

**GM539**

**TESTIMONY**

TESTIMONY OF  
DIANNE M. OKUMURA, R.N., M.P.H.  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
February 27, 2013  
GM 539

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as a member to the Board of Health,  
DIANNE M. OKUMURA, R.N., M.P.H., for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

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

I would like to express my appreciation to Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me to sit as a member of the Board of Health. It is truly an honor and privilege to be considered for this position.

As a retired Department of Health employee with thirty-five (35) years of experience, I have had the opportunity to work in various programs, which provided me with the ability to learn about the different public health programs and initiatives which the department is mandated to monitor, protect and enhance. My experience has included Public Health and School Health Nursing, Nurse case manager for the Developmentally Disabled, Maternal and Child Health-Perinatal Nurse Consultant, Nurse Surveyor and finally the Chief of the Office of Health Care Assurance. In these positions I was able to embrace the vision, mission and philosophy of the Department, learn and understand the many regulations that impact the health care provision of the people of the State, as well as the many challenges that the community and more specifically rural communities face in regards to access to care and shortages in health care professionals. With my varied experience and knowledge I feel that I possess the necessary requirements to collaborate with other members to provide recommendations as deemed appropriate to the Director of Health to ensure that the department is able to meet its mandates and administer programs to protect, preserve, care for, and improve the physical and mental health of the people of the State.

In closing, I would like to thank you for considering my nomination, and would also like to thank those individuals who have submitted testimony on my behalf and provided me with support throughout this process.

At this time, I would be happy to entertain any questions that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

DIANNE M. OKUMURA, RN, MPH

# Hawaii Long Term Care Association

To: Chair Josh Green and Members, Senate Committee on Health  
From: Bob Ogawa, President, Hawaii Long Term Care Association  
Re: Nomination of Dianne Okumura to the Board of Health

The Hawaii Long Term Care Association (HLTCA) wholeheartedly supports the confirmation of Ms. Dianne Okumura as a member of the Board of Health.

I will not go into any lengthy iteration of her qualifications in this regard. They are multitudinous and, no doubt, will be fully and thoroughly described by others.

Suffice it to say that I have known Dianne for more years than she would probably wish me to specify. Over that time, which included her distinguished tenure as Chief of the Office of Health Care Assurance, I came to truly respect, appreciate and admire her leadership, expertise, insight and commitment to the well-being of Hawaii's people.

Therefore, we were honored indeed when she chose to join the HLTCA Board of Directors after her retirement from the State. Now, it is an even greater source of pride to our organization that she serves as our Executive Vice President. The esteem in which she is held throughout the entire spectrum of the health care community (long term care, acute care, nursing, quality assurance . . .) is unparalleled, and her advice and counsel are constantly being sought by all sectors. .

The core of the HLTCA's mission statement is: *How we provide for Hawaii's kupuna, chronically ill and convalescent disabled is a measure of the respect and compassion we have for them . . . a reflection of our dignity as a society.*

Dianne Okumura exemplifies that philosophy, that respect, that compassion, that dignity. In having her confirmed as a member of the Board of Health, the State of Hawaii could not be more well-served. Thank you.

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
February 27, 2013, 1:30 PM  
by  
Deborah B Gardner PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN  
Executive Director  
Hawaii State Center for Nursing

GM 539

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the appointment of Dianne Okumura to the Board of Health.

Ms. Okumura currently serves on the Hawaii State Center for Nursing's Continuing Education Joint Advisory and the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Committees. She was asked to serve on these committees because her reputation for diligence and commitment to seeing complex health care-related projects through to completion superseded her. This included her decades-long, successful experience as Chief of the Office of Health Care Assurance within the Department of Health.

In the few years of serving on these committees she has proven to be well versed in federal and state laws. Her in-depth experience in the handling of health-related issues has been invaluable.

The Center for Nursing thanks you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Dianne Okumura's appointment to the Board of Health.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [adlau@sosf.org](mailto:adlau@sosf.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM539 on Feb 27, 2013 13:30PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 23, 2013 3:35:28 PM

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GM539

Submitted on: 2/23/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 27, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sister Alicia Damien Lau, osf	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Comments: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH Senator Josh Green, Chair February 23, 2013 Supporting: GM 539 Nomination to the Board of Health, Dianne Okumura. For the past 20 years, I have personally worked with Dianne Okumura when she was Chief of Health Care Assurance for the Department of Health. Throughout the years, we had worked in different committees involving the Nursing Facilities, looking at long term care issues and processes for increasing quality of care for the frail elderly. Her skills, knowledge and experience in the regulatory arena are extensive. Her selection as a member of the Board of Health would be an asset and provide an extensive perspective both from the provider point of view and the DOH's point of view. Thank you, for the opportunity to testify in support of Dianne Okumura's nomination. Respectfully Submitted Sister Alicia Damien Lau, osf

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**Na Pu'uwai**  
**Native Hawaiian Health Care System**  
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(808) 560-3653 • Fax (808) 560-3385

Na Pu'uwai Fitness Center (808) 553-5848 • Na Pu'uwai Clinical Services: (808) 553-8288 • Fax (808) 553-8277  
• Ke Ola Hou O Lana'i • PO Box 630713 Lana'i City, Hawaii 96763 • (808) 565-7204 • Fax (808) 565-9319

February 25, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Board of Health Gubernatorial Nominee for Dianne Okumura, for term expiring June 30, 2017

This letter is to support the Board of Health's nomination of Dianne Okumura, RN, MPH, for a term expiring on June 30, 2017. Ms. Okumura has been a vital part of the health arena for the State of Hawaii in many different areas, such as school health, family health services, developmental disabilities, long-term care components of care, ensuring quality assurance of care in health facilities throughout Hawaii and the Pacific Basin, and updating health policies impacting the lives of Hawaii residents.

