

GM779

DEBRA KUBOTA

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Physical Therapy, Gubernatorial Nominee, DEBRA KUBOTA, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Report Title: Board of Physical Therapy

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by</u> <u>Date</u>		Status Text
3/9/2012	S	Received.
3/9/2012	S	Referred to CPN.
3/19/2012	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 04-03-12 9:30AM in conference room 229.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BRIAN SCHATZ
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. Box 541

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
www.hawaii.gov/dcca

KEALI'I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012**

Tuesday, April 3, 2012
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 779
DEBRA KUBOTA**

WRITTEN ONLY

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Keali'i S. Lopez, and I am the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("DCCA" or the "Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 779 regarding the appointment of Debra Kubota to the Board of Physical Therapy ("Board") as a Physical Therapist member. The Department respectfully requests the Committee to recommend that the Senate advise and consent this appointment to the Board.

Ms. Kubota is Supervisor of the Rehabilitation Services at Kaiser Permanente. In that capacity, she oversees rehabilitation services at all outpatient clinics in the state. Ms. Kubota is a licensed physical therapist in the State of Hawaii and in the State of California, and has extensive background and experience in physical therapy and rehabilitation.

Ms. Kubota is also an active member of the Hawaii chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) and serves as the chair of HAPTA's Board of Physical Therapy Liaison Committee and is a member of HAPTA's legislative committee. Through her experience as a representative of HAPTA, Ms. Kubota attended many, if not most, of the meetings of the Board of Physical Therapy, and is familiar with the board's processes and with many of the board's topics of discussion.

Ms. Kubota is particularly interested in exploring how the standards of the industry may be maintained or improved through, among other things, continuing education.

In light of her background, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Ms. Kubota will prove to be an asset to the State and to this Board. I respectfully request the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to this appointment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Debra T. Kubota—Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy—GM 779
Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012
Testimony in Support

Dear Senator Baker and committee members,

I am writing in support of Debra Kubota's appointment to the State Physical Therapy Licensing Board. Mrs. Kubota is highly qualified for this position. She has decades of experience as a provider of physical therapy as well as a manager at Kaiser Permanente. She has shown steady commitment to the profession by her experience as the HAPTA Liaison to the PT Licensing Board for the last several years. Via her wealth of professional experience, she is well acquainted with the issues in the world of physical therapy, as well as the processes followed by the Board. She is articulate, organized, and able to work towards consensus. She has demonstrated a very high level of integrity and preparedness over the years in her service as the HAPTA Liaison.

Aloha, and thank you for your consideration,

Ann Frost, PT
Queen's Women's Health Center
382-2655



Hearing: April 3, 2012 9:30am Room 229

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: In support of GM 779 -Debra Kubota to the Board of Physical Therapy

Dear Senator Baker,

It is with pleasure that I recommend Debbie Kubota for appointment to the Board of Physical Therapy. Debbie has been practicing as a physical therapist since 1979 and has been with Kaiser Permanente Hawaii since 1994. She is currently the supervisor of Rehabilitation Services at Kaiser Permanente Hawaii.

Debbie has been attending the board of physical therapy even without being appointed to the board. She worked diligently to assist the board with the updating of the rules for PTs under the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This is how I became acquainted with her. The board worked very hard on the rules but it was taking a long time and many, many drafts to complete. At Debbie's request I too tried to assist and to help her and the other PTs work within the process. Honestly, though, I learned much more from Debbie than she learned from me. The rules are completed and the people working on and using rules seem satisfied with the outcome.

Debbie has demonstrated a deep concern for providing the best care for the members of our community and a strong support for the practice of physical therapy and the people who are licensed to perform this important treatment.

