

# GM625

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, SARAH YUAN, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HMS

Introducer(s):

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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### Committee on Human Services

**GM625 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sarah Yuan, for a term to expire June 30, 2017.**

**Testimony of Wes Lum  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to Department of Health**

**Tuesday, February 19, 2013; Conference Room 016**

**1:15 p.m.**

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the nomination of Dr. Sarah  
2 Yuan to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).  
3 **Purpose and Justification:** Dr. Yuan is currently an Associate Specialist at the University of  
4 Hawaii Center on the Family, and is well-known for developing Hawaii's Aging Data Center  
5 ([http://www.uhfamily.hawaii.edu/Cof\\_Data/hawaiiaging/home.aspx](http://www.uhfamily.hawaii.edu/Cof_Data/hawaiiaging/home.aspx)). Dr. Yuan holds a PhD and  
6 MA in Sociology, Certificates in Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians and in Population  
7 Studies, and a master's degree in applied social research. An award recipient for the 2010 Hawaii  
8 Pacific Gerontological Society's Research and Teaching Award, Dr. Yuan has over 25 peer-  
9 reviewed and technical publications. She specializes in medical sociology, demography of aging,  
10 homelessness, community needs assessments, and program evaluation, among other things. For  
11 these reasons, EOA supports the nomination of Dr. Yuan. Thank you for the opportunity to  
12 testify.

Testifier's Name: Gary Simon  
Chair  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Testimony Is Directed To: Senate Committee on Human Services

Measure: GM625 Sarah Yuan, Gubernatorial Nominee for the  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

Date & Time of Hearing: Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 1:15 p. m.

Position: PABEA strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of Sarah  
Yuan to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Honorable Members of the  
Senate Committee on Human Services:

I am Gary Simon, Chair of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA),  
which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging  
(EOA).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over twenty-five  
years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA.

My testimony does not represent the views of the EOA but of PABEA.

PABEA wholeheartedly supports the nomination and confirmation of Sarah Yuan  
to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

Sarah Yuan, Ph. D., Sociology, currently is an Associate Specialist at the  
University of Hawaii at Manoa Center on the Family.

She is an expert in survey methodology, community needs assessment, and  
program evaluation.

Her areas of interest include medical sociology, demography of aging, social  
indicators, quality of life, and intergenerational relationships.

She is a principal of the Data Center on Hawaii's Aging Project, which has  
developed an online collection of statistics and publications relating to Hawaii's  
elder population.

Dr. Yuan's expertise and interests will contribute greatly to the work of PABEA in  
its endeavor to enhance and protect the health and welfare of our elders and  
their families and caregivers.

We urge you to support the nomination and confirmation of Sarah Yuan to PABEA, and we thank you for seriously considering her nomination.

Very sincerely,  
Gary Simon  
Chair  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

## Support for Gubernatorial Nominees, Suzie Schulberg and Sarah Yuan for Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Anthony Lenzer [Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com]

Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2013 12:33 PM

Cc: HMS Testimony

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Senator Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

My names is Anthony Lenzer. I am Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). Our Board **strongly supports** the nomination of Suzie Schulberg (GM 624) and Sarah Yuan (GM 625) to serve on PABEA, and urges the Senate **to confirm these** nominees.

Dr. Sarah Yuan Is a researcher at the Center on the Family at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In this capacity, she has been responsible for developing a database on aging studies and reports, from both Hawaii and national sources. This database is extremely valuable to those of us concerned with developing public policy on aging, as it provides the factual basis for many of the policy proposals which are brought before the Legislature. Dr. Yuan has also been active in community organizations such as the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society, where she helped create the Society's highly successful 2012 biennial conference. Dr. Yuan's expertise should be a great asset to PABEA as it develops policy proposals in the future.

Suzie Schulberg is CEO of 15 Craigside, Hawaii's newest retirement and nursing care facility. In recent years, Hawaii has seen an impressive growth of retirement facilities, which play an important part in meeting the needs of many of Hawaii's older citizens who no longer wish to live in and maintain their own homes. 15 Craigside is a valuable community resource in that it also offers nursing home level care to those who are not residents of the facility as well as to Craigside residents. As you know, Hawaii's ratio of nursing home beds to population is well below the national average. Ms. Schulberg has also been active in community programs for older people, and is the immediate past president of the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society, which serves Hawaii's professionals in the field of aging.

