

GM543

TESTIMONY



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 541, GM 542, GM 543, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEES TO THE
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports the appointments of Ms. Dian
2 Gruber, Dr. Elizabeth Char, and Mr. Ralph Yawata, to the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory
3 Committee.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** Air travel and transportation costs to attend meetings.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** Ms. Dian Gruber (GM 541) is a registered nurse and is the Manager of
6 Ambulatory Surgery, Recovery Room, and Endoscopy at Maui Memorial Medical Center. She has been
7 an interim appointment to this Committee since July 2012. Her past working experiences in the
8 emergency room and trauma are beneficial to this Committee.

9 Dr. Elizabeth Char (GM 542) is an emergency physician practicing at Straub Clinic and Hospital,
10 is the medical director for American Medical Response on Oahu, and has also been an interim
11 appointment to this Committee since July 2012. Her knowledge, clinical, and administrative
12 experiences are an asset to this Committee.

13 Mr. Ralph Yawata (GM543) is the retired Assistant Chief, Support Services Division, and
14 previously the EMS Bureau Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department. He has attended these EMS Advisory

1 Committee meetings in his previous capacity. He has been an interim appointment to this Committee
2 since July 2012. With more than 25 years of service, he brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and
3 expertise.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these Gubernatorial nominees to the State
5 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

TESTIMONY
OF
RALPH M. YAWATA
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
ON
February 27, 2013

G.M. 543

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, RALPH M. YAWATA, for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

Chair Green and the members of the Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony 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 member of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

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

As a recent retiree (August 1, 2011) with the Hawaii County Fire Department, I have participated in the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC) as an interested party and participating agency. My primary role at that time (2007-2009) was serving in the capacity of Battalion Chief of EMS in the Hawaii Fire Department. Later (2009-2011) that role was expanded as Assistant Chief of Support Services which oversaw our department's EMS Bureau.

Presently I teach as an auxiliary EMS Instructor for Kapiolani Community College at Hawaii Community College. My primary role is conducting First Responder / Emergency Medical Responder Training both initial and recertification courses. I also assist the primary instructor with EMT refresher trainings.

In addition to this employment, I work part-time at Hawaii Preparatory Academy (HPA) as a Commercial Driver License (CDL) Trainer. I also instruct classes in First Aid, CPR and AED for this private K-12 educational institution in Kamuela, Hawaii.

Finally I have a part-time job as a Safety Officer at Four Seasons Resort Hualalai responsible for their safety program and ensuring their OSHA compliance.

As a community member on Hawaii Island and previous job experience with the Fire Department, I feel my role on this committee will be that of someone with experience on both sides of the table – previously representing a service provider and now as a community / consumer member.

In closing, I would like to thank this Committee for the hard work you do for the State of Hawaii and for giving me the opportunity to submit this today. Thank you considering my nomination. Again, thank you to everyone who submitted testimony on my behalf and to those who are here supporting me today.