

**LATE**

April 11, 2014

Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senatorial District 6  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
[CPNTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:CPNTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**RE: Gary Belcher, M.Ed.  
Candidate for Public Member, Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology**

Dear Honorable Chair Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to present a written statement for your consideration **in strong support of Mr. Gary Belcher's confirmation** to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology as a public member.

By way of background, I have served on the Hawaii Medical Board for the past 8 years, serving as Chair of the Board for the past 5 years. Hence, I am familiar with the role of Boards and Commissions that have been established to ensure public safety in matters of State licensure. I am also a tenured full Professor at the University of Hawaii and the prior Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Hawaii. In this role, I had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Belcher, particularly in his role as the Program Administrator for the General Surgery Residency, Orthopedic Surgery Residency, and our Surgical Critical Care Fellowship training programs for a number of years. I therefore believe that I am in good position to speak to the qualities that make him well-suited to serve the Public on this Board.

First of all, Mr. Belcher has been involved with graduate medical education for innumerable years, and is well-versed in matters of accreditation as it pertains to training programs that individuals must complete in order to be eligible for Board certification in a particular health care field. To this end, he is also familiar with licensure requirements, as even trainees must possess temporary State licenses.

Moreover, he is a leader who works well with others, and he has excellent interpersonal communication skills. He is highly dependable and detail oriented, and he has continually demonstrated the highest level of integrity and professionalism in performing all of his duties. Notwithstanding, he is well-respected by all who have had the opportunity to work with him.

In closing, I believe that Mr. Gary Belcher has the requisite qualifications and skills to serve the Public in an exemplary manner as a member of the Hawaii Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology, and I unequivocally support his candidacy with the highest possible enthusiasm. Thank you for your time and efforts, and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Danny M. Takanishi, Jr., MD, FACS