I urge the committee and the senate to confirm the appointment of Debra Kubota to the Board of Physical Therapy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Dendle
Director, Government Relations

711 Kapiolani Blvd
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: 808-432-5210
Facsimile: 808-432-5906
Mobile: 808-754-7007
E-mail: phyllis.dendle@kp.org

**Julie D. Lund, OTR/L HFS
Injury Prevention Services**

1009 Kiele Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815

161 SW 7th St.

Chehalis, WA 98532

julielund2000@hotmail.com 360.269.7384

March 22, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 5
Hawaii State Capital
415 S Beretania, Street Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Vice Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senatorial District 10
Hawaii State Capital
415 S Beretania, Street Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 9:30am
Debra T. Kubota - Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy, **GM 779**
Testimony for Advise and Consent

As a Registered Occupational Therapist and business owner who has been in practice for over 25 years, I feel excited and confident to submit my testimony on behalf of my personal friend and valued therapy peer, Debbie Kubota. I humbly feel that I am solidly qualified to testify in support of her nomination for the Board of Physical Therapy. I have had the opportunity to work along side Ms. Kubota as a work peer and as her subordinate in 2 different out-patient therapy settings. During this time, I was able to observe her behavior and expertise as she oversaw the execution of therapy services. Her commitment to excellence in everything she does is an over-riding characteristic of her professional approach. Ms. Kubota is invested in "doing things right" such that patient, therapist, physician and payor are all considered in the proper execution of services. I have always found her to be fair, very committed to her profession and a champion for providing quality therapy services.

Not only can I speak to her professional integrity, I am fortunate to testify on behalf of her personal integrity. My friendship with Ms. Kubota has spanned over 20 years, during which I have seen her in a variety of social situations including family events, church events and social functions. In each setting, I have experienced Ms. Kubota to be **one of the most** consistently honest, fair and loving people I have known in my lifetime. I feel fortunate to know her. There are very few people in life who you know will always do the "right thing", whether it is in her business or personal life. I strongly support Ms. Kubota's Nomination for the Board of Physical Therapy. It is a wise choice!

Sincerely,

Julie Lund, OTR/L HFS
Injury Prevention Services

Testimony Written for Debbie T. Kubota, GM 779
Hearing Date April 3, 2012

Rosalyn Baker
Chairman Commerce and Customer Protection Committee
Senatorial District
Hawaii State Capital, 415
S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Baker,

I am writing to you as a personal friend and business associate of Mrs. Debbie T. Kubota who I am nominating for a physical therapist position on the Hawaii State Board of Physical Therapy. I have known Mrs. Kubota for over 10 years and fully support her nomination for the position. Over the years she has displayed nothing but the highest integrity and moral character. Through the years, she has assisted me in analyzing numerous complex issues that we face in the healthcare industry on a daily basis. In my opinion, her ability to objectively see all sides of an issue makes her the perfect person to serve on the Board.

I feel that the State of Hawaii would sincerely benefit from an appointment of Mrs. Kubota to this position.

Regards,



James C. Vagenas
Director, Compliance Operations
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.

March 29, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 5
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Vice-Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senatorial District 10
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Debra T. Kubota—Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy—GM 779
Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Honorable Rosalyn Baker and Brian Taniguchi:

As a physical therapist for the past 28 years, principal of a business with thirty employees in Hawaii, and as President of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association(HAPTA); it is a pleasure to testify on Mrs. Debra Kubota's nomination to the Board of Physical Therapy. I worked with the nominee at Kaiser Permanente in the mid 1990's, kept in touch throughout the years, and have observed her actions as Chair of the Board of Physical Therapy Liaison Committee for the past three years. As for recent accomplishments, Mrs. Kubota was instrumental in contributing to the HAPTA team efforts in the recent passing of the direct access administrative rules.

Mrs Kubota has served for over thirty years with titles as Staff physical therapist, Senior physical therapist, Program manager, Quality assurance specialist, Director of administrative services, and in her current position, as Supervisor of Rehabilitation Services for Kaiser Permanente across the Hawaii Region. Her work extends beyond physical therapy, supervising services delivered by occupational therapists and speech therapists. Quality of care and providing services beyond customer satisfaction are her daily priorities. She understands the economic times and the challenges facing therapists and departments in providing quality and value. She is well aware of advances made in the Physical Therapy profession that will contribute toward improved healthcare and well-being.

