

**TESTIMONY**

**GM789**

**HTH**  
**Confirmation Hearing**

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Health  
Laura K.M. Colbert  
Statewide Health Coordinating Council, Gubernatorial Nominee GM 789

Chair Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to present information for your consideration on my confirmation to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC).

Born and raised on the Big Island, I am a graduate of Hilo High School and the University of Hawaii where I earned my Bachelors degree. Hawaii has been my home except for time spent on my graduate studies at George Washington University where I earned my Masters in Business Administration in Economics, and the start of my work career at the U.S. Department of Commerce and additional years with an international management consulting firm in Washington D.C. I returned to Hawaii in 1982.

I have been in the healthcare field for over 12 years, beginning with my appointments to the Hawaii Health Information Corporation and the Felix Consent Decree Monitoring Project as the Governor's representative. I have been privileged to work as a manager and administrator in a broad range of health related services, from individuals with mental health issues to those with serious chronic diseases and co-morbid health conditions. My experience has encompassed serving in the financial turnaround of a healthcare organization to setting policy and direction for another, and having to build a healthcare operation in Hawaii. Although much of my background is as a healthcare professional, I am also a significant consumer of healthcare services, and passionate about promoting positive patient experiences and the need to ensure patient rights.

I wish to be a valuable contributing member of SHCC by bringing my collective experiences and assisting in furthering the delivery of effective healthcare in Hawaii. As a member of SHCC, I believe my experiences would benefit Hawaii in the revision of the Hawaii Health Services and Facilities Plan (H2P2) as necessary, in advising the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) on performing its health planning and development functions, and my active participation in the review and recommendation of actions regarding Certificate of Need (CON) applications.

With my background in operations and financial understanding of healthcare operations, I would exercise my role and responsibilities on SHCC to help ensure that community health needs are responsive to the changing health needs, met with fiscally sound operations, yet congruent with the H2P2. My decision-making ability would draw upon my background in developing a broad perspective, sensitive and respectful positions, driven by a desire to promote and ensure excellence in today's dynamic healthcare changes.

During my term on SHCC, I would strive to maintain a fair and comprehensive CON process, seeking the opportunity to work with SHPDA in promoting a more effective use of our existing healthcare resources as well as assure that new services and equipment add value to the existing healthcare network. Above all, I would strive to assure that our people receive high quality healthcare at reasonable costs.

Three qualities that best describe me in terms of benefits to SHCC are my openness, fairness, and analytical thought process. I also believe that my experience as a patient, administrator, and health care planner would provide further value to my membership on SHCC.

Should there be potential conflicts of interests during my term that would raise question regarding my participation as an unbiased member, I would recuse from decisions on specific matters as required or alternatively work through resolution by consulting with the Hawaii State Ethics Commission.

I ask for your support by confirming my nomination to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council and look forward to serving the people of Hawaii. With aloha, thank you.

March 19, 2012

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 789, Gubernatorial Nominee to the  
Statewide Health Coordinating Council**

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

**Friday, March 30, 2012  
2:45 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation  
2 of Laura Colbert to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the  
5 SHCC Gubernatorial Nominee, Laura Colbert. Ms. Colbert comes with significant executive  
6 management experience and over a decade of work in the human services and healthcare  
7 arena. She is a business consultant to the St. Francis Healthcare System. She previously  
8 served as Vice President/Director of Operations of Liberty Dialysis-Hawaii; Business  
9 Development Analyst with St. Francis Healthcare System; President and CEO of Lanakila  
10 Rehabilitation Center; Executive Vice President of Child and Family Service; and Executive  
11 Assistant to the Governor, State of Hawaii. Ms. Colbert is active in the community, having  
12 served on various Boards, including the Voyager School; Hawaii Health Information  
13 Corporation; Catholic Charities; and Organization of Women Leaders.

14 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Ms. Colbert to the Statewide Health  
15 Coordinating Council.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Office of the Complex Area Superintendent  
75-140 Hualalai Road  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

March 28, 2012

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

Ref: **Laura K.M. Colbert** nomination to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council

Dear President Tsutsui and Members of the Senate,

I strongly support Ms. Colbert's nomination to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council, and urge your positive consideration and expeditious confirmation of her appointment.

