

TESTIMONY

GM697

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

TESTIMONY
OF
SHEILA NICHOLAS-SMITH
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
NOMINATION TO BIG ISLAND SUB AREA COUNSEL
ON
MARCH 7, 2012
GM697

I am submitting for consideration and confirmation as a member of the Big Island Sub Area Counsel, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHEILA NICHOLAS-SMITH.

I thank Governor Abercrombie , the chair and members of the committee as well as everyone that submitted letters of support.

I have worked in healthcare for 30 years. I started at age 16 as a nurse's aide to work my way through nursing school. I worked as a medical surgical nurse, an ICU / CCU nurse as well as a dialysis nurse through my twenties. I went into healthcare administration and have enjoyed working to serve the dialysis patients and their needs for over 22 years. I believe I have a lot of experiences to assist the Big Island to move forward with the healthcare needs in a very complex environment. I have lived in Hawaii for 3 years now and I am dedicated to create a better service on the Big Island for all residents. My family and I call the Big Island home and we want to contribute to make it a place for our children's future.

I truly love people and enjoy supporting, listening and integrating the needs of others to make the outcome harmonious and workable for all involved. I believe I have a skill to make things happen. I am a hard worker and I never mind rolling up my sleeves and doing the work also. I work well with groups and can motivate people into moving forward and making decisions. I can work in a roll of service or as a leader. My intention is always to support and assist to improve what we currently have in place.

I am also a strong advocate of health and knowledge of how to care for yourself. I am currently the Director of Home Therapies throughout Hawaii. I believe in educating on how to care for yourself in the convenience of your own home. I also like to educate on health and fitness. We frequently forget this

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area when speaking to people with already diagnosed illnesses. Prevention is the key and education is the need.

The Big Island has many needs that I know the committee members are well aware of. I hope to contribute to solving some of these problems by working with experts and contributing with my abilities in any way I can.

Thank you to everyone who has served before me. I hope to be able to shine like others have in the past. I hope to contribute in a way that makes a difference.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

Spela Nields Smith

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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 697, 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 Sheila Nicholas-Smith to the Hawaii County Subarea Health Planning Council (HCSAC).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the
5 HCSAC, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sheila Nicholas-Smith. Mrs. Nicholas-Smith is Liberty
6 Dialysis' Big Island Director of Operations and Director of Home Programs throughout Hawaii.
7 Mrs. Nicholas-Smith works on all the outer islands promoting, encouraging, and supporting
8 people to be able to go home to do their dialysis. She has been a resident of Hawaii for three
9 years. She is a Nationally Certified Massage Therapist and works in the community to
10 promote health and prevention of disease. Prior to being in Hawaii, she was in similar roles on
11 the mainland but also has many years of experience working in Critical Care Units as a
12 registered nurse. Ms. Nicholas-Smith has been an active member of the HCSAC.

13 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Ms. Nicholas-Smith, enabling her to
14 continue to serve on the Hawaii County Subarea Health Planning Council.

Senate Testimony

GMLA7

Bill: Nominee **SHEILA NICHOLAS-SMITH**, Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea.

Hearing: Committee on Health

Chair: Senator Josh Green

GMLA7

Senator Josh Green, members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to present my support for Sheila Nicholas-Smith for confirmation and appointment to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea (SAC).

I wish that I could attend in person to communicate my unequivocal support of Ms Sheila Nicholas Smith to serve Hawaii County on the SAC, but must settle for letter that can not express satisfactorily how wonderful this appointment would be for the community.

Sheila managed a group of dialysis facilities which were acquired by a large dialysis organization when I served as Operational Vice President for the division to which the group was assigned. In the due diligence prior to the acquisition, the transition to the company and throughout Sheila's years of participation in the management team for our division she distinguished herself by her intelligent and creative approach to challenges, her ethical compass, her patient centered viewpoint and her optimism and humor. Her "outside the box" strategies both to address, but more importantly to prevent, safety and quality issues were the both fresh and successful. I found her a compelling leader, a highly skilled nursing professional and an incredible delight as a colleague. Her move to home patient program training and support from in-center management was both a natural evolution offering as it did a host of challenges well served by her resourcefulness and natural coaching skills, but it was a tremendous loss to the mega-refined in-center process that had so much to gain from her wide open approach to person-centered process improvement. I was delighted to find that in her move to Hawaii she chose to combine management of both modalities.

Sheila has responded generously to request to assist managers struggling with unusual challenges. Her willingness to extend her role in health care even further can bring only wonderful things to the patient community she will serve. Please support Ms. Nicholas-Smith's nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea.

