

# GM 530

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, BARBARA YAMASHITA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs

Description:

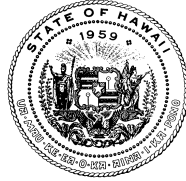
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

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 GM0530**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Barbara Yamashita, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.**

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: March 10, 2017,  
9:30 a.m.

Room Number: 229

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is in strong support of the nomination
- 2 of Ms. Barbara Yamashita to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).
- 3 **Comments:** Ms. Barbara Yamashita brings a wealth of knowledge to her role on PABEA.
- 4 Throughout her professional experience, Barbara has provided leadership through community
- 5 initiatives to build partnerships and raise awareness to promote family wellness. She worked as a
- 6 hospital administrator and has years in public health with a focus on community health, chronic
- 7 disease management and prevention, nursing services, and emergency response.
- 8 She has previously served as the Deputy Director of the Department of Community Services of
- 9 the City and County of Honolulu, which houses the Elderly Affairs Division (EAD); Deputy
- 10 Director of the Department of Human Services; and has held various positions with the

1 Department of Health. Her work at Department of Human Services included Adult Protective  
2 Services and the Senior Grandparent and Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs.  
3 Barbara also has served as a Board Member of the National Association of Chronic Disease  
4 Directors and was one of the founders of the national Health Equity committee. In addition, she  
5 has served on the State Health Planning and Development Agency Area Council, Early  
6 Childhood Council and the Board of the Hawaii Housing Authority. Barbara is retired and  
7 committed to promoting healthy and productive aging.  
8 For these reasons, EOA supports the confirmation of Ms. Barbara Yamashita for PABEA.  
9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Sarah Yuan, Vice Chair  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

SUBJECT: GM 530 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, BARBARA YAMASHITA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020

HEARING: Friday, March 10, 2017, 9:30 am  
Conference Room 229

POSITION: PABEA **strongly supports** the nomination of Ms. Barbara Yamashita to the PABEA for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

The PABEA (Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs) has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on its behalf.

Ms. Barbara Yamashita has a long and outstanding record of public service in the field of health and human services. She has recently retired from the Deputy Director position at the City's Department of Community Services where she provided leadership and oversight to programs such as the Elderly Affairs Division and the Community Assistance program for housing. Prior to that, Ms. Yamashita served in various leadership positions in the State's Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Health (DOH). For example, as the Deputy Director of DHS, she managed a budget of approximately \$2.8 billion that funded public benefit programs and social services to the vulnerable and low-income residents in the state. As a Chief of the Maternal and Child Health Branch and Community Health Division at DOH, Ms. Yamashita oversaw programs that addressed abuse and neglect prevention, provided health services via home visits, promoted chronic disease management and control, etc.

Ms. Yamashita is committed to advocating for the quality of life of our kūpuna. We believe that her expertise and commitment will contribute greatly to PABEA's cause.

We, therefore, ask you to support Ms. Yamashita's appointment as a member of Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:29 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** mlopes@hscadv.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM530 on Mar 10, 2017 09:30AM\*

**GM530**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marci Lopes	Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Support	No

**Comments:**

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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March 2, 2017

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chair, Senate Committee of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: Testimony in strong support of GM 530 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Barbara Yamashita, for a term to expire 06-30-2020**

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

My name is Aphirak Bamrungruan and I am a LEP Project Manager at the Department of Human Services. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity in strong support of Barbara Yamashita's appointment to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

I have known and worked with Ms. Yamashita for several years in her position as the Deputy Director at the Hawaii State Department of Human Services (DHS). I have been able to witness first hand her dedication and her passion in advocating for people in need.