PABEA requests that your Committee endorses these nominees, and recommend that the Senate confirm their appointment to our Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Anthony Lenzer, PhD, Chair  
PABEA Legislative Committee



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**MEMORANDUM**

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Chair, Committee on Human Resources

**SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF DR. SARAH YUAN, POLICY ADVISORY BOARD OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Senator Josh Green:

As the Director of the KCC Kupuna Education Center, I am in full support of Dr. Sarah Yuan appointment to the Policy Advisory Board of Elderly Affairs for the State Executive Office on Aging. I have been in the field of gerontology for over 30 years in Hawaii and have worked closely with Dr. Yuan for about a decade on numerous policy research projects related to improving the care of Hawaii's kupuna. I have always been impressed with her commitment to elder care issues, her technical understanding of research protocols, her awareness of demographic, utilization and trending data related to elder care and most importantly, her strong interest in addressing practical policy issues to improve the care of our elders.

Today, there are just a handful of gerontologists that have the skills that Dr. Yuan has in understanding large quantities of data and interpreting them using statistical techniques appropriately. I consider Dr. Yuan among the best quantitative gerontology researchers in Hawaii. Given this background and her commitment to the continuous improvement of Hawaii's long term care service delivery system, I wholeheartedly support her appointment to the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs and thank her for her willingness to provide a much needed public service.

Sincerely,

Cullen T. Hayashida, Ph.D.  
Director

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair

FROM: Barbara DeBaryshe

HEARING: 1:15 pm Tuesday, February 19, 2013  
Conference Room 106

Subject: **Support** for confirmation of nomination of Dr. Sarah Yuan to the PABEA

I am submitting written testimony to provide my strong endorsement of the nomination of Dr. Sarah Yuan to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. I have worked closely with Dr. Yuan for over a decade and know her capabilities quite well.

Dr. Yuan is an applied sociologist with a focus on elder issues and family/community wellbeing in Hawaii. She has conducted research on long-term care in the islands, homelessness, quality of life, and the amount and kinds of support (financial, practical, and emotional assistance) that local elders and their adult children provide for each other. Dr. Yuan also created and oversees an on-line Data Center on the Aging which provides public access to statistics, research, and resource materials relating to Hawaii's aging population.

Dr. Yuan is also an excellent statistician and has worked with many state and national data sets. She has served on a long-term care task force and has good relationships with administrative staff in several state agencies.

In addition to her content knowledge, you will find that working with Dr. Yuan is very rewarding. She is a person of utmost integrity and kindness. She holds herself and others to high standards and is committed to providing policymakers with sound data and clear interpretations of complex issues in order to assist with decision-making. She is efficient, discreet, dependable, and hard-working. She is logical and level-headed and is an effective member of collaborative teams.

Dr. Yuan would be an asset to the PABEA. As a member of the local community, I can think of few other people that I would rather have serving on behalf of my neighbors and myself. (Please note that although I am a UH faculty member, I submit this testimony as a private citizen.)

Personal testimony Presented before the  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Josh Green, Vice Chair

Support for GM625, Consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sarah Yuan, for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services. Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in favor** of GM625, which presents Gubernatorial Nominee, Sarah Yuan, for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs (PABEA). My name is Sylvia Yuen, and today I am providing personal testimony.

Dr. Yuan was hired as a faculty member of the UH-Manoa Center on the Family when I served as the Center Director, so I am familiar with her professional work and personal qualities. Sarah has a strong background in quantitative research and survey methodology, and she took the lead in developing the web-based Data Center on Hawaii's Aging which contains the most comprehensive collection of data and publications on the state's elderly population. It is the only such resource in the nation with county-specific social indicator data and has been an invaluable tool to those who need valid and reliable information on the aging for the development of policies, proposals, reports, and educational materials. Sarah's research focuses on family intergenerational solidarity, living arrangements, and long-term care preparedness among Asian and Pacific Islanders. The results of her investigations have been published and presented at national conferences. Her work on aging, homelessness, and quality of life have produced data-rich, community-focused publications, such as *Hawaii's Older Adults—Demographic Profile*, *Homeless Service Utilization Report*, and *Quality of Life in Hawaii*. These were prepared expressly for policy makers, program providers, and others to increase knowledge and inform decisions, and they have been widely disseminated and used throughout the state.

Sarah is not only professionally competent, but she also possesses the personal attributes that will advance the work of the PABEA: ability to appreciate the viewpoint of others; to interact positively with people of various cultural, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds; and to meet responsibilities and deadlines. I believe Dr. Sarah Yuan is well qualified to serve on PABEA and will be an asset to this important Board. She has my highest recommendation, and I urge you to approve her nomination.