Mrs. Debra Kubota is widely respected in the community not only for her leadership, but for her active parent involvement in booster clubs and associations. She is one you can count on, is fair, and trustworthy.

I strongly support Mrs. Kubota's nomination to the Board of Physical Therapy. She has served well as Chair of the Board of Physical Therapy Liaison Committee since 2005 to present. Her demonstrated actions come from the heart and what truly is best for the patients, profession, and our community.

Sincerely,

Arthur Lum, P.T.

HAPTA President



March 20, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 5
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Hearing Date Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 9:30 AM
Debra T. Kubota--Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy, GM 779
Testimony for Advise and Consent

Dear Senator Baker:

It is my privilege to support the nomination of Debbie T. Kubota to the State of Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy. I have been a colleague of Ms. Kubota for over thirty years and can attest to her professional skills, experience, and character.

Ms. Kubota's clinical and administrative skills are well-developed. She has applied her knowledge across a continuum of physical therapy settings to include hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and outpatient clinics. She has worked as a therapist and an administrator in both the fee-for-service sector and the managed care environment. At Kaiser Permanente, Ms. Kubota serves as the Supervisor of Rehabilitation Services, where her many duties include overseeing therapy compliance with appropriate federal and state laws and regulations.

Ms. Kubota's character is strong and she remains passionate about the physical therapy profession. Throughout her dealings, she has always remembered that the patient comes first and makes decisions with this basic core truth in mind.

If I can be of further assistance in the nomination process of this excellent candidate, please feel free to call me at (808) 432-2186.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Bielecki".

Richard A. Bielecki, M.Ed., M.B.A.
Manager, Clinical Services

March 20, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 5
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Hearing Date Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 9:30 AM
Debra T. Kubota - Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy, GM 799
Testimony for Advise and Consent

Dear Senator Baker:

As a Physical Therapist with over 40 years of experience, I can say without hesitation that Debra Kubota is one of the most ethical, conscientious, knowledgeable and dedicated professionals that I have ever had the pleasure to know. I am very pleased and not at all surprised that Debra has been selected as a nominee to the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy. I feel honored to have the opportunity to contribute my most sincere recommendation that her nomination to the Board of Physical Therapy be confirmed.

Debra has been my direct supervisor in her role as Rehab Services Director at Kaiser for the last 4 years. As the sole provider of Physical Therapy services on the West side of Hawaii at the Kaiser Kona clinic, I rely on Debra's expertise and guidance regarding an array of issues including those involving administration, legalities, politics, ethics, policy and procedures, scope of practice, patient and medical community relations and evidence based practices. Debra has been my mentor, supporter, clinical and professional advisor, physician and staff liaison and all around champion of the profession and is a strong patient advocate.

I strongly support Debra's nomination to the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy based on her professional background, her demonstrated successes as Rehab Services Director at Kaiser, her strong moral character and her willingness to serve her community and the profession.

Sincerely,

Vicki Hutchison Niederkorn, PT
Kaiser Permanente Kona Clinic
75-184 Hualalai Road
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

The Honorable Rosalyn Baker
State Senate
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Brian Taniguchi
State Senate
Vice Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

STATEMENT OF EDMUND. H.K.L. HO
Physical Therapist Assistant

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

9:30 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

**Governor's Message 779: Nomination of Debra T. Kubota to the Board of Physical
Therapy**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the Governor's Nomination of Debra T. Kubota to the Hawaii State Board of Physical Therapy. I have the privilege of being an employee supervised by Debra, as well as served as a Hawaii Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) liaison to the Board of Physical Therapy with Debra. Debra possess the communication skills, organization and problem solving skills, the ability to effectively delegate, as well as the ability to be fair with the staff which are all important attributes of a Board member. Debra most importantly has the leadership qualities that make her a great selection to the Hawaii State Board of Physical Therapy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Senator Rosalyn Baker

Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Senatorial District 5

Hawaii State Capital, Room 230

Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Brian Taniguchi

Vice-Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Senatorial District 10

Hawaii State Capital, Room 219

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: GM 779 – Debra Kubota, nominee for Board of Physical Therapy

Please accept my strong support for Debbie Kubota as a nominee for the Board of Physical Therapy. I am certain she will serve in a highly professional manner and will work hard to benefit the residents of Hawaii.

