

GM 531

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, COLETTE BROWNE, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs

Description:

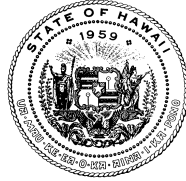
Companion:

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
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831
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Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0531
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs,
Gubernatorial Nominee, COLETTE BROWNE, for a term to expire 06-30-2019

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 Room Number: 229
9:30 a.m.

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health, is in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Colette Browne to the Policy Advisory
- 3 Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).
- 4 **Comments:** HRS 349-4 established PABEA to advise the EOA on issues, approaches to
- 5 solutions, development of position statements, advocacy, legislative actions, program
- 6 development and operations. With her knowledge and experience, Dr. Browne would be a
- 7 tremendous asset providing guidance to the EOA. Dr. Browne is a well-known and highly
- 8 respected expert in the field of Gerontology. She has been a professor at the Myron B.
- 9 Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii since 1985 and has also held
- 10 positions as Chair of the Gerontology Program, Interim Director of the University of Hawaii
- 11 Center on Aging, visiting professor at Columbia University School of Social Work, Project
- 12 Director of the Office of Social Work Education and Research at the Queen's Health Care

1 System, Principal Investigator and Project Director for the Pacific Gerontology Social Work
2 Education Project for the Administration on Aging, and Director of Geriatric Services at the
3 Kuakini Medical Center.

4 Dr. Browne has published numerous journal articles, book chapters, technical reports,
5 monographs, research papers and grants and has received a long list of honors and awards from
6 the Council on Social Work Education, the National Association of Social Workers, the Hawaii
7 Pacific Gerontological Society, the National Academic Honor and Professional Society in
8 Gerontology and the University of Hawaii Board of Regents Award for Exemplary Community
9 Service and Award for Teaching Excellence. In addition, in 1998, President Bill Clinton
10 appointed her to the White House Summit on Retirement.

11 To highlight two of her most recent honors, the Ha Kupuna Program was honored with the
12 Award for Excellence in Multicultural Aging by the American Society on Aging. Dr. Browne is
13 the Principal Investigator for Ha Kupuna, one of three National Resource Centers for Native
14 Elders, funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging and the U.S. Department of Health and
15 Human Services. This program seeks to improve the health and increase the life expectancy of
16 our Native Hawaiian elders. Secondly, in 2015, Dr. Browne was named the first Takasaki
17 Endowed Professor of Social Policy at the University of Hawaii, Myron B. Thompson School of
18 Social Work. In this capacity, she examined policy questions related to equity-related concerns
19 of diverse groups.

20 We would be honored and appreciative to have Dr. Colette Browne on PABEA and urge your
21 support of her confirmation.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO : **SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH**

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.,
Legislative Committee, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs
And Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC)

SUBJECT: GM 531 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, COLETTE BROWNE, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

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

POSITION: My testimony is to urge the confirmation the Governor's nomination of Colette Browne to the Policy Board for Elder Affairs for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

RATIONALE:

Dr. Colette Browne has outstanding qualifications for serving on the Policy Board for Elder Affairs. She is a Professor of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she heads to Geriatric Social Work program. During her career in Hawaii, she has conducted numerous research studies and published articles and books related to the issues faced by elder persons in Hawaii, particularly family caregiving and the adult residential care home industry. She has also focused on the cultural and ethnic traditions as they affect caregiving.

She has supervised many students who on completing their degree programs have entered the eldercare workforce in the agencies and residential settings which serve the frail elderly in Hawaii. Her background and knowledge will be a valuable asset to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

She is an outstanding nominee from the Governor for this position and I urge your confirmation of her appointment.

Thank you for allowing me to offer testimony.



THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

DATE: Friday, March 10, 2017
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: GM 531 – Gubernatorial Nominee Colette Browne

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director for AARP. AARP is a membership organization of people age fifty and over with nearly 150,000 members in Hawaii. AARP advocates and provides information on issues that matter to our kupuna and their families, including affordable, accessible, quality health care, financial resiliency, and livable communities.

AARP testifies in **strong support** of GM 531 for Gubernatorial Nominee, COLETTE BROWNE to serve on the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

I've known Dr. Colette Browne, both professionally and personally for many years. She is a highly respected professor, researcher and consultant in the field of gerontology and social work at the University of Hawaii, School of Social Work. She has authored and published an extensive collection of books, articles for prestigious journals and papers in aging. Dr. Browne's expertise focuses on cultural diversity, aging among minority groups, social policy and aging, and long term care. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, and would be a welcomed addition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: [Anthony Lenzer](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Appointment of Colette Browne to Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2017 8:45:12 AM

To: [Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health](#)

From: Anthony Lenzer, PhD

Re: [Appointment of Dr. Colette Browne to PABEA \(GM 531\)](#)

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

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Senator Baker and Committee Members:

I have known Dr. Colette Browne for many years, first as a gerontology student at the University of Hawaii and subsequently as a professional colleague, both at the University and in the community. Dr. Browne is one of Hawaii's most outstanding professionals in the field of gerontology. I will summarize her distinguished career below.