Ms. Yamashita has continued to be an approachable and invaluable resource, committed to the importance of public services and the people of Hawaii. I strongly believe that her years of experience will be a great benefit to both the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs and the people of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Aphirak Bamrungruan



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

Department of Sociology

March 1, 2017

Hawaii State Legislature, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health.  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony in GM 530 for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Barbara Yamashita, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

This is my testimony for GM 530 submitting for consideration and confirmation of to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Barbara Yamashita, for a term to expire 06-30-2020. Barbara Yamashita is eminently qualified to serve on the Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs. I worked under Ms. Yamashita for almost 10 years at the Hawaii State Department of Health when she was the Chief of the Community Health Division, and as the Chief for the Maternal and Child Health Branch. Ms. Yamashita was in charge of the Community Health Division (CHD), which also included both the Chronic Disease Management and Control Branch (CDMCB) and the Public Health Nursing Branch (PHNB), so she was responsible for the implementation of all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded chronic disease and risk factor programs under the CDMCB, as well as the extensive community outreach and nursing activities of the PHNB. During this time the CHD helped to spearhead numerous innovative programs relevant to elderly affairs and aging issues in Hawaii, such as the Health Aging Project in conjunction with the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), and the Start Living Healthy Project under the Tobacco Settlement Funds. Ms. Yamashita initiated the development of the Health Disparities Interest Group, which evolved into the Health Equity Council of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD). Under the Community Health Division, we were able to acquire a much needed, competitive CDC grant addressing heart disease and stroke in Hawaii. All of these projects dealt with aging and elderly issues related to chronic disease prevention, management and care and health aging. Ms. Yamashita's tenure as the recent Deputy Director, Office of Community Services, City & County of Honolulu and Deputy Director, Hawaii Department of Human Services also add to her extensive experience in human services, applied social work practice and provision of assistance to vulnerable populations, such as the elderly in Hawaii.

I enthusiastically support the consideration and confirmation of Barbara Yamashita to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information.

Ann Pobutsky, PhD  
Affiliate Graduate Faculty  
Department of Sociology  
2424 Maile Way  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

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link: <http://www.sociology.hawaii.edu/people/affiliate.cfm>

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TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair – Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair - Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

DATE: Friday, March 10, 2017  
TIME: 9:30 A.M.  
PLACE: Conference Room 229

**Re: GM 530 Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, BARBARA YAMASHITA**

**Position: Support**

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Nishihara, and Committee Members,

I am writing to support the appointment of Barbara Yamashita to the Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs.

I have known Ms. Yamashita for many years and personally worked with her in her role at the Hawaii Department of Health. She is dedicated to serving the public through a lifetime commitment to improve the health of our community. She understands the broader picture of systems of change and the ability to impact our community at the population level striving for demonstrable results.

As a past caregiver for her mother, she has experienced the challenges that families face when they are providing care for their family elders. Ms. Yamashita is fully cognizant of the issues of our kupuna and would strive to improve their quality of life for themselves and their families.

As a physician and caregiver myself, I am confident that Ms. Yamashita will provide the leadership and thoughtful discussion necessary to improve our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Goto, M.D.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2017 3:22 PM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** lindaemsipsb@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM530 on Mar 10, 2017 09:30AM

**GM530**

Submitted on: 3/6/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 10, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Rosen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have worked with Ms. Yahmashita in various capacities for over 15 years and find her highly qualified for this appointment. She will bring a wealth of experience and a caring heart to her service on the Board. Thank you 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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Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Subject: Governor's Message 530 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Barbara Yamashita, for a term to expire June 30, 2020

Dear Senator Baker and Senator Nishihara:

It gives me great pleasure to submit a testimony in support of Barbara Yamashita's nomination and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

I worked very closely with Barbara, who was my supervisor, when she was the Deputy Director at the City's Department of Community Services before she retired last December. I have been most impressed with the genuine compassion that Barbara shows untiringly on a daily basis to people who are in need, no matter what their station in life is.

Barbara has also demonstrated to me (who has joined the rank of senior citizens) that she has many creative thoughts to improve the quality of life for people as we are living longer, and to tap our talents and energies in meaningful ways that are not only rewarding to us but are also of great benefits to the community. She has also been diligent in researching and following policy reforms and best practices that are happening around the world and is enthusiastic about the potential of applying some of this knowledge to our own community.

Barbara will be an outstanding asset to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs with her commitment and creativity.

Please call me at 768-5607 if there are any questions. Your favorable consideration is most appreciated.