I have known Debbie Kubota personally for 25 years. In that time, I have seen her have many roles as a wife, mother, community supporter and business professional. On a regular day, I have seen her play the organ for a church service, then coordinate a group of youth learning to play taiko drums, then dash off to watch her son play soccer. She has the ability to coordinate a wide variety of projects, some very stressful, but always in a cheerful and caring way.

Debbie Kubota cares about our local community. But even more, she cares about her family. Her life revolves around her husband and three children, the oldest graduating from college this spring to the youngest at Kailua High School. Her volunteer work at the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin includes teaching Dharma School and recently accepting the position of President of the Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma School Teachers' Association.

In all ways Debbie is a professional. When my son needed help maneuvering through the Kaiser Permanente system, she was most helpful. I am certain that is the way she treats everyone she works with. Her ability to quickly diagnose a situation helps in her success. Her quiet demeanor has a calming influence and helps diffuse moments of high stress. Her organizational skills keep a project on track and keeps a group together working toward a common goal.

I have seen Debbie take on progressively difficult professional challenges. From her early career as a Physical Therapist to managing small programs to becoming a state-wide supervisor and director. In all ways she has been successful.

I strongly encourage the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee to approve the nomination of Debra Kubota to the Board of Physical Therapy.

Please contact me if any further information is needed.

Mark Merriam, mark.merriam@live.com, or, 808.381.5504

March 27, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 5
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Debra T. Kubota—Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy—GM 779
Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Honorable Rosalyn Baker:

As a physical therapist and American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties Certified Specialist in Orthopedics with 23 years of experience, I am thrilled to learn that Debra Kubota has been nominated to the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy. Considering her extensive clinical and administrative experience and skill, I cannot think of a more deserving candidate for this position. I have worked with Debra Kubota since 1994 and have always found her to demonstrate astute judgment. She develops excellent rapport with all individuals and is well respected and admired by her colleagues and peers. She is an asset to any team and is adept at analyzing a problem from varying perspectives and developing an innovative and effective solution. Her intelligence and tremendous work ethic have made her a gifted clinician and administrator. On a personal note, she possesses a pleasant and friendly demeanor and is of impeccable moral character. I am fortunate to be associated with her as both a professional colleague and friend. Debra Kubota is deserving of your consideration and confirmation and would be an outstanding contributor to the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy.

Respectfully,

Anna M. Lescak, MPT, OCS

Lucy Lessard, PT
P.O. Box 89165
Honolulu, HI 96830
April 2, 2012

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 229
April 3, 2012, 9:30 a.m.

**RE: GM 779 Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Physical Therapy,
Gubernatorial Nominee, DEBRA KUBOTA, PT**

Dear Chair Senator Baker, Vice Chair Senator Taniguchi and committee members:

I am writing to you to express my whole-hearted support of Debra Kubota who has been nominated to sit on the Board of Physical Therapy.

I am a physical therapist who has practiced for 31 years in many areas of physical therapy: orthopedics, acute neurology, long-term care, academia and management. For the past 7 years I have practiced in Hawaii, and have come to know Debra over the past 4 years.

Debra demonstrates the qualities that I believe are needed to serve on the licensing board for our profession. She is knowledgeable about the profession and the rules and regulations at a state and national level. She is progressive in the profession, attends meetings and continuing education opportunities and is well regarded by her peers. She is a fair minded individual who is passionate, not only about the profession but foremost of the individuals and community in which we serve.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony and urge you to confirm Debra for the Physical Therapy Board.

