

**GM545**

**TESTIMONY**



SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
Senator Josh Green, Chair

February 27, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

**Testimony in support of GM 545, which nominates Virginia Pressler to the Hawaii Health Authority.**

My name is George W. Greene, President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), whose membership includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, a majority of home health agencies and hospices, as well as long term care facilities and other health care organizations. Our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of GM 545, which nominates Virginia Pressler to the Hawaii Health Authority.

The Hawaii Health Authority is responsible for developing a comprehensive health plan for the state and for determining future capacity needs for health providers, facilities, equipment, and support services. Its members should have extensive knowledge of the complex health care issues, and especially of Hawaii's unique health care environment.

Virginia Pressler has been involved in various capacities in Hawaii's health care system. She has been a practicing surgeon, the President and CEO of a health plan, a Deputy Director of the State Department of Health, and an employee of Hawaii Pacific Health for more than 10 years. She is currently the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawaii Pacific Health, which includes Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital, and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai.

She has also been involved with the activities of Healthcare Association of Hawaii for a number of years, and I have worked with her on various projects. She has consistently supported improved access to affordable, quality care for all of the people of Hawaii. She has previously served as a member of the Hawaii Health Authority, and I am confident that, if re-appointed, she will continue to serve with dignity, wisdom, and integrity.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports GM 545.



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**Wednesday, February 27, 2013 – 1:30 pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**The Senate Committee on Health**

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA

Re: **GM 545 Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The Hawaii Health Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER, For A Term To Expire 6-30-2016**

**Testimony in Strong Support**

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My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA. I am the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 5,400 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff,

I have been actively involved in efforts to improve health care for the past 25 years. With the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act and the Governor's Office of Healthcare Transformation, and the recent award to Hawaii from CMS of \$937,691 for State Health care Innovation Plan, we have the ability to develop the strategies to improve access and quality of health care for all of our residents. As co-chair with Beth Giesting on the Hawaii Health Care Project I look forward to also working with the Hawaii Health Authority to assure access to quality care for all through coordinated statewide efforts focused on better access, cost effectiveness and value-based purchasing. Through my experience as a practicing surgeon, President & CEO of a health plan in 1996, deputy director of the state Department of Health, and over 10 years with Hawaii Pacific Health, I have a broad understanding of the health care system and how to combine the efforts of the acute care system and public health to improve not only individual health but population health. By combining the knowledge and skills of hospitals, physicians, nurses and other health care providers, community health centers, home care, long term care, hospice, and public health and preventative services through the use of technology we can improve health and health care outcomes for all in Hawaii.

I regret that I cannot be here today to testify in person because I am at a Community Health Needs Assessment planning meeting. I am passionate about the potential we have in Hawaii to be a model for the nation. I look forward to the opportunity to serve. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination.



Affiliates of Hawaii Pacific Health