

GM609

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, NIRAJ DESAI, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Hawai'i Medical Board

Description:

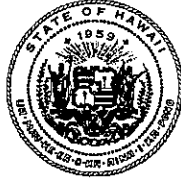
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by</u> <u>Date</u>		Status Text
1/29/2013	S	Received.
1/29/2013	S	Referred to CPN.
2/15/2013	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 02-27-13 10:00AM in conference room 229.



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 26, 2013

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
451 South Beretania Street, Rm. 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Gubernatorial Nominee: Niraj Desai
Hawaii Medical Board

Dear Senator Baker:

I am informed that Dr. Niraj Desai has been reappointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie for a position on the Hawaii Medical Board representing Kauai County. I am in strong support of Dr. Desai's nomination and I am sure he will do an exemplary job as a member of the board if approved by your committee.

It is my firm belief that if confirmed, Dr. Desai will become a valuable asset to the Hawaii Medical Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration and if there are any questions with regard to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to communicate with me.

Sincerely,

RONALD D. KOUCHI
Senator – 8th Senatorial District

cc: Dr. Niraj Desai



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

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JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2013

Wednesday, February 27, 2013
10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 609.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Constance Cabral and I am the Executive Officer for the Hawaii Medical Board, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 609, regarding the **reappointment** of Niraj Desai, M.D., to the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Desai's reappointment to the Board.

Dr. Desai is being reappointed to the Board as a licensee member. He has been licensed in Hawaii since March 16, 2000, and his license is current, active, and in good standing.

He is a reliable member and has excellent attendance at Board meetings. Having served on the Board since July 2009, Dr. Desai comes to meetings well

prepared, having read and reviewed all materials and documents provided to Board members prior to meetings. Owing to his many years of experience as a practitioner, Dr. Desai is able to participate in discussions relating to complicated issues before the Board. By bringing his knowledge, background and expertise to these discussions, he offers a unique perspective. Because of this, the Board has had the necessary information and knowledge on which to base its decisions on matters ranging from disciplinary actions to applications for licensure.

We believe that Dr. Desai's interest in serving on the Board, experience in the profession, and desire to contribute to the community will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board. He has served with dedication and commitment.

Therefore, the Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Desai to the Hawaii Medical Board, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

STATEMENT OF NIRAJ DESAI

I am a kidney specialist in solo practice and have lived on Kauai since 2000. I have been on the Hawaii Medical Board since 2009. I am also on the Medical Staff of Wilcox Memorial Hospital, serve on its Credentials Committee, and am the President of the Kauai County Medical Society. I have also had extensive experience in evaluating physicians as an Associate Fellowship Program Director at the University of Chicago. I would like to continue to use my skills and experience to help the Board continue in its current mission, as well as to ensure standards remain appropriate in an era of increasing specialization, expanding information and complexity, and the increasing role of allied health practitioners.

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawaii Medical Board?

I have served on the Board since July 2009. The Board's role in protecting the public is an essential one, and I would like to contribute my time, expertise and judgment to the group.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Medical Board?

Protecting the public is paramount. This includes estimating the risk of applicants, implementing appropriate monitoring for those at risk, acting promptly, judiciously and decisively on current licensees who show unsafe or unprofessional behavior, and denying entry to those whose past behavior indicates they are unable or unwilling to practice safe and competent medicine.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities as a member of the Board, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Board.

I was the Associate Fellowship Program Director in the University of Chicago Section of Nephrology and supervised and hired, and on rare occasions terminated, fellows. I also participated in supervising and selecting residents and medical students. I currently serve on the Credentials Committee of Wilcox Memorial Hospital and am the President of the Kauai County Medical Society. I understand the process of evaluating physicians, and believe I know how to assess those who are unlikely to improve or adapt.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I would like to help the Board continue in its current mission, as well as ensure standards remain appropriate in an era of increasing specialization, expanding information and complexity, and the rise of allied health practitioners, doing an increasing amount of work previously done by physicians.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how will these qualities benefit the Board?

I take this role very seriously. My attendance and participation have reflected this. When applicants express regret, a desire to reform, or an intent to practice in underserved areas, I continue to consider the protection of the public to be the essential question.

I am able to promote discussion between the Board members, which allows for the maximal amount of information and perspectives to be presented for consideration.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member?

Three that would help me be a valuable Board member:

Associate Fellowship Program Director for the University of Chicago Section of Nephrology.

Member of the Credentials Committee, Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

Medical Director of Patient Safety & Quality, Wilcox Memorial Hospital.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I personally know a very small number of applicants and current licensees. I also have a Billing Service with several physician clients. If these individuals come before the Board and I feel that I cannot make an objective determination, I will recuse myself from discussion and voting.