

# GM768

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board Of Acupuncture, Gubernatorial Nominee, ELLEN ROOS-MARR, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

**Report Title:** Board Of Acupuncture

**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  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016  
Wednesday, April 13, 2016  
9:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON **GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NOS. 767 AND 768**, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO **THE BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE**, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **ELLEN ROOS-MARR**, FOR TERMS TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016 AND 6-30-2020.

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

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message Nos. 767 and 768, nominating Ms. Ellen Roos-Marr for membership on the Board of Acupuncture ("Board") for terms to expire June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2020, respectively.

Ms. Roos-Marr earned a masters degree in speech language pathology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and has 30 years of experience working in that field. She strives to improve the lives of others and has helped patients of all ages, ranging from

preschoolers to high school students at various Kailua schools and also adults at the Rehab Hospital of the Pacific. She has been in private practice at Oahu Speech & Language Pathology since 2014.

Ms. Roos-Marr understands her responsibility to attend and prepare for the Board's periodic meetings.

Given Ms. Roos-Marr's professional background and her dedication to helping others, the Department believes that she is in a good position to positively contribute to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of Ms. Roos-Marr's nomination to the Board of Acupuncture.

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

To share many positive experiences with acupuncture as a complementary addition to western medical healthcare.

My family are all acupuncture fans! It started with my husband receiving treatment from Dr. Hsiang over 25 years ago for a painful tennis elbow which prevented him from turning a door knob or even shaking a client's hand. Medical doctors offered surgery if improvement didn't occur within the year. Acupuncture treatments and herbs facilitated recovery in about three months.

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

To emphasize consumer safety and ensure that the public has the confidence to select a practitioner and receive appropriate treatment in keeping with Hawaii's regulations regarding professional standards.

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

Every member in my family has benefited from acupuncture treatment during the past 25 years using several different practitioners. Initially, we sought recommendations of friends and doctors. As time went on, I looked into a variety of treatment recommended by Dr. Kroll, currently on the Board of Acupuncture. Her recommendations were very helpful. She maintains up to date awareness about current practices in acupuncture and Oriental medicine and supports her patients by treating them and/or guiding them to locate the best services for their health care needs.

It is clear that continuing education for practitioners of acupuncture and speech-language pathology ensure that professionals in each group maintain a high level of expertise and remain knowledgeable about current practices to best serve consumers.

(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.

As a speech-language pathologist, I know that safeguards are needed to ensure that consumers receive appropriate evidence-based treatment from qualified practitioners. During the past 34 years as speech-language pathologist, I have maintained my accreditation (Certificate of Clinical Competence ) by taking 30 hours of continuing education (or more) every three years to update skills to provide the most current treatments available.

At the start of my career I worked at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific during my Clinical Fellowship Year and for several years afterwards while my children were young. I provided services to patients recovering from strokes and traumatic brain injuries. Next, I worked for the DOE in the Windward District for 25 years at Kailua High School, sometimes providing service for preschoolers through elementary age children during summers. I now work with at Oahu Speech & Language Pathology as a private practitioner.

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

To help educate the public about health care choices and complementary healthcare. I believe education is important to empower consumers about their healthcare options and to choose those most suited to their needs.

I have been a patient of both eastern and western medicine and have benefited greatly from both. I believe my experiences as a patient of both types of medicine help me understand the value of different modalities and integrated and complementary approaches. I understand that there are limitations to every approach and collaborative thinking/collaborative health plans can produce excellent results.

I want to emphasize consumer safety and encourage practitioners to maintain a rigorous quality of professional expertise to ensure optimal experiences for their patients. One way to facilitate this goal is to provide clear guidelines and recommendations for continuing education.

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

Diligent--I understand the importance of completing high quality work in an efficient manner and making good use of limited time.

People person--I enjoy talking with people and sharing ideas. I have empathy and compassion for anyone struggling with pain or difficulty with communication.

Motivated-- I do my best to provide the most current, evidence-based treatment for the students I serve and believe in the importance of this approach in all professions.

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

Acupuncture treatments have been a positive experience for all my family members. Perhaps the most dramatic improvement occurred after my son's surgery after breaking several broken bones in his foot. The post surgical pain medication dissipated quickly and he became very ill due to pain and nausea. It was remarkable how quickly Dr. Tall's acupuncture and herbal treatments transformed my son's complexion from "green" back to normal!

(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?

I cannot foresee any possible conflicts of interest due to service on the Board of Acupuncture. As a speech language pathologist, I know that safeguards are important to ensure that community members receive evidence-based treatment from qualified practitioners. I think the science-based education for the professions of acupuncture and speech language pathology both require rigorous study and discipline to insure that members of each professions are qualified to provide appropriate service for each individual.

Submitted by,

Ellen Roos-Marr, M.S., CCC-SLP