Ms. Okumura has been part of Molokai's health care programs with her tenure at the Hawaii State Department of Health through the Family Health Services and the Office of Health Care Assurance, and more recently, assisting our Native Hawaiian Health Care System in its long-term care initiatives for Molokai. With her vast experience and expertise in health care policy, nursing process, and medical knowledge, Ms. Okumura has educated the Molokai community in the most appropriate health care service delivery of long term care and care of our kupuna (elders). Ms. Okumura has facilitated Na Pu'uwai's entry into long term care through assisting us to establish partnerships with other providers of long term care services. Currently, because of her assistance and adherence to correct health care policy and procedure, Na Pu'uwai is now licensed to operate an adult day care program for 12 kupuna in its primary site on Molokai. It is now in the process of becoming licensed as an adult day health program at the same site.

Na Pu'uwai strongly supports the nomination of Dianne Okumura to become a Board of Health member for the next four years. We believe that she will be an asset to the Board of Health and ultimately, to the people of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Judith Mikami, RN, MPH  
Associate Director



Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
February 27, 2013, 1:30 PM

GM 539

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in very strong support of the appointment of gubernatorial nominee, Dianne Okumura, to the Board of Health (Board).

Ms. Okumura is highly qualified to serve on the Board. Besides being a Registered Nurse, she is a skilled and effective manager of personnel and is well versed in federal and state health-related issues. Ms. Okumura is well respected in the health care community for her diligence and excellent work on diverse projects.

Her broad and extensive experience as Chief of the Office of Health Care Assurance within the Department of Health has given her a thorough understanding of federal and state health laws, the legislative procedure and the rulemaking process.

For well over a decade, Ms. Okumura oversaw the state licensing and federal certification of medical and health care facilities, agencies, and services provided throughout the state to ensure compliance with established standards of care.

She oversaw the State Licensing Section of the Office of Health Care Assurance which is responsible for promulgating licensing rules and developing standards as required to ensure quality of care for certain community based facilities. Ms. Okumura was responsible for drafting proposed rules and legislation to modernize and align them with federal and state statutes.

She also oversaw the Medicare Section of the Office of Health Care Assurance which is responsible for promulgating licensing rules and developing standards as required to ensure quality of care for certain medical facilities which must be licensed by the State. In addition to these responsibilities, Ms. Okumura has also served on countless ad hoc and standing committees, including those of the Hawaii State Board of Nursing and the Hawaii State Center for Nursing. She is currently Vice-President of the Hawaii Long Term Care Association.

Ms. Okumura has an outstanding reputation for integrity and fairness. She is intelligent, and diligent. She tempers her decisionmaking with compassion, decisiveness, open-mindedness, sensitivity, courtesy, patience, and freedom from bias. She is highly regarded in the community for her professional and personal qualities, and I am confident that she will serve with excellence as a member of the Board. I respectfully ask the Committee to confirm Ms. Okumura's nomination. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Dianne Okumura's appointment to the Board of Health.

Kathy Yokouchi  
Regulatory & Legislative Analyst  
Hawaii State Center for Nursing  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Webster Hall 402  
2528 McCarthy Mall  
Honolulu, HI 96822



February 25, 2013

Chair Josh Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Via email: [HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: Testimony on Behalf of Dianne Okumura  
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Board of Health (GM 539)  
Scheduled hearing: Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 1:30 pm

I would like to submit my support for your consideration of Dianne Okumura to the Board of Health. Dianne possesses a proven record of accomplishment within the health care industry in the state. For many years, she held the position of Chief of the Office of Health Care Assurance overseeing the provision of care delivery and ensuring safe and high quality care throughout the state. Dianne has a Masters Degree in Public Health, and serves on many health care related committees and advisory boards throughout the state. She was an active member of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing (HSCFN) and the continuing education joint advisory committee. Dianne has actively participated with providers on the Advancing for Excellence Campaign as she assists them to achieve goals and high quality care delivery through the program.

Dianne consults with many health care providers on best practices, implementation of new regulations, and assisting with leadership and manager training for Directors of Nursing throughout the state. Dianne is an active member on the Hawaii Long Term Care Association (HLTCA) leading the members through regulatory changes and assisting to educate the membership in all areas of health care from infection control, abuse prohibition, regulatory changes, and best practices. She is admired by all providers she works with for her wealth of knowledge, passion for health care and unwavering commitment to the success of all health care providers in Hawaii.

I highly recommend Dianne for this appointment as she exemplifies high quality care, patient advocacy, education, and collaboration within the state and among Hawaii providers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RS Kishaba", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard S. Kishaba  
President  
Ohana Pacific Management Company

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [geesey@hawaii.edu](mailto:geesey@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM539 on Feb 27, 2013 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, February 22, 2013 8:39:51 PM

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GM539

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 27, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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