

# GM745

Lani Tsuneishi

Confirmation to the  
Center for Nursing  
Advisory Board



GOV. MSG. NO. 745

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

February 17, 2012

The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Tsutsui and Members of the Senate,

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **Center for Nursing Advisory Board**:

CENTER FOR NURSING  
ADVISORY BOARD

TERM TO EXPIRE

REMARKS

Lani Tsuneishi

6/30/2015

Labor

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

To: Chair Jill Tokuda and Illustrious Education committee members,

From: Lani Tsuneishi GM745

March 1, 2012

Subject: Nomination to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board

Thank you Chair Tokuda for this opportunity to be considered to serve on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board. I have received your list of questions and so I will take this opportunity to answer each and every one of them.

Currently I have moved to a new position as the Assistant Director of Nursing at Leahi Hospital as of February 22, 2012 from Hawaii State Hospital.

*a) Why do you wish to be a member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board?*

My desire to volunteer for the Center for Nursing Advisory Board is to learn from the other renowned nursing board members and be a part of developing the vision for Nursing in Hawaii. Hawaii Nurses continue to provide excellent care and the studies and research done at the Center for Nursing demonstrates Hawaii leads the way in evidenced based practice! I have 30 years of nursing experience but given this new opportunity to serve, my contributions will pale in comparison to what I will learn!

*b) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board?*

My role and responsibility is to help support the programs and vision of the Center. Assist in development of the projects and create long term plans for the future of nursing here in Hawaii. The Center for Nursing has embraced the recent Institute of Medicine (IOM) Future of Nursing Report (2010) and is integral in implementing the recommendations into nursing in Hawaii. It will be an excellent opportunity to learn and assist in the implementation of this important work. It is exciting to learn about the Centers programs such as the Residency Program that Leahi Hospital is a part of.

*c) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.*

For 30 years I have been a nurse and 19 of those years I was at Hawaii State Hospital. I have been an active HGEA steward for about 15 years and have always advocated for safe working conditions of the nurses at Hawaii State Hospital.

It was great that Chair Tokuda, you have been supportive of the employees at Hawaii State Hospital and the staff there have been gratified that you have come to visit in the past.

My nursing work experience and my work as a union steward, officer and a board of director's member in labor has allowed me to educate about the working conditions of nurses and to be an advocate for my profession is why I am asking for your consideration to this board.

*d) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?*

In a recent Institute of Medicine study, it noted that nurses are not considered health care leaders especially in the area of health care reform. I would like to change that nursing here in Hawaii are leading the charge in health care reform and not waiting for others. Nursing has a commitment to the public, the patients we serve and each other to continue to provide and maintain a high level of care!! Also I want to bring attention to the epidemic issue of nurses and workplace violence. In my experience in mental health, assaults should not be an expected part of the job.

*e) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.*

The three qualities that best describe me in my role are 1) **advocate** not only for patients but also for nurses 2) a **lifelong learner** and 3) **determined**. The three qualities have always made me stand out amongst my colleagues because it is not enough to speak out on issues but continue to follow through to get it rectified. As an advocate I can speak out on issues that I am familiar with, and feel strongly on but also to have the awareness to continue to learn and put into practice what I learn.

*f) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Center for Nursing Advisory Board?*

In the past, I had felt strongly about legal protection for health care workers who are assaulted while providing care. After many years floating from legislative session to legislative session, I had provided testimony multiple times and was glad to see the laws change (effective 2007) that now make it a class C felony to intentionally assault health care workers.

Also a number of years ago, there was a bill to close Hawaii State Hospital, myself and other workers met with legislators, and the unions to help write a bill and keep the hospital open. Thank you Alex Santiago and Suzanne Chun Oakland.

*g) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?*

There is not conflict of interest, but I work part time as an Adjunct Professor for Hawaii Pacific University. Since some of my classes often conflict with board meetings, I have not had an opportunity to attend two meetings in the last two months. So next semester, I will change my class schedule to avoid the conflict in scheduling.

GM745

Testimony

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
The Senate  
Committee on Education

Friday, March 9, 2012  
Conference Room 225  
1:15p.m.

**G.M. 745**  
**Center for Nursing Advisory Board**  
**Nominee Lani Tsuneishi**

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

I am very pleased to submit my testimony in **strong support** of nominee Lani Tsuneishi to serve on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Ms. Tsuneishi has been employed as a Registered Professional Nurse since 1984. She began her nursing career in 1984 serving the chronically homeless and mentally unstable communities in the Los Angeles area. She relocated to Hawaii in 1992 and was employed at the Hawaii State Hospital located in Kaneohe and served as a Charge Nurse and was promoted up the Nursing ranks to a Nursing Quality Improvement Coordinator, Interim Quality Improvement and Department Head and her last position was as an Advanced Practice Nurse-Clinical Nurse Specialist. She was recently selected to be the Assistant Director of Nursing for Leahi Hospital, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

In addition to Ms. Tsuneishi's exemplary employment history, she has been a Clinical Adjunct Professor on a part time basis at Hawaii Pacific University since 2006. She is a Clinical facilitator for an Altered Mental Health Lab group of undergrad Nursing students. She also is a Clinical Faculty for the Therapeutic Communications Lab for undergrad students.

