

HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

**Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair**

Monday, February 24, 2014

1:30 p.m.

Conference Room 229

Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony in Support of GM 511, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANTONETTE TORRES, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Alice M. Hall

Acting President and Chief Executive Officer

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), I greatly appreciate this opportunity to testify in strong support of the confirmation of Antonette Torres, as the HHSC Corporate Board of Directors' Kauai Region representative.

Ms. Torres has extensive administrative and public health expertise as well as a proven track record of strong, decisive, and visionary leadership. In the few months she has served on the HHSC Board, as an interim appointment, Ms. Torres has contributed significantly to deliberations at our Board meetings. She brings a fresh public health perspective to many of the challenging issues health care systems face today.

HHSC is confident that Ms. Torres' continued contributions as a member of the HHSC Corporate Board will serve Hawaii well in the future and we look forward to working with her. Her confirmation will help to assure that some of the best minds in Hawaii are watching out for our future and that all our island communities have access to quality health care.

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www.hhsc.org <<http://www.hhsc.org>>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: smcfarland@hhsc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM511 on Feb 24, 2014 13:30PM
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2014 12:44:43 PM

GM511

Submitted on: 2/23/2014

Testimony for HTH on Feb 24, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott McFarland	Kauai Region Board, HHSC	Support	Yes

Comments: The HHSC Kauai Region Board STRONGLY SUPPORTS the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee ANTONETTE TORRES to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Cheryl Tennberg



PO Box 533 • Koloa, HI 96756 • Phone: (808) 742-1139
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Date: January 22, 2014

Senator Josh Green
Chairman Senate Health Committee
Senate District 3
Hawaii State Capital, Room 215
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 511 - Mrs. Antonette Torres' Nomination to Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Honorable Josh Green:

As an employee of Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital (KVMH) and as a resident of Kauai for the past 35 years, I was very pleased to learn that Governor Abercrombie has nominated Mrs. Antonette Torres to the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. I have known Mrs. Torres for over twenty years. We attended the University of Hawaii together, we are both KVMH Auxiliary volunteers, and we have collaborated together on joint projects between the Department of Health and KVMH.

Mrs. Torres has a passion for healthcare. Her focus has always been on ensuring the availability of health care services for our community. She has demonstrated this through her involvement in numerous Public Health Fairs, Immunization Clinics, and most recently in her overseeing Tropic Care 2012. She is respected in her profession.

Mrs. Torres is a natural leader and has the knowledge necessary to provide direction. She has the ability to listen, analyze, and work well with people. She will be a valuable asset to the board. I highly recommend her for the position.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Tennberg RN, BSN
Assistant Director of Nursing
Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital

NEAL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



GARY L. GILL
Acting Director of Health

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE &
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING DIVISION
1250 Punchbowl Street, #423
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

GM511

January 23, 2014

Senator Josh Green, M.D.
Chairman Senate Health Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Vice-Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813


Dear Senators Green and Nishihara:

This letter is to endorse the Governor's nomination of Antonette "Toni" Torres for appointment to the Hawaii Health Systems Board in the strongest terms possible. Toni is the Director for Public Health Nursing for the Kauai District Health Office, where she manages a team of eight Public Health Nurses and two additional staff members. She is a productive member of numerous community workgroups, coalitions and committees and is highly respected by her community.

I have known Toni for eight years, first in the context of her work with preventing transmission of tuberculosis on Kauai, and during the past two years as Chief of the Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division for the Department of Health. Toni is a hardworking, dedicated, honest, reliable, and responsible professional who serves as a role model for health professionals throughout the State. She was one of two senior nurse managers who kept the school health program going when this mission was transferred over to Department of Education a few years ago with fractured support. She has supported other programs in her same selfless manner. For example, she was lead organizer for Tropic Care Kauai 2012 (and again for 2014), in which more than 400 military reservist from the mainland provided over \$1 million in community support. This was acknowledged during the annual Governor's award ceremony with the presentation of the 2012 State of Hawaii Team Award.

In short, Toni's professionalism, vast experiences, and warm, collegial style make her an ideal candidate for appointment to the Hawaii Health Systems Board. She is a proven leader, dedicated collaborator, and highly sought after health service expert.

Sincerely,


Glenn Wasserman, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief, CDPHND

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

From: [Dennis Esaki](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: Letter of support, GM 511 - Antonette Torres, HHSC Board of Directors.
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 4:56:27 PM

Aloha Senators,

I have known and worked with Antonette Torres for several years both personally and professionally. The prime example of her leadership and dedication to the medical profession was her involvement in the 2012 Tropic Care Kauai project which involved hundreds of military medical reservists providing free medical, dental and eyecare for thousands of residents and visitors at no expense to them. It provided approximately 10 million dollars of service to our residents. She was a key organizer and coordinator which led to it receiving the Governor's 2013 Project Team of the Year for the entire state.

I strongly recommend her appointment to the HHSC Board of Directors.

Respectfully,
Dennis M. Esaki