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Cc: opalb@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM656 on Apr 9, 2014 13:30PM
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GM656

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for HTH on Apr 9, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Opal Buchthal	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: TESTIMONY OF OPAL BUCHTHAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH APRIL 8, 2019 Submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, for a term to expire 6-30-2017 Chair Green, Vice Chair Woods, and Members of the Committee: I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Board of Health. I am deeply honored to be considered for this appointment. Hawai'i has held a special place in my heart since I was an elementary-school aged child in Kane'ohe. I was thrilled to be able to return to this state as an adult seven years ago, to raise my children here, and to earn my doctorate at the University of Hawai'i. I am now grateful to be offered the opportunity to use my professional skills to serve my adopted state. As a faculty member in the University of Hawai'i Office of Public Health Studies, I am particularly concerned with understanding and addressing the disparities in chronic disease health outcomes among low-income Hawai'i residents My research focuses particularly on understanding the environment within which low-income families make food choices, the strategies that food-insecure families use to avoid hunger, and the impact that these factors have on chronic disease risk behaviors. Much of my research is intended to ensure that the perspectives and needs of low-income and food-insecure families are included in health promotion policy and program development. In addition, for the last 5 years I have been lead investigator for the evaluation of the State's SNAP-Ed (food stamp-funded nutrition education) program. In that role, I provide needs assessment, technical assistance, and evaluation assistance to community agencies, as well as the DOH and the DHS, to help improve programs serving the nutrition needs of low-income Hawai'i residents. I also work with a variety of community agencies serving low-income populations. I believe that I bring a useful perspective to the Board of Health. In closing, I would like to thank you for taking the time to consider my nomination to the Board of Health. Sincerely, Opal Vanessa Buchthal

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