

HTH HEARING

GM737

TESTIMONY

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Josh Green
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Senate District 3
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
Honolulu HI 96813

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Senate District 6
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu HI 96813

RE: GM737 (Dr. Anthea Wang's Nomination to the Tobacco Prevention & Control Advisory Board)

Dear Senator Green, Senator Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health,

It is my honor, as a friend and colleague of Dr. Anthea Wang, to support her nomination by Governor Abercrombie to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board. Dr. Wang's experience and knowledge in prevention and public health, and passion for serving our communities, truly qualify her as an ideal candidate and member of the board.

Dr. Wang has a longstanding focus in public health. While completing her medical residency, she earned her Master of Public Health degree in Health Policy and Administration and has served in numerous public health positions in North Carolina and here in Hawaii. Locally, Dr. Wang has served as Medical Director of the Med-QUEST Division of the Hawaii Department of Human Services, leading clinical guidance for policies and quality strategy. She was also a physician volunteer with Aloha Medical Missions, providing urgent care to uninsured patients in Honolulu.

Dr. Wang currently serves as an internal medicine physician with the Hawaii Permanente Medical Group, and leads our organization's Medicare, Medicaid, and prevention strategy and work. She is double-board certified in Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Wang's background and qualifications are no less than impressive, but it is her drive and passion for the well-being of our 'ohana that shape her character. Dr. Wang is an exemplary clinician who is a partner to her patients, colleagues, and greater population of Hawaii. She is an amazing communicator and public speaker, has excellent writing and critical thinking skills, and brings "heart" to everything she does. Dr. Wang is a true voice for the underserved. The Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board, as well as the families and communities of Hawaii, would undoubtedly benefit from Dr. Wang's expertise. I strongly support her nomination.

Sincerely,



Samir Patel, M.D.
Assistant Associate Medical Director, Primary Care & Innovations
Hawaii Permanente Medical Group, Inc.

Testimony of Anthea Wang to the Senate Committee on Health

April 10, 2013

GM 737

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANTHEA WANG, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide this statement in response to my nomination to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board.

I would like to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me and feel that it is my privilege and duty to serve our state in this capacity. I also wish to thank my colleagues who have submitted letters of support on my behalf.

I believe that I have the experience and ability to make significant contributions to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board. I am a physician that has the experience and expertise from being both a general internist as well as a public health doctor. I am currently with Kaiser Permanente as a primary care internist as well as a physician leader for Kaiser's Medicaid and Medicare programs.

Being a primary care doctor allows me to impact our community by making a difference in the life and health of one person at a time. My philosophy of care is strongly rooted in prevention and self-care. My goal is to be a partner to my patients, especially those with chronic diseases, as they manage their conditions in their everyday lives. Helping patients to quit smoking is one of the most important things I do with them.

As a preventive medicine and public health doctor, I also enjoy making an impact in the lives and health of populations. My work with state health departments, Medicaid programs, and Medicare quality has allowed me to influence the quality of care for many people. When I was in North Carolina, I had the privilege of serving on the state's Diabetes Advisory Board and as the medical director of a regional Medicaid network. Since

being in Hawaii, I have worked with our Medicare Quality Improvement Organization as well as our state's Medicaid program. During my recent tenure as the Medical Director of the Med-QUEST Division, my most gratifying accomplishment was shepherding the necessary changes so that all our Medicaid health plans cover the evidence-based smoking cessation interventions, including counseling, nicotine replacement products, and medications.

It would be my honor and pleasure to continue to be a positive influence for the health of our state. Participating in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board would allow me to bring my experience and talents in service for the health of Hawaii's people. Thank you again for considering my nomination.

I sincerely apologize that I am not able to attend the hearing in person. I am scheduled to be out of town on April 10 for a Medicare Quality Improvement Organization meeting, which was impossible to reschedule. I am happy to answer any questions by phone if needed.

April 8, 2013

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Senate District 6
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker,

As director of Mountain-Pacific Quality Health – Hawaii, Medicare’s Quality Improvement Organization for Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, I was pleased to hear that Dr. Anthea Wang is applying to serve on the Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Board.

Dr. Wang is very well respected among her peers in the healthcare community and was previously Mountain-Pacific - Hawaii’s medical director for several years where she was instrumental in improving care for the kūpuna of our state.

She currently sits on the Board of Directors for Mountain-Pacific Quality Health where she is a dedicated advocate for healthcare improvement. As a former medical director for Hawaii’s Medicaid program, Dr. Wang is well-informed regarding Hawaii’s healthcare issues including tobacco usage.

Her leadership skills will encourage the board to work collaboratively with anti-smoking organizations to mitigate these challenges and promote Hawaii’s status as the state with the healthiest citizens.

Being a practitioner and leader, Dr. Wang would truly be an asset to the advisory board. It gives me great pleasure to recommend her for confirmation.

Sincerely,



Dee Dee Nelson, MS
Director

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