Sincerely,

Lucy Lessard, MSc PT, MBA

Lisa Woods
485 Nimitz Rd
Kailua, HI 96734

March 20, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 5
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Vice-Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senatorial District 10
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Hearing Date Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 9:30 AM.
Debra T. Kubota, nominee for Board of Physical Therapy, GM 779

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you in regards to Debra Kubota's nomination to the Board of Physical Therapy. I have known Debbie for almost two years. We served together as officers on the Kailua Intermediate School Band Boosters for the 2010-2011 school year, where she was the Treasurer and I was the Vice President. She was in charge of keeping financial records for the Boosters, which included managing incoming funds to go to either individual student accounts or the general fund, depending on which type of fundraiser was being conducted. The students used their individual accounts to help pay for either a band trip they took to Maui, or for tickets to the Band Banquet at the end of the year. Debbie made sure the funds went where they were supposed to go, and also made sure they were spent by the students before the end of the year. She kept detailed records of the Band's expenses as well, keeping track of funds used to repair or purchase instruments, and of reimbursements to other parents for expenses incurred while on band functions such as transporting instruments to concerts. Debbie also kept track of paying taxes on the funds we raised. In addition to her duties as Treasurer, she was a valued member of the Booster Club for her advice and guidance, and for her assistance at Band Booster fundraisers and Band events. We could always count on her to lend a helping hand, whether it was sorting cans for a recycling drive, serving chili dogs at a fundraiser dinner, or chaperoning band kids at a concert.

As her son is a year older than mine and has moved on to high school, Debbie is no longer an officer of the Kailua Intermediate School Band Boosters. However, on numerous occasions this school year, we have contacted her to assist in helping us with converting the Boosters to a 501c3 organization. Her assistance with that has been invaluable, and we have benefited from her guidance.

I feel that Debbie would be an asset to the Board of Physical Therapy because of her knowledge and expertise in the Physical Therapy field, her demonstrated leadership and her willingness to serve our community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Woods
Kailua Intermediate School Band Boosters President

March 20, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 5
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Vice-Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senatorial District 10
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Debra T. Kubota, Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy, GM 779
Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Dear Senators,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Debra T. Kubota's nomination to the Board of Physical Therapy. Debra has been a close personal and family friend for over 17 years. We have taught Sunday School together for the last 10 years and have served as officers together in the Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma School Teacher's Association since 2009.

Throughout the years that I have known Debra, she has always been extremely reliable, efficient and is able to work well in stressful conditions. Debra is a "natural" leader; well organized, demonstrates vision/ creativity and works well to bring out the best in the team members. At the same time, she is also a great team player. If she is a member on your team, rest assured that she will come through on whatever her responsibility is on time and it will be well done.

As evident in her resume, Debra would add a well-rounded, high level of expertise to the Board of Physical Therapy. As an individual, she would bring with her integrity, moral character and discipline.

It is without reservation, that I strongly support Debra Kubota's nomination to the Board of Physical Therapy.

Sincerely,

Faith N. Nakasone

March 23, 2012

Senator Rosalyn Baker

Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Senatorial District 5

Hawaii State Capital

415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Debra T. Kubota-Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy-GM 779

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 9:30 AM

Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker:

I have known Debra T. Kubota for the better part of 15 years as a business associate at Kaiser Permanente and a friend. She is industrious, remarkably efficient and a joy to be around but also is very principled and sets high standards for herself which is reflected in her integrity. Debra possesses that exceptional ability to maintain the right balance when attending to her administrative responsibilities while at the same time conveying a concerned compassion for the staff. Her depth of knowledge of physical therapy is outstanding both from the clinical perspective and the administrative aspect. Under her leadership she was instrumental in transforming the Kaiser Rehabilitation Services into becoming one of Hawaii's best.

With her years of experience, her work ethic and her integrity I feel that she would be a valued addition to the Physical therapy Board. It is without reservation I wholeheartedly support Debra T. Kubota for the Board of Physical Therapy.