## Testimony: GM625

Grace Fong [gfong@hawaii.edu]

Sent: Friday, February 15, 2013 5:15 PM

To: HMS Testimony

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Testimony in Support of Confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, SARAH YUAN, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

I am submitting this testimony, as an individual, in support of Dr. Sarah Yuan's confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). Dr. Yuan is an Associate Specialist with the Center on the Family (COF) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, with a concentration in applied gerontological research. Dr. Yuan is recognized in our community not only for her research, but for bringing scientific and creditable information to the public. Among her many accomplishments that reflect the value she would bring to the PABEA, Dr. Yuan has led the development of the *Data Center on Hawai'i's Aging*, a comprehensive, interactive, searchable online database of social indicators data and publications pertaining to the well being of Hawai'i's older adults; authored the *Demographic Profile (2007)* on Hawai'i's older adults, a report that was used by public officials, state agencies, community organizations, and mass media to advocate for support and services for our elder population; led a Family Inter-generational Relationship Study in which she investigated the inter-generational interactions, obligations, supports, and economic transfers among ethnically diverse families in Hawai'i; and served as a volunteer member of the Long-Term Care (LTC) Services Subcommittee for Health Services and Facilities Plan of the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA), Department of Health. Given her skills, knowledge, and experience, I believe Dr. Yuan will be a strong contributor to the PABEA and her presence will enrich the PABEA's continuing work in understanding and seeking data-informed solutions for the complex issues facing older adults and their families in Hawai'i today. Thank you for your consideration and support of Dr. Yuan's confirmation.

Grace Fong

February 15, 2013

TO: Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

FROM: Ji-Yeon Kim

SUBJECT: GM 625 Appointment of Dr. Sarah Yuan to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

I submit this testimony as an individual who wants the best for older adults in Hawaii. I **strongly support** the appointment of Dr. Sarah Yuan to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. In the six years since meeting Dr. Yuan, I have known her to be a very devoted researcher. She seeks to improve the lives of the people of Hawaii, especially older adults. She is very knowledgeable about risk and protective factors that contribute to the well-being of older adults. Dr. Yuan also has a very deep understanding of the unique aspects of kinship and different family dynamics in Hawaii, compared to those on the mainland. She has been a very active member of the community and contributed to enhancing the quality of life of individuals and families in Hawaii. She is currently a tenured faculty at the University of Hawaii, specializing in aging. She is one of rare people who truly understand data and are able to translate those numbers into implications for society. With her knowledge and experience, I am absolutely sure that Dr. Yuan will be a great addition to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

February 15, 2013

Senate Committee on Human Services Hearing,  
Tuesday, February 19, 1:15 PM, at the State Capitol, Room 016.

RE: GM 625 Nomination of Sarah Yuan by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Dear Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
And members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

My name is Romala Sue Radcliffe. I am currently serving as the Administrator for the  
State Health Planning and Development Agency.

I believe Dr. Sarah Yuan is an excellent choice to serve on the Policy Advisory Board  
for Elder Affairs because of her years of experience with senior programs and her  
knowledge of the latest trends and practices in the field of gerontology.

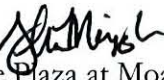
I have had the pleasure of working with Sarah over the past three years and  
have utilized her knowledge of the many collaborative contributors that are working  
together in Hawaii's aging network.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in **strong support** of Sarah Yuan.  
Please feel free to call me at 587-0788 if you would like to speak directly with me about  
the nomination.

With warm Aloha,

Romala Sue Radcliffe

TO: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

FROM: Shannon Miyazaki   
Administrator, The Plaza at Moanalua

HEARING: Tuesday, February 19, 2013, 1:15 P.M.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

SUBJECT: GM 625 Appointment of Sarah Yuan to the Policy Advisory Board for  
Elder Affairs.

TESTIMONY:

Sarah Yuan has made significant contributions to the research of Hawaii's aging and is extremely knowledgeable of the scope of issues pertaining to healthy aging and the well-being of older adults. In addition to her work at The University of Hawaii at Manoa, Sarah has served the community. From 2004–2008, Sarah served as a volunteer member of the Evaluation Committee to the Maui Long-Term Care Partnership Project, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In 2010, Sarah completed a three-year volunteer service as a member of the Long-Term Care Services Subcommittee for Health Services and Facilities Plan of the State Health Planning and Development Agency. From 2010-2012, Sarah served as Co-Chair of the Presentation Committee for the Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, which was held in September 2012. As the Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, I worked closely with Sarah. Sarah was instrumental in organizing an outstanding conference program. The conference was attended by over 400 local, national, and international professionals in the field of gerontology. Sarah possesses integrity; commitment; passion; effective communication skills; and strong interpersonal skills. Sarah would be an asset as a Board member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

I **strongly support** the appointment of Sarah Yuan to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.