Tash established himself as a collaborator through his work with other state and county programs as well as with community partners. During his tenure at the Department of Health, his skills in program development, program implementation and management garnered national recognition from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mr. Tash clearly understands the important roles that both government and community play in protecting the public's health.

Established in 1990, the Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (IPAC) is an advocacy group committed to preventing and reducing injury in Hawai'i. IPAC members include public and private agencies, physicians, and professionals working together to address the eight leading areas of injury.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in strong support for Eric Tash's nomination to the Board of Health.

Sincerely,



Bruce McEwan, Chair
Injury Prevention Advisory Committee

Testimony for HTH 3/7/2012 1:30:00 PM GM691

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka

Organization: Individual

E-mail: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 3/2/2012

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Eric Tash to serve on the Board of Health, for a term to expire 6/30/2016. I have known Mr. Tash over 31 years as a colleague then as a supervisor in the HI Department of Health, Health Promotion and Education Branch. Prior to his retirement he was the Program Director of the Injury Prevention and Control Program. His leadership skills in public health, advocacy skills, and personal attributes working with the community at large, medical community, public health colleagues and other professionals from various agencies will be the assets he brings to the Board of Health.

Again, I strongly support Mr. Tash's nomination and confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

March 7, 2012

Senate Committee on Health
State of Hawaii

RE: Appointment of Eric Tash to the Hawaii Board of Health (GM 691)

Dear Senator Green, Senator Nishihara and Committee Members,

I am writing in SUPPORT of the appointment of Eric Tash to the Hawaii Board of Health. I have known Eric in a personal and professional capacity for many decades.

He has worked as a teacher, health educator and program manager within the DOE and DOH for most of his working life. He has helped coordinate the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and the bulk of his career has been in developing injury control initiatives in Hawaii, making Hawaii a safer place. He has made his mark in improving the safety of our residents in many areas such as child safety seat use, firearm safety, traffic safety, suicide prevention, and falls prevention for seniors.

He has been effective because he has worked collaborative with various partners and coalitions at the county, state, and federal areas. He knows Hawaii and how things work here, at the grass roots level, in the board rooms, and in the legislative arenas.

As a passionate and committed person and health professional, Eric has a broad understanding of health and our state of Hawaii. His many years of experience here have enabled him to appreciate what it takes to move ideas to the policy level. He will be an excellent addition to the Hawaii Board of Health and will help move the state towards continually improving the public health of all.

I recommend him with no reservations and hope you will confirm him as a member of the Board of Health. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Arthur H. Tani

Arthur H. Tani, MPH
3130 Ala Ilima Street, #9A
Honolulu, HI 96818
(cell – 808 342-3069)