

# GM731

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board Of Speech Pathology And Audiology, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY BELCHER, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

**Report Title:** Board Of Speech Pathology And Audiology

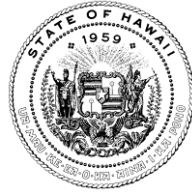
**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** CPH

**Introducer(s):**



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

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Friday, April 1, 2016  
9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 731.**

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

My name is Sandra Matsushima and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology ("Board"), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 731, regarding the **reappointment** of Gary Belcher to the Board. The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Belcher's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Belcher has worked in health education since 1992, and is currently the Program Administrator for the University of Hawaii Surgical Residency Program, John A. Burns School of Medicine. Mr. Belcher has served on the Board since July 1, 2014, and is being reappointed as a public member. Since Mr. Belcher's initial appointment, there have been three meetings of which he has attended two.

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Friday, April 1, 2016  
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Mr. Belcher is a valuable member as he actively participates and prepares for the discussions on agenda items, sharing insights based on his years of experience.

We appreciate Mr. Belcher's desire to continue serving on the Board. His knowledge, experience and thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of a board member demonstrates his ability to work with others and contributes to the effectiveness of the Board.

The Department supports the confirmation of Gary Belcher to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**  
**SURGICAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM**  
**SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

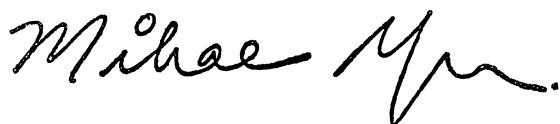
1356 Lusitana Street, Sixth Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813  
Telephone: (808) 586-2920 ♦ Fax: (808) 586-3022

3/30/16

Dear Chair Baker,

I am writing in support of Gary Belcher's nomination to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. I also wrote a letter of recommendation for him in April of 2014. He has served on this Board for two years and tells me that he greatly appreciates the opportunity to serve and enjoys the mission and the activity of the Board. This is directly in line with what I would expect, therefore I recommend him highly. In my capacity as Professor of Surgery for the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine I have known and worked with Gary for over 30 years. He is one of the most dedicated individuals I know and does everything with self-pride and a commitment to excellence. He will excel in whatever role he is assigned and will serve the people of Hawaii to the best of his ability.

Sincerely,



Mihae Yu, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery  
Associate Chair of Education,  
University of Hawaii Department of Surgery  
Program Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship  
Director of Surgical Intensive Care,  
The Queen's Medical Center  
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Lamont Dahlquist  
1424 Ainapua St  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

March 30, 2016

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
415 S Beretania St  
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT - Gary Belcher, LOR, Speech Pathology & Audiology

Dear Senator Baker ,

I am writing on behalf of Gary Belcher regarding membership on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. Gary and I have been lifelong friends since 1967 after meeting in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. I know Gary to uphold his very high morals in all of his endeavors. We have a lifetime of shared experiences and thus I can thoroughly vouch for his character and abilities.

Gary is extremely conscientious and thorough in all that he does. Gary keeps his commitments and will put in all the time and effort necessary to meet his due date and he will produce an A+ deliverable. His skill at production of presentations is excellent. I am sure many of his peers and the doctors and other professional he works with and has helped over the years could attest to his work force excellence skills, I however am uniquely qualified to attest to his personal and friendship skills.

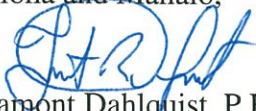
People trust and follow Gary because he cares about them. I know of no one who can better step in to calm animosity, I know of no one who can better listen and create understanding and I know of no one who can better support a friend in need.

Gary has demonstrated and set high standards for himself and others and led by example as a teenager, as an adult and as a seasoned professional. In ever endeavor he has committed to invariably he spent many hours perfecting his craft. While we have aged and gained valuable experience over the years, Gary has become more dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and a flame has always burned inside of him to excel and to give back to the community.

Thus I recommend whole heartedly that you appoint Gary Belcher to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology and allow him to make this contribution to the people of the State of Hawaii.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the above address or by phone at (808) 227-6282.

Aloha and Mahalo,



Lamont Dahlquist, P.E.  
Senior Supervising Electrical Engineer  
Hawaiian Electric

**Gary F. Belcher**, Testimony, Statement as to Ability to Serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology?

Becoming a member of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology would provide a most valuable means by which I could make an uncompensated contribution to the people of the State of Hawaii. It would be an honor and I would appreciate the opportunity to use my life experience, professional experience and educational background to help positively affect the lives of people that require and utilize the services of Speech Pathologists and Audiologists. The Board would also serve, both directly and indirectly, to improve the professions and their capabilities to help members of the public who need their services. I would place great value on being a part of that contribution.

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

My understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the members of the Board is that there are many and they are important. Largely, the Board accepts, reviews and renders decisions on applicants for licensure as Speech Pathologists and Audiologists. The Board also reviews concerns brought forth by members of the public regarding individual clinicians. The Board may have to make recommendations for sanction against practitioners who hurt or injure their patients/clients. Additionally the Board, at its bi-monthly meetings, responds to public concerns about technological and practice-based developments within both domains. The Board also communicates with specialty organizations that have an interest in Speech Pathology and/or Audiology and determines whether proposals or desires on the part of those entities should be forwarded to state lawmakers and/or those who develop public policy.

(3) 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 lived in the State of Hawaii for 49 years and have a good understanding of public need in the area of healthcare. I have worked in health education since 1977 and despite not being a practitioner I have a very good understanding of clinical health care and health care delivery systems. My role as a residency program administrator with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine lends itself to my being highly functional in healthcare environments. I feel that I have an excellent understanding of the healthcare paradigm from physicians and other clinical providers through the level of patient, including the underserved patient. I am generally seen as a compassionate person, this may be one of the more important qualifications.

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

I would hope to help maintain the high level of service and activity currently provided by the Board. As a public member I would hope to acquire a strong understanding of the needs of patients being treated by Speech Pathologists and Audiologists and advocate for those special

needs. I would anticipate that both professions will gain increased substantiveness as the population ages.

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

Three qualities that describe me are:

1. Willing and Eager to Serve – I am a hardworking individual and my work output and quality largely define who I am as a person. I am able to successfully navigate through familiar and less-familiar territory – I consider myself a pragmatist and am able to get the job done.
2. Competent and Inquisitive – I am of above average intelligence and have received a good education (both at James Campbell High School and the University of Hawaii). I pride myself on being admired for my work quality and my work ethic.
3. Honesty and Integrity – My honesty and integrity supersedes all other qualities and characteristics I possess.

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

I think my professional role as a Residency Program Administrator and my many years in healthcare education would be the most valuable contributors to success as a Board member. My post-graduate training is in Education. I have a Masters of Education from the University of Hawaii which provided the training to observe and absorb from different perspectives and to see things from a systems perspective. On the personal side, I have had many opportunities to help others negotiate complex healthcare issues and have found this to be tremendously rewarding.

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

I cannot foresee any conflicts of interest that may arise from being on the Board, but at the same time I have no experience as a Board member. In my professional role I am required to monitor healthcare trainees and their interactions with industry and believe that I am very capable of recognizing such conflicts. If I believed I was in a controversial position I would likely discuss the situation with the Chairperson of the Board or perhaps the Executive Director and ask for guidance. In the absence of such guidance I would declare myself as unable to participate; I would recuse myself.

Sincerely,



Gary F. Belcher

March 28, 2016