Ms. Colbert's extensive background in the healthcare and human services fields make her an ideal candidate for the Council. Her blend of academic background and related business experiences, combined with her considerable work in both the public and private sectors, make her an awesome addition to the Council which oversees the State Health Planning and Development Agency.

I have known Ms. Colbert for over a decade and have always been impressed with her intelligence, compassion, keen insights, and low-key demeanor that always bring out the best from people of diverse backgrounds, interests and motivations. I am fully confident that Ms. Colbert will contribute to SHPDA's success in fulfilling its mission to "promote accessibility for all the people of the State to quality health care services at reasonable cost." I feel fortunate that she is available to serve our State in this capacity.

Sincerely yours,

Nem Lau  
District Resource Teacher for  
Career & Technical Education

Alan H.S. Cheung, M.D, MBA, FACS  
205 Kuupua Street  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

March 28, 2012

Senator Josh Green, M.D.  
Chair, Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Laura K.M. Colbert – Nominee to Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC)

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for Ms. Laura Colbert who is being nominated to serve as a member of the Statewide Health Coordinating Council (SHCC).

I am a general and transplant surgeon, and President of Surgical Associates, Inc. I have known Ms. Colbert for over 16 years and have worked with her on numerous occasions on healthcare issues while she was with the St. Francis Healthcare System and Liberty Dialysis-Hawaii.

Ms. Colbert is a competent executive with broad experiences in business, consulting, strategic planning, and operational management. She is a thoughtful, analytical thinker and problem-solver. She has a deep understanding of health care issues and cares about its impact on our community. She is also a people person who can both lead and work collaboratively with others. More importantly, she is willing to serve her community. Ms. Colbert's experience and talents will greatly benefit the Statewide Health Coordinating Council and the people of Hawaii.

I have also known Laura, her husband Greg, and daughter Cary on a social basis for many years. I know her to be a devoted mother and wife and a faithful friend with

the highest integrity. I have no reservations in recommending Ms. Colbert for this position and know she will be able to serve with distinction.

Sincerely,

*Alan H.S. Cheung, MD*

Alan H.S. Cheung, M.D., MBA, FACS

March 30, 2012

Senator Josh Green M.D., Chair and  
Members of the Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Chair Green and Members of the Committee;

Re: GM 789  
Confirmation of Laura Colbert  
Statewide Health Coordinating Council

This testimony is in strong support of Laura Colbert's nomination to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

I have had the pleasure to know Ms. Colbert since 1998, first as my supervisor and since as a good friend. Ms. Colbert's experience in the for-profit business world, the non-profit world and the health industry provides her with an excellent background of understanding to bring a broad prospective to the Council. I also observe that out of the goodness of her heart she is often helping an individual or business that needs guidance in working their way through a particular project.

Ms. Colbert's resume shows her accomplishments however, it does not show what a wonderful person she is to work with. She is analytical; always willing to listen to all sides of an issue and is able to work well with almost everyone. I have observed her in a variety of different types of situations and have always found her to be looking for resolution that is a win-win for all concerned that allows everyone to walk away with the winning feeling regardless of their position.

Ms. Colbert will be a valuable asset to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Ms. Colbert,

Sincerely,



Sandra Joy Eastlack

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair  
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-chair

**Senate Committee on Health**

Governor's Message 789  
Confirmation of Laura Colbert to the  
Statewide Health Coordinating Council

Friday, March 30, 2010; 2:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 229

Testimony

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Jim Williams, and I am testifying as an individual. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of the confirmation of Laura Colbert to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

For several years, I have had the pleasure to work with Ms. Colbert as a (former) member of the Voyager Public Charter School Board and (currently) as a member of the Board of Directors of the Voyager School Foundation. During that time Laura has demonstrated a high degree of energy and dedication in support of the school and the respective board's.

Ms. Colbert quickly grasps the issues at hand and takes the initiative to resolve them. She approaches her duties with the highest degree of integrity and honesty. Laura works extremely well with people in and out of the organization, focusing on what the parties have in common and responding tactfully and positively to concerns that are expressed about a course of action.

The committee has information about Ms. Colbert's background and experience in health related endeavors. That experience combined with her personal qualities makes her an ideal candidate for the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. I hope you will recommend confirmation of Ms. Colbert's appointment to the Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of confirmation of Laura Colbert.

Jim Williams  
60 N. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817