Thank you.
Bonnie B Greenspan RN, MBA
Member, CMS ESRD Survey and Support Team

Janet Marrack, LCSW
PO Box 7044
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

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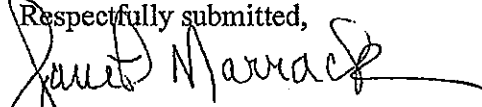
January 10, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to recommend Sheila Nicholas-Smith-RN, for the Hawaii County Sub Area Council. She is currently Director of Operations with Liberty Dialysis for the Big Island and for Home Dialysis programs statewide. Sheila has been in healthcare as an RN for over 25 years in the fields of ICU/CCU, dialysis and administration.

I am a Nephrology Social Worker and have worked with Sheila for more than two years. I am impressed and supported by her forward thinking, problem solving skills and her ability to look at both micro and macro implications. She is a strong advocate for the individual patient and understands how to meet patient needs within the framework of our complex healthcare system.

She is dedicated to improving the delivery of healthcare services for better patient outcomes with increased efficiency and reduced cost. I strongly recommend that the Senate of the State of Hawaii confirm Sheila Nicholas-Smith for the HCSAC.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Marrack
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Senate Testimony

Gm697

Bill: Nominee **SHEILA NICHOLAS-SMITH**, Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea.
Hearing: Committee on Health
Chair: Senator **Josh Green**
Date: **1/10/2012**
Place: **Hawaii State Legislature**

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

Senator Josh Green, members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to present my support for Sheila Nicholas-Smith for confirmation and appointment to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea (SAC). Regretfully, I will not be able to attend the confirmation hearing to provide my support in person but ask that you consider my letter instead.

I believe Mrs. Nicholas-Smith can serve Hawaii County on the SAC with the best interest of the community at heart. Mrs. Nicholas-Smith has been in healthcare as an RN for over 25 years in the field of ICU/CCU, dialysis, administration. Her passion is to assist Hawaii residents to go home for services with support from the healthcare system. She enjoys serving on committees to develop plans of implementation to improve healthcare as a whole and wants to make a difference in Hawaii for the residents who live here.

I ask for your support in Mrs. Nicholas-Smith's nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea.

Thank you.

Gm697

January 13, 2012

Senator Josh Green M. D.
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 222
415 South Beritania
Honolulu, HI 96819

Re: Nominee Sheila Nicholas-Smith, Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea

Dear Senator Josh Green:

Senator Josh Green, members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to present my support for Sheila Nicholas-Smith for confirmation and appointment to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea (SAC). Regretfully, I will not be able to attend the confirmation hearing myself to provide my support in person, but ask that you consider my letter instead.

I believe Mrs. Sheila Nicholas-Smith can well serve Hawaii County on the SAC with the best interest of the community at heart. Mrs. Nicholas Smith has been in healthcare as an RN for over 25 years in the field of ICU/CCU, dialysis, and administration. Her passion is to assist Hawaii residents to go home for services with support from the healthcare system. She enjoys serving on committees to develop plans of implementation to improve healthcare as a whole and wants to make a difference in Hawaii for the residents who live here.

I ask for your support in Mrs. Nicholas-Smith's nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea.

Sincerely,



Dawn M. Murphy MLT, RN

LIBERTY  DIALYSIS-HAWAII 

Gm697

2226 Liliha Street, Suite 226
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Phone: (808) 585-4600 • Facsimile: (808) 585-4601

1/10/2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Ms. Sheila Nicolas-Smith's application to serve on the HCSAC. Sheila has 25 years of nursing experience working in areas such as ICU/CCU, dialysis and healthcare administration. She is currently the Director of Operations for Liberty Dialysis-Hawaii on the Big Island and Home Program. It is her leadership in the Home Program that has made her so valuable. She is passionate and hard-working. She has made the Home Program grow and become more profitable. She is a problem solver and follows up any concerns that we have quickly, and efficiently.

She is loyal, skillful and conscientious. She is always eager to pitch in and work with us. She is an excellent person to serve the community on the HCSAC. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Eden Goto, RN

Liberty Dialysis Home Program

GM697

Owen Matsui - Chief Technician
Liberty Dialysis - Hawaii
140 Rainbow Dr.
Hilo, HI 96720



January 12, 2012

To: Senate Committee on Health

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to present my support and recommendation for Sheila Nicholas-Smith, on her nomination to serve in the Health Planning Council. I have served under her direction for the last 2 years at Liberty Dialysis-Hawaii, managing the technical aspects of our Dialysis Clinics, and the Home Dialysis programs state-wide.

