

# GM 822

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY SIMON, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

**Report Title:** Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs

**Description:**

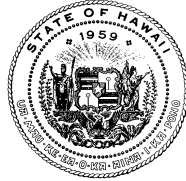
**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** HMS

**Introducer(s):**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS  
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831  
eoa@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 822**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, Gary Simon, for a term to expire June 30, 2020**

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR  
SENATOR GIL RIVIERE, VICE CHAIR  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Testimony of Terri Byers  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: April 12, 2016 Room Number: 016  
1:15pm

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is in strong support of the nomination
- 2 of Mr. Gary Simon to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).
- 3 **Comments:** Mr. Simon previously served on PABEA in a variety of leadership roles, including
- 4 Chair of the Legislative Committee. He has worked in healthcare for almost three decades, is
- 5 President of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, and serves on the board of Kokua Mau. Mr.
- 6 Simon has a broad understanding of the range of issues in the field of aging and expertise in
- 7 advocating for policies and programs which protect and enhance the health and welfare of our
- 8 kupuna and their caregivers.
- 9 For these reasons, EOA supports the confirmation of Mr. Simon for PABEA.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [john.mcdermott@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:john.mcdermott@doh.hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM822 on Apr 12, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Friday, April 08, 2016 11:09:05 AM

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**GM822**

Submitted on: 4/8/2016

Testimony for HMS on Apr 12, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John G. McDermott	State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) is in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Gary Simon to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). I had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Simon when he was chair of PABEA's Legislative Committee. During the legislative session, this committee is VERY busy tracking bills, meeting with legislators and other advocacy partners, writing testimony, getting other members to attend committee meetings, etc. Despite Mr. Simon's considerable time commitments to his real job at St. Francis Healthcare, he was able to juggle all these commitments successfully, graciously, and always with good humor. His strong commitment to our kupuna is without question and I'm very confident he will again be a major asset to PABEA. I ask that you please support his nomination. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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April 11, 2016

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: GM 822: Appointment of Gary Simon to the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly  
Affairs

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director for AARP Hawaii, a social change organization that advocates on behalf of seniors to in the areas of healthcare, financial resiliency, livable communities and quality of life as people age. AARP has more than 150,000 members in Hawaii.

AARP Hawaii **strongly endorses** Gary Simon's nomination to PABEA. Gary is an outstanding leader in the field of eldercare. He has dedicated virtually his entire career—spanning more than 28 years—in the area improving the well-being of Hawaii's kupuna. He has done this in his professional capacity at St. Francis Hospice where he served in management positions at St. Francis' Lifeline Program, Health Services for Seniors and in his current position as Executive Director.

Gary has a distinguished record in community service and has served in leadership positions in virtually all of Hawaii's major senior organizations. He is well familiar with the mission of PABEA, having served as PABEA's Chairman of the Board, and chair of all of PABEA's major committees, including Legislative Committee, Plans and Projects, and By-laws. He can always be relied upon to provide thoughtful analysis, substantive and excellent work products, and courageous unfaltering leadership.

PABEA and our seniors will benefit greatly from Gary's wise guidance and visionary leadership with this appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barbara Kim Stanton'.

AARP State Director



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF HAWAII  
**DIOCESE OF HONOLULU**  
Witness to Jesus



**DATE:** April 9, 2016

**TO:** Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director – Hawaii Catholic Conference

**POSITION:** **Strong Support for GM 822 Gary Simon**

Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, I am Walter Yoshimitsu, representing the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii in my capacity as Executive Director for the Hawaii Catholic Conference, which under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents Roman Catholics in the State of Hawaii.

We are pleased to support the nomination of Gary Simon to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. Mr. Simon's education, experience, common sense, intellect and professionalism make him an exemplary choice to serve on the Board of Directors.

Currently Gary Simon is the Executive Director for St. Francis Hospice, an organization which provides care, comfort and support to the terminally ill. His commitment to the community is extensive and begins with one simple fact: he has worked for 28 years with St. Francis. It is apparent by his longevity, that he is committed to making life better for our elderly aging, sick and disabled community.

To further make him a perfect candidate, we note that Mr. Simon has served with other community organizations like PABEA, Kokua Mau and Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition. His educational experience with the U.S. Peace Corps (Sierra Leone Ministry of Education) will further enable him to bring a broad understanding and wisdom to the Policy Board for Elder Affairs.

In his capacity at St. Francis Hospice, I have worked directly with Mr. Simon on a number of issues, including elder care and palliative care. I have found him to be highly professional, knowledgeable, practical and compassionate in his approach to public policy. Please support his nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support.

**HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE**

(The public policy voice for the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii)

**From:** [Anthony Lenzer](#)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for GM 822  
**Date:** Thursday, April 07, 2016 5:39:22 PM

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TO: [Committee on Human Services](#)

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Sen. Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

FROM: Anthony Lenzer, PhD

RE: Support for Appointment of Gary Simon (GM 822) to the  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)

HEARING: Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

I am writing to offer my strong support for the appointment of Gary Simon to PABEA for a term ending 6-30-2018. Gary has been an outstanding member of PABEA in the past, where he served in various capacities. His work as Chair of the Legislative Committee has been particularly noteworthy.

In addition, he is currently serving as President of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC). In this capacity, he has demonstrated valuable leadership in three areas: (1) helping HFCC become a Federally-recognized non-profit; (2) editing the 2016 version of [Aging & Disability Issues](#); and (3) organizing HFCC's annual Caregiver Day at the Capitol.