Sincerely,

Robert Martin

Physical Therapist, Retired

TESTIMONY
OF
DEBRA T. KUBOTA
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ON
April 3, 2012
G.M. 779

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the **Board of Physical Therapy**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **DEBRA T. KUBOTA**, for a term to expire on 6/30/2015.

Chair Baker and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I truly consider this an honor and a privilege to be considered as a Physical Therapist on the Board of Physical Therapy.

I want to also extend a warm mahalo to everyone that submitted letters of support on my behalf and to everyone here in attendance lending me their support and aloha.

I have been a physical therapist for 32 years. I was born and raised in Pasadena, California. I wanted a chance to explore my island roots since my maternal grandparents were both from the Big Island. I moved to Oahu in December 1979 and never looked back. My entire professional career as a physical therapist and administrator has been on Oahu. Since most of my life has been spent in the islands, I look forward to giving back to Hawaii's community and people, since I have been given so many incredible opportunities while living here.

Professionally, I have worked in a multitude of settings. My career began as a physical therapist with the Hawaii State Department of Health, servicing disabled children in the public schools. To gain experience in a clinical setting, I transitioned to working at the Rehabilitation

(Rehab) Hospital of the Pacific, where I became certified in the Neurodevelopmental Technique for stroke patients, and worked with the geriatric population. Experiences at Rehab Hospital included acute rehabilitation and outpatient clinics, as well as positions as a contract therapist with the Kuakini-at-Home (home health) and a joint business venture with the Queens' Medical Center (Mid-Pacific Rehabilitation—outpatient clinics). During my tenure at Rehab Hospital and Mid-Pacific Rehabilitation Centers, I was promoted from clinical positions (Staff Physical Therapist to Senior Physical Therapist), to administrative and managerial positions (Senior Case Manager and Quality Assurance Specialist to Director of Administrative Services and Acting Executive Director). For the past 18 years, I have been with Kaiser Permanente, transitioning from direct patient care in the hospital, skilled nursing facility and outpatient clinics to a managerial position, Supervisor of Rehabilitation Services, providing oversight to all of Kaiser Hawaii's outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services on Oahu and the Neighbor Islands.

My community involvement includes leadership roles in my church (President/Corresponding Secretary for the Honolulu Teachers' Association) and our children's school (Treasurer for Kailua Intermediate Band Boosters).

Professionally, I have been the Chair of the Hawaii Physical Therapy Association's Board of Physical Therapy (PT) Liaison Committee since 2005, attending the Hawaii State PT Board meetings on a regular basis. I have been very involved with promoting Board initiatives in the community including amendments to the Administrative Rules which became final in December 2010. These changes made Hawaii the 46th state to achieve alignment with the American PT Association's Vision 2020 which states that by the year 2020, consumers will have direct access to physical therapists (no physician referral required).

My participation with the PT Board as a “guest” for the past 7 years, along with the recent amendments to the PT Administrative Rules, have sparked my interest in serving the public by being a member of the PT Board, working together with PT leaders of our state to make decisions which will shape the future of our profession in Hawaii. My professional experiences working with all age ranges from pediatrics to geriatrics, as well as administrative and managerial roles in the fee-for-service as well as Health Maintenance Organization arenas, my current job responsibilities including oversight of therapists on Oahu and the Neighbor Islands, along with leadership roles in professional and community associations lend itself well to being a highly informed, responsible PT Board member.

My vision for the PT Board is to assure public protection and safety by establishing and updating a strong foundation of laws and regulatory standards which ensure that safe, competent and effective care is delivered by all physical therapy professionals. The Board must also assure that the profession in Hawaii is in alignment with national trends and developments.

In closing, I would like to thank this committee for all that you do for the State of Hawaii and for giving me the opportunity to be here today. Thank you for considering my nomination. If selected, you have my commitment that I will do my best to keep the public’s best interest in mind while responsibly representing the physical therapy profession in the state. Again, thank you to everyone who submitted testimony on my behalf and to those who are here supporting me today.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.