

# GM545

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAREN SEPT, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Hawai'i Medical Board

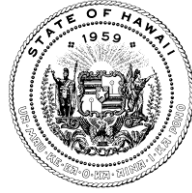
Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

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TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Tuesday, March 1, 2016  
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 545.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Ahlani Quiogue and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board ("Board"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 545, regarding the **reappointment** of Karen Sept, D.O., to the Board. The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Sept's reappointment to the Board.

Dr. Sept is being reappointed to the Board as one of its osteopathic physician members. Dr. Sept has been licensed in the State as an osteopathic physician since October 14, 1994, and her license is current, active and in good standing. Dr. Sept has a private osteopathic manipulative medicine practice in Kailua, Oahu.

As one of two osteopathic physician members on the Board, Dr. Sept has proven to be an extremely reliable and well informed member. Not one to shy away from tough or controversial issues, Dr. Sept speaks pointedly about matters and asks relevant

questions. This ultimately results in well-reasoned and well-informed discussion amongst the members of the Boards. Furthermore, Dr. Sept frequently volunteers to assist Board staff with research.

Dr. Sept's interest in serving on the Board and her desire to contribute to the community will undoubtedly continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Sept to the Hawaii Medical Board, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** [Spencer Lau](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** reappointment of Dr. Karen Sept to Medical Board of Examiners  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 5:50:37 AM

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To Whom it may Concern,

Dr. Karen Sept has completed one term as a member of the Hawaii Medical Board of Examiners. She has requested to serve a second term on this board. As the president of the Hawaii Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, our association supports Dr. Sept's appointment to serve a second term. She has been a respected member of our association and we have complete confidence in her professional opinion and judgement.

Yours Truly,

Spencer A. Lau, D.O.  
President-Hawaii Assoc. of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons

**From:** [William Wright](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Peggy Mierzwa](#)  
**Subject:** Karen Sept DO- GM545  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 4:20:23 PM

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To Hawaii State Medical Board - GM545  
Re: Karen Sept DO

Hello,

The email is to offer testimony to support the inclusion of Dr. Karen Sept as a member of the Hawaii State Medical Board. If it would be useful I would be glad to offer testimony in person.

My background: Board certified in psychiatry/neurology 1981, private practice ever since, retired clinical faculty John Burns School of Medicine.

I have frequently referred patients to Dr. Sept, and they all report useful comprehensive evaluations, recognizing her empathy and her assessment of the “whole patient”, not just the specific presenting problem. All of them report that she not only addresses the problem, but also the positive steps that patient can take on a regular basis to minimize the risk of recurring difficulties. They leave her office with handouts regarding particular stretches and exercises. She encourages the patient to take responsibility for his/her health rather than developing a dependency on providers. She is quite effective in her treatment efforts.

I myself have consulted her regarding back and joint issues. I found that her initial evaluation included one of the most comprehensive histories ever taken by any of my physicians. Her treatment approach is truly holistic in the sense that it addresses comprehensive health evaluation and care, not just the sore joint.

I can give you my very strong recommendation that Dr Sept is the sort of physician who can contribute to the State Medical Board in terms of medical expertise, as well as ethical and clinical judgement.

William T Wright Jr. MD  
Hawaii Medical License 2894  
Board Certified Psychiatry and Neurology 1981

6800 Kalaniana'ole  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Phone 808 223 2432



Karen E. Sept, D.O.  
Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

February 17, 2016

Senator Rosalyn Baker  
Chair, Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committees  
Hawaii State Capital  
Room 230

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I believe it is important for physicians to monitor ourselves and guarantee excellent care for our community. This requires that we diligently hold physicians to the highest standards of behavior and practice. I have been honored to perform part of this service for our state. I have served on the Hawaii Medical Board as one of its two Osteopathic members since July 2011. As an osteopathic physician, I feel that I have a special insight into the practice of others in my field. I have been teaching osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students and residents for 30 years.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

The primary function of the Medical Board is to protect the citizens of Hawaii through proper licensing and regulation of health care providers.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

The best way to protect the health care consumer is to estimate the risk of new applicants, and determine if they will need further monitoring in order to safely practice medicine. If a new applicant's past behavior indicates a lack of competence and safe practice, or has been unethical or unprofessional then their request for a license needs to be denied. For current practitioners who have demonstrated unsafe or unprofessional behavior, their cases need prompt, fair review with the constant focus being on the safety of patients in Hawaii.

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I have been serving on the Board for the nearly 6 years and understand the process and role of the Board in licensure of new applicants, adjudication of current licensees, and legislative role in proposing new laws. The commitment to be an active member of the Board means taking the time to read and evaluate all the material prior to each meeting and making difficult decisions in the best interest of our citizens. I have

demonstrated my willingness to do so. I have a strong commitment to maintaining a profession that deserves the trust of people at their times of greatest need.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

The Board must continue to make consumer safety and protection its number one goal even though we face a shortage of physicians. We must maintain our high standards in the face of the rise of allied health practitioners who are doing more of the work previously done by physicians and the significant decrease in training hours under the new rules for graduate medical education.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

I am honest and dedicated to a fault. I am willing to speak up for what is right. I always do a complete job.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

In addition to my board service, during my years in the Indian Health Service, I was actively involved in peer review for the medical staff and learned to speak for the patient even in a small and close-knit staff. When it became necessary to remove one of our staff because it came to our attention that his license was rescinded in another state, we did so even though it increased all of our work including night call by 25% and we all liked him. The safety of our patients was our first duty. I learned how to maintain kindness and concern for our colleague while being fair to our patients.

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

No, but I would recuse myself if I happened to know a licensee.