

GM881

VICKI MCMANUS

Nomination to the Hawaii Medical
Education Council

Testimony of Vicki McManus to the Senate Committee on Education

I am interested in becoming a member of the Hawai'i Medical Education Council because I am concerned with the ever diminishing access to quality health care on the outer islands. The State of Hawai'i has recently been listed as the healthiest state in the nation yet we struggle to keep doctors in residence in the outer islands on a long term basis. Rather than simply complain, I wish to engage in the process of finding solutions so that we can set our islands on track to retain the designation as the healthiest state in the union.

Attracted to the family oriented society and quality of life, I moved to Hawai'i over 20 years ago to raise my family. I am a business woman and entrepreneur who has owned small businesses in both California and Hawai'i. I am currently part owner of Palm Records, Inc., the Hawai'i based record company specializing in instrumental Hawaiian music that won the first Grammy Award in the Hawaiian music category. I also manage income property in both California and Hawai'i for a family trust. I sit on the Board of Directors for the Kahilu Theatre Foundation on the Big Island of Hawai'i and the Board of Directors for the Napa Valley Wine Train in Napa, California.

I became aware of the vacancy on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council after meeting with Dean Hedges and Dr. Richard Kasuya, Associate Dean for Medical Education, to discuss the possibility of extending the choices of third year medical students to include outer island experiences. Their proposal could help alleviate some of the medical staffing issues the outer islands face by introducing, to rural practice, our Hawai'i resident students, who are already familiar with the challenges of island living. I fully support the development of these programs. As a long-time resident of the big island, my firsthand knowledge of the fluctuations of the local economy, ever changing medical community, location of appropriate housing, distance from professional development sites, transportation constraints and limited staffing resources may aid in successful implementation.

As the sole council member from the "general public," I will be providing the ever important perspective of the patient. My business background will aid me in asking the practical questions that a group of people, deeply imbedded in the medical community, may overlook. Additionally, my niece is currently a third year student at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, giving me a unique view into the process of preparing students for future medical practice.

I do not see any possible conflicts of interest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vicki McManus

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**Written Testimony
In Support of
Vicki McManus
By
Jerris Hedges, MD, MS, MMM**

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

As chair of the Hawaii Medical Education Council (HMEC), I would like to respectfully nominate Vicki McManus for appointment to the council to join HMEC as a public representative as required by its charter. Ms. McManus moved to Hawaii over 20 years ago to raise her family on the Big Island. She has been a small business owner, and community leader as a member of the Board of Directors of the Kahilu Theatre Foundation.

She is willing to serve on the Council because she has experienced first-hand the shortages of physicians in rural areas and has been a strong proponent of training on neighbor islands. She is committed to Hawaii and to providing the community perspective to our deliberations. Her input would greatly benefit the Council.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.