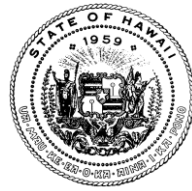


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LINDA ROSEN, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

GM 655, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Board of Health

Testimony of Linda Rosen MD, M.P.H.
Director of Health

April 9, 2014
1:30 pm

1 **Department's Position:** Support.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of
4 Health Nominee, Dr. Opal Vanessa Buchthal.

5

6 Dr. Buchthal is currently Assistant Professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Department of
7 Public Health. She has experience as a researcher and program evaluator working in nutrition and
8 physical activity, social marketing, and tobacco use. She teaches program evaluation and qualitative
9 research.

10

1 Dr. Buchthal is a member of the USDA Western Region SNAP-Ed Outcome Development Group and a
2 member of ASNNA (Association of SNAP-Ed Nutrition Networks and Other Implementing
3 Agencies) evaluation committee. As a community volunteer, she provides technical assistance to local
4 food security projects including *GreenWheel Food Hub* and the *Kōkua Kalihi Valley Roots Project*.
5 *GreenWheel Food Hub* is a social enterprise to help Hawaii's residents in low-income communities, gain
6 better access to fresh, locally-grown fruits, vegetables and staple foods. The *Kōkua Kalihi Valley Roots*
7 *Project* is an `aina-to-table initiative that aims to strengthen the Kalihi Valley community through the
8 growing, preparing and sharing of food.

9

10 Dr. Buchthal has strong interest in helping communities attain food security and improve nutrition
11 through self-help projects. Her knowledge and experience will be of great benefit to the Board of Health.

12

13 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Dr. Buchthal to the Board Health. Thank you for the
14 opportunity to testify.