I sincerely believe that Sheila will be a tremendous asset to the SAC, and will serve our community well. In addition to her vast experience in Nursing, Dialysis, and Healthcare Administration, I have seen first-hand that Sheila has a sincere passion to improve health services for Hawaii residents, and that every patient matters to her. I have seen her go "out of her way" many times to assist a patient in need, as well as for our staff members. I know that she is very passionate about improving the healthcare situation here on the islands, and that she is always thinking of new ideas and processes to improve various situations here.

Thank you very much for considering my opinions and observations, and hope to have your support in considering Sheila for this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Owen Matsui", written in a cursive style.

Owen Matsui

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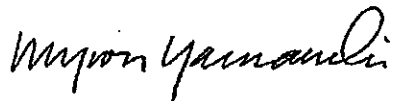
Myron Yamauchi, LSW
Liberty Dialysis Hawaii – Hilo
140 Rainbow Drive
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 935-3422

January 10, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Mrs. Sheila Nicholas-Smith, RN, to continue to serve on the Hawaii County Sub Area Council. I have had the good fortune of working with her since she relocated to Hawaii in 2009 and became our regional director. Her training, medical background and administrative experience gives her a special insight into the health concerns of the people of the island of Hawaii. She is sensitive to the cultural differences present in the communities she works in, and will continue to be an asset to the HCSAC. Kindly contact me should you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Myron Yamauchi, LSW

Gm697

Teresita Layugan

Ph: (808) 856-2109

105 Maui Lani Parkway Suite 100

Email: tlayugan@libertydialysis.com

Wailuku, HI 97893

January 11, 2012

To whom it may concern,

Letter of Recommendation for Mrs. Sheila Nicholas-Smith

I am honored to write a letter of support for Mrs. Sheila Nicholas-Smith. As a regional director of Big Island and dialysis home programs, she has been essential in organizing and managing the dialysis home programs as well as in-center dialysis. Her ability to be professional and communicate with her peers has been fundamental in keeping multiple facilities on different islands integrated. Her passion for home dialysis has allowed for much growth to the home programs. Mrs. Sheila Nicholas-Smith is very reliable, trust-worthy with the ability to create a positive team environment with co-workers and colleagues. With over 25 years of experience in the medical field, she has tremendous understanding, knowledge, skills of the medical field in both the nursing and administrative aspects and how decisions could affect the community. If allowed to serve on the HCSAC, there is no doubt that she will serve as a member with the community's best interest at the forefront.

Sincerely;



Teresita Layugan RN

Gm697

Pattee Delima
105 Maui Lani Parkway Suite 100
Wailuku, HI 97893

Ph: (808) 856-2109

Email: pdelima@libertydialysis.com

January 11, 2012

To whom it may concern,

Letter of Recommendation for Mrs. Sheila Nicholas-Smith

I am pleased to write a letter of support for Mrs. Sheila Nicholas-Smith. As a regional director of Big Island and dialysis home programs, she has been essential in organizing and managing the dialysis home programs as well as in-center dialysis. Her ability to be professional and communicate with her peers has been fundamental in keeping multiple facilities on different islands integrated. Her passion for home dialysis has allowed for much growth to the home programs. Mrs. Sheila Nicholas-Smith is reliable and trust-worthy with the ability to fit in with colleagues and co-workers to create a positive team environment. With over 25 years of experience in the medical field, she has tremendous understanding of the medical field in both the nursing and administrative aspects and how decisions could affect the community. If allowed to serve on the HCSAC, there is no doubt that she will serve as a member with the community's best interest at the forefront.

Sincerely,



Pattee Delima

Elizabeth SK DeGrood, RN, MPH
P.O. Box 1266
Kurtistown, HI 96760
Cell: (808)895-1841
Email: edegrood@libertydialysis.com

GMLA7

January 11, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

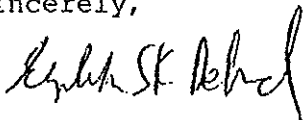
I am writing in support of Sheila Nicholas-Smith, RN, CNN, who I believe has the utmost regard for the health and welfare of the people in her community, the County of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii.

Sheila has worked in healthcare as a registered nurse for over 25 years. Her areas of expertise include: Intensive Care, Critical Care, Dialysis, and Administration. Her current passion is to assist the Residents of Hawaii to be able to have healthcare services in their home with support from the healthcare system. Sheila enjoys serving on committees which develop plans of implementation to improve healthcare as a whole. She wants to make a difference for the residents of Hawaii.

I have witnessed Sheila in action on governing body meetings, quality improvement meetings, and managerial meetings to name a few. She continues to be a great supporter in improving the care of those she is given charge over whether it be employees or patients.

I believe Sheila Nicholas-Smith will be a great asset when she is given the privilege to serve on the Hawaii County SAC.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth SK DeGrood, RN, MPH