Ms. Tsuneishi has been a Research Nurse for the Pacific Addiction Research Center since April 2010. She is involved with assessing the mental and substance abuse treatment needs of incarcerated women.

Ms. Tsuneishi has also been involved in numerous community service projects. She is a Red Cross volunteer, provides CPR instruction in the community and is the Chair of the Witness Board for Makiki Christian Church.

She has served as an Advisory Board Member of the Center for Nursing in the past and is the Oahu at Large Director for the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau and the National League of Nursing Educators.

Ms. Tsuneishi is an excellent nominee to serve on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board. Her extensive knowledge and experience in the Nursing field will make her a very valuable member of the board.

I respectfully request your support in confirming Lani Tsuneishi as a member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

Carolee C. Kubo



Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
March 9, 2012, 1:15 p.m.

by  
Gail P. Tiwanak RN, MBA  
Director  
Hawaii State Center for Nursing

GM 745

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of GM 745 nominating Ms. Lani Tsuneishi to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, representing Labor.

Ms. Tsuneishi is an Advanced Practice Nurse specializing in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from California State University, in Los Angeles and a Master of Science degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Lani is the consummate professional, previously serving as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at the Hawai'i State Hospital, a Clinical Adjunct Professor at Hawai'i Pacific University and a Research Nurse for the Pacific Addiction Research Center.

Ms. Tsuneishi is a member of HGEA Unit 09 and is on the Board of Directors representing Nursing and has also served as Chief Steward for Hawai'i State Hospital, Bargaining Unit 09. She is also a member of National League of Nursing and a CPR instructor for the American Red Cross. She is very familiar with the work of the Center, frequently visiting our website and refers nursing students to the website for information and reports on nursing workforce.

Ms. Tsuneishi's knowledge and expertise in nursing and health care, as well as her involvement in HGEA will be an excellent addition to the Advisory Board of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing.

Ms. Tsuneishi demonstrates excellence in leadership, practice and an ongoing commitment to the nursing profession, future and the people of Hawaii. She would be an excellent addition to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Tsuneishi.



**HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS**  
C O R P O R A T I O N

*"Touching Lives Everyday"*

**Senate Committee on Education**  
**Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair**  
**Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

March 9, 2012  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225  
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony Supporting GM 745 Center for Nursing Advisory Board,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, LANI TSUNEISHI**

Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation supports GM 743.

HHSC experienced a windfall as Lani Tsuneishi recently joined our organization as Assistant Director of Nursing after an exemplary career at Hawaii State Hospital. The termination of the federal consent decree at Hawaii State Hospital was the result of the commitment and tireless effort by a number of individuals, including Lani. Her dedication and perseverance in improving the quality of care, staff education and training, and developing nursing processes at HSH certainly contributed to the lifting of judicial oversight.

Lani's commitment to the nursing profession, enriching the lives of incarcerated females, and to educating nursing students is demonstrated through her activities as a researcher at the Pacific Addiction Research Center and clinical adjunct professor for nursing at Hawaii Pacific University. Her research of female inmates at Oahu Community Correctional Center will lead to treatment recommendations to address mental and substance related issues. Sharing her expertise on behavioral and mental health provides a rich curriculum for her undergraduate nursing students. We believe the Center for Nursing Advisory Board will benefit substantially with the appointment of Lani Tsuneishi as a member.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Lani's nomination to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Education

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
March 9, 2012

GM 745 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION  
AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CENTER FOR  
NURSING ADVISORY BOARD LANI TSUNEISHI

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the confirmation of Lani Tsuneishi to the Hawaii State Center for Nursing Advisory Board. Ms. Tsuneishi has been an active member and union steward of the HGEA for many years until her recent promotion as the Assistant Director of Nursing at Leahi Hospital.

Her extensive work experience in the field of nursing and solid academic credentials will make her a valuable member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board. Ms. Tsuneishi worked at the Hawaii State Hospital for almost 20 years and holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in Advanced Practice Nursing with a specialty in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing.

As a Center for Nursing Advisory Board member, Ms. Tsuneishi will be able to assist the Center in achieving its statutory functions as outlined in Section 304D-3, HRS. In particular, we believe she will help the Center to develop and implement strategies to recruit and retain nurses. While Hawaii is not experiencing a shortage of registered nurses currently, that situation will change over the next 5-10 years as more nurses reach retirement age. Her experience as a front-line nurse over many years is an important perspective that deserves representation on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

We are very pleased to support Lani Tsuneishi's confirmation to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director