Gary's work with St. Francis Health Care organization has given him a broad understanding of issues in the field of aging. His leadership style could be described as "quiet but highly effective." It would be difficult to find a more suitable appointee for this Board.

April 10, 2016

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Gary Simon- Nomination to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)

Dear Senator Chun Oakland,

I strongly support Mr. Gary Simon's nomination to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). He is a trusted colleague with true dedication to aging issues and the needs of our kupuna. As both Executive Director at St. Francis Hospice and President of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, he will make valuable contributions to PABEA.

I have known Mr. Simon in both of his roles at St. Francis and the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition. I have found him to be a strong and effective leader, and has played key roles in developing and implementing successful community programs and initiatives. Most recently, he has led in the development and publication of the Aging and Disabilities Issues 2016 booklet, a valuable publication for all in the aging network.

I strongly support his nomination, and look forward to his contributions to PABEA in developing, planning, and advocating for Hawaii's kupuna.

Sincerely,  
PChristy Nishita, Ph.D.  
Interim Director and Researcher  
Center on Aging  
University of Hawaii  
808.956.5001

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [JIMCISLER@YMAIL.COM](mailto:JIMCISLER@YMAIL.COM)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM822 on Apr 12, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Friday, April 08, 2016 10:07:02 AM

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**GM822**

Submitted on: 4/8/2016

Testimony for HMS on Apr 12, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jim Cisler	PABEA	Support	No

Comments: Gary Simon: knowledgeable. Experienced. Professional. He has managed a successful career in health care with an active participation in elder advocacy for decades. An understanding, cooperative, supportive leader. We need Gary on PABEA.

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To: Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland- Chair  
Honorable Senator Gil Riviere – Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Subject: Amended Agenda to add additional member to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee Gary Simon for a term to expire 06/30/18(GM 822)

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016  
Time: 1:15 pm  
Place: State Capitol Room 016

I am in strong support of GM 822 to add Gary Simon as an additional member to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs for a term to expire 06/30/18.

Mr. Simon is the Executive Director of St. Francis Hospice and presently serves as President of the Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition. He has served on the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs from 2005-2015.

Mr. Gary Simon's professional and personal interests, commitment, and leadership to serve the older adults are long standing, greatly valued, and commendable.

Please support GM 822 for the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Gary Simon to the Policy Advisory Board of Elder Affairs for a term to expire 06/30/18.

Thank you very much.

Rose Nakamura,

Administrator, Project Dana

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sarahyuan@gmail.com](mailto:sarahyuan@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM822 on Apr 12, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2016 12:00:03 AM

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**GM822**

Submitted on: 4/10/2016

Testimony for HMS on Apr 12, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sarah Yuan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to offer my strong support for the appointment of Mr. Gary Simon to PABEA for a term to expire 6-30-2018. I have known Gary since 2013, ever since I began serving on PABEA and have seen him leading various advocacy efforts through PABEA and Hawaii Family Caregivers Coalition. He is an effective and committed leader and a supportive colleague. Gary has 28 years of experience in the healthcare field and is the Executive Director of St. Francis Hospice. He is passionate about improving the support system for our kupuna affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. I support Gary's nomination enthusiastically and without reservations. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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*Suzanne M. Sato*  
*600 Queen Street, #3701*  
*Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*  
*suzannesato@yahoo.com*

April 11, 2016

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Committee on Human Services

RE: HMS hearing on PABEA Nominees on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 1:15 PM  
GM 822 – Gary Simon

It is a great honor to recommend Gary Simon for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. I work at Punahou School and have known him for more than a decade as a parent, community leader and friend. In that time, I have been continually struck by Gary's humanity, wisdom, thoughtfulness and sense of fairness. Count me among his many admirers.

Though I know Gary more socially than professionally, it is clear that he cares passionately about quality services for those in need of hospice care, whether elderly or not, and beyond those who are suffering, to their families and friends. Gary balances professionalism with great good will. He is a lifelong learner in every part of his life, and it is evident that he is always thinking about ways to improve working conditions and training for his staff, thereby improving services for those served by St. Francis Hospice.

Punahou has an intranet where staff members exchange referrals of all kinds. A couple of months ago, one of my colleagues whose loved one was dealing with a terminal condition asked whether anyone had had experience with a hospice service provider. Several faculty and staff recommended St. Francis Hospice and added that their experience was characterized by sensitivity and the feeling that they were in good and careful hands. Gary supports his staff and that feeling of support passes in turn to the patients and those—whether at the end of life or caring for loved ones—that most need hospice help at the most vulnerable time of their lives. That so many respondents independently cited St. Francis Hospice as a place that had cared for their family well, speaks to the quality of their service, Gary's leadership, and the loyalty and effectiveness of his staff.

Gary has extensive experience in hospice care, as Director of St. Francis Hospice in 2004, becoming Executive Director in 2010. He understands his field and he understands people. He leads with gentleness and surety and a disarming sense of humor. He is naturally self-effacing and understated and readily credits others with the success of a project, but at the same time is confident in understanding the big picture and suggesting a route to solution or success.

I can imagine no one that I would want on my team more when considering the needs of the elderly, whether healthy or at the end of life, and the policies that will benefit both those in need and those who provide services to support them. At the same time, it is Gary's personal warmth and positive life attitude that will be a blessing to any committee, agency or team. Thank you for your time and consideration.

  
Suzanne M. Sato