

TESTIMONY

GM693

**HTH
Confirmation Hearing
03-14-2012**

693

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

**GM 693, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Health Planning Council
Hawaii County Subarea**

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

**Wednesday, March 14, 2012
1:30 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
2 of Wayne Higaki to the Hawaii County Subarea Health Planning Council.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the
5 Hawaii County Subarea Health Planning Council (HCSAC), Gubernatorial Nominee, Wayne
6 Higaki. Mr. Higaki is Vice President of Public Affairs of North Hawaii Community Hospital. He
7 is dedicated to his island community, serving as Chairman of the County of Hawaii Workforce
8 Investment Board, and member of the North Hawaii Rotary Club. Mr. Higaki has extensive
9 knowledge of the issues and concerns of health care services on the island and across the
10 state. Mr. Higaki has been an active and valuable member of the HCSAC.

11 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Mr. Higaki, enabling him to continue to
12 serve on the Hawaii County Subarea Health Planning Council.

Senate Testimony

**Bill: GM 693 - Gubernatorial Nominee Wayne Sachio Higaki,
Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea**

Hearing: Committee on Health
Chair: Senator Josh Green, M.D.
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012
Testimony By: Ken Wood, President & CEO, North Hawaii Community Hospital

Chair Green, members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to present my very strong support for Wayne Sachio Higaki's reappointment to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea. I am hoping for your positive consideration and confirmation of Mr. Higaki to this council.

With Mr. Higaki's participation, the council has promoted more effective use of existing health care resources and to assure that new services and equipment truly add value to the existing network of care. The council ultimately has assisted in assuring high quality health care and reasonable costs.

In closing, I believe that the State of Hawaii would benefit from a strong principled individual like Mr. Higaki, who has the experience and skill to fulfill the council's purpose. Thank you again for your positive consideration.

Senate Testimony

Bill: **GM 693** - Governorial Nominee **WAYNE SACHIO HIGAKI**, Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea.

Hearing: Committee on Health

Chair: Senator Josh Green, M.D.

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Testimony By: **Wayne Sachio Higaki**, Vice President, North Hawaii Community Hospital

Chair Green, members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to present background information about myself in your consideration of my confirmation and appointment to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea. Regretfully, I will not be able to personally attend the confirmation hearing due a previously scheduled trip to Washington D.C.

I was born and raised in Hawaii. I attended and graduated from Honokaa High School and Kapiolani Community College. I then completed a Fellowship at Sutter Memorial Hospital, through the University of California, Davis.

I have been in the health care field for 28 years with the last 17 years here in Hawaii. I have been with North Hawaii Community Hospital since it's opening in 1996. I also served as President of the Board of Directors at the Hamakua Health Center in Honokaa. I presently serve on Mayor Billy Kenoi's Healthcare Sustainability Taskforce.

I have served on the Statewide Health Coordinating Council and the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea for 8 years previously. A reappointment to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea would give me further opportunities to work with the State Health Planning and Development Agency in promoting more effective use of the existing health care resources and to assure that new services and equipment truly add value to the existing network of care. I believe that our work will assist in assuring high quality health care and reasonable costs.

In the past, conflicts of interest have been easily resolved by declaration on specific matters as required through consultation with the Ethics Commission.

I ask for you to support my nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea.

Thank you.