Sincerely

Rolanse Crisafulli, Administrator  
Oahu WorkLinks/WorkHawaii

Lisa Nakao  
P.O. Box 23033  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96823  
E-mail: [lisanakao@yahoo.com](mailto:lisanakao@yahoo.com)

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March 3, 2017

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Hearing: March 10, 2017, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229

**RE: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 530 Consideration and Confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee BARBARA YAMASHITA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.**

My name is Lisa Nakao and I am testifying as an individual in **strong support** of Ms. Barbara Yamashita's nomination as a member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). I have had the pleasure with working Ms. Barbara Yamashita for over twenty years during my professional career as a Planner at various Hawaii State Departments. Ms. Yamashita will bring a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and commitment to her role in PABEA.

As a public servant, Ms. Yamashita dedicated her professional career in advocating for those in need and individuals who may not have a voice. She has provided leadership on various community based initiatives and collaborative partnerships to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.

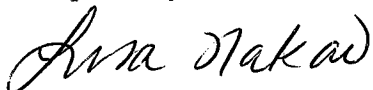
Ms. Yamashita vast work experience includes serving as Division Chief at the Hawaii State Department of Health's Community Health Division; Deputy Director at the Hawaii State Department of Human Services; and Deputy Director at the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Community Services.

Ms. Yamashita is collaborative, passionate, dedicated and tireless in her approach to work and in everything that she does. I truly believe that Ms. Yamashita will be a valuable and highly productive member of PABEA and request that you recommend approval of her nomination to PABEA.

It is with great pleasure that I provide strong support of Ms. Yamashita's confirmation serving as a member of the PABEA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Nakao

March 8, 2017

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Shirley Kidani

SUBJECT: GM 530: Barbara Yamashita, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

HEARING: Friday, March 10, 2017 (9:00 am)  
Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

I write in strong support of Ms. Barbara Yamashita's nomination to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

Ms. Yamashita has a wealth of experience in the health and human services arena. While Ms. Yamashita was at the Department of Health's Community Health Division, she worked closely with the Executive Office on Aging in the development of the Healthy Aging Partnership. Her background in community health and the insights she shared helped to move the Healthy Aging Partnership forward.

Ms. Yamashita will be a great asset to PABEA. Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for Ms. Yamashita's nomination.

**GM 530**

**Barbara Yamashita**

**1. Why do you want to be a member of the Board?**

Throughout my career, in human services and public health, I have taken an interest in the life course—birth through death. I have had the privilege to work within communities and believe that the aging population presents a valuable resource to communities—especially to those communities that want to be more resilient. I think the "resource" value of the aging population has long been overlooked or devalued. While I believe that the needs of our aging population must be addressed—the focus should include how we capture the value and expertise of this segment of the population. I would like to support the efforts currently being addressed by the executive office on aging (EOA) and advocate for also including the view of the aging population as a community resource.

**2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?**

The HRS is clear about the purpose of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)—Identification of issues and alternative approaches to solutions; the development of position statements and papers; advocacy and legislative action; and program development and operations.

**3. In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?**

I believe that by supporting and helping the agency be effective in what they do and they fulfill the mandates of that office—both at the state level as well as the expectations of the federal mandates—that helps consumers. Hawaii has populations that live long and we (collectively as a community) need to ensure that the needs of our aging population are addressed. We need to look at the health needs, social needs, emotional needs and economic needs of our aging population and ensure a comprehensive approach in setting policy and programs.

**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.**

My career has been in health and human services. I have had the privilege of working in a small rural community as administrator of Molokai hospital, public health, Medicaid and the "business" of health, chronic disease and disaster or emergency response. All of these areas require that the issues be addressed in an age appropriate manner as well as a cultural and community based appropriate approach. I feel honored that I have had the opportunity to work in a broad arena that allowed me to learn and address issues in tailored ways to address specific needs. I believe in data informed decision making and evaluation and am very comfortable in areas that encourage community based participation.

**5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?**

To serve well—to listen and to help translate need and help with formulating approaches to address those needs.

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

I believe in (1) community-based participation. I am comfortable with (2) data informed approaches and like to read about (3) best practices and innovation across the globe. I believe that internationally there are exciting things happening to address the broad needs of our aging population—from productive aging to meeting the needs of those who are in need of long term care.

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

I was Chief of the Community Health Division, which focused on community engagement in program development and design. I also believe that working in a small rural community has been a valuable learning experience. It is difficult to isolate experience and the knowledge gained. Honestly, all my experience will help to serve on PABEA.

**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 am retired and do not believe that this will be an issue.