Dr. Colette V. Browne is the Richard S. and T. Rose Takasaki Endowed Professor in Social Policy at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She also serves as Principal Investigator, along with co-investigators Drs. Noreen Mokuau and Kathryn Braun, for H? K?puna: National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian Elders. H? K?puna is a federally funded and congressionally mandated university-based center that serves Native Hawaiian elders by developing and disseminating knowledge on their health and long-term care needs. Dr. Browne developed and chairs the School of Social Work's Gerontology Concentration, and has for the past 25 years educated and trained masters' students in social work practice with older adults. She has written and edited two books in gerontology, and numerous professional journal articles published in journals such as *Social Work*, *the Gerontologist*, *Health and Social Work*, and *Journal of Cross Cultural Gerontology*, and book chapters, and technical reports on issues related to aging. Dr. Browne is an invited presenter at many local, national and international conferences. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and Fellow in the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She has served on numerous national (American Society on Aging) and state (Oahu Regional Health Care System) boards and currently sits on the National Indigenous Elder Justice Initiative Advisory Council. With her many qualifications, Dr. Browne will be an effective and valued member of PABEA. I urge you to support her nomination.

46-402 Haiku Plantations Dr.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
March 2nd, 2017

Rosalyn Baker
Hawaii State Senate #230
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker, I am pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Colette Browne for the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA). I have known and worked with Dr. Browne for more than thirty years as a colleague in gerontology, personal friend and admirer. Dr. Browne shares her professional expertise broadly in Hawaii, across the nation and in various Asian and European countries.

Specifically, she had previously served on the Executive Office on Aging's (EOA) Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs for 16 years as an appointee of three of Hawaii's Governors.

During these years, I was on staff at the EOA and experienced her participation first hand. Her expertise in issues associated with those most in need was greatly valued. These include older women, frail elders, minority elder groups such as older Hawaii and Pacific Islanders and victims of elder abuse and neglect to name a few. The issues within these populations are complex and not easily understood or rectified. She brought a much-needed degree of expertise as the group developed and followed numerous policy and program issues and proposals. Her clarity was especially valuable for members of the Board who lacked professional experience in gerontology. Her focus on ensuring that older adults have access to high quality professional care and service is a guiding principle that she promotes rigorously and in turn is reinforced in all those with whom she works.

Although her accomplishments are many, two projects stand out as I reflect on our long association. First the Family Hope Project addressed the issue of how to fund long term care for the burgeoning population of elders. This was a very ambitious search for a solution that has plagued much larger states with numerous resources as well as the nation as a whole. Yet, with Dr. Browne's invaluable help we were able to fully develop the first social insurance model for long term care in the country. When that program did not get the support needed for implementation, she again stepped up to assist with the resurrection of another social program in the late 1990s-early 2000s with the CarePlus long-term care funding model.

Also notable is her current and past work on best practices in the field of elder abuse and neglect, another area that has defied easy solutions. Her partnership with state agencies in areas of gerontology, social work and public health lend a much-needed resource to agencies and individuals who are charged with the well being of these groups. It is to her great credit that she chooses to tackle difficult problems with seemingly impossible resolutions and does not get discouraged when ready solutions do not materialize. She is a tireless advocate whose work bolsters those of us who have been in the field for many years.

Dr. Browne is a highly respected and well known "go-to" person in the community and I recommend her without qualification for membership on PABEA.

Sincerely,

Marilyn R Seely, MPH
Policy Advisory Board For Elder Affairs
Former Director, Executive Office on Aging, State of Hawaii

GM 531

Colette Browne

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

My life's work is committed to improving the lives of older adults and their families. My own belief is that this is much more than an individual and family responsibility—the entire community must become age-friendly and age-supportive. PABEA has broad oversight on many state policies impacting the well-being of our older citizens. It will be a privilege to contribute to this important work.

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

Members of the board have a responsibility to be knowledgeable about present and future demographic trends, policies, and programs for older adults, be advocates for elder consumers, be aware of those evidence-based and culturally grounded programs and services that may be applicable and supported here in the Islands, and be able to identify those needs that need attention and action. We should LISTEN to older adults—and be able to always seek out and hear what are their real concerns and needs.

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

I became a gerontologist with an academic and personal interest. After more than 35 years in the field, I am now an older adult myself (65) and see more than ever the rights and responsibilities of older adults in our society. I am especially concerned about financial abuse and the lack of a permanent and sustainable long-term care-financing program for our State and nation. I am a strong supporter of Social Security and will advocate for its continued support.

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 educational background is in social work and public health with a specialization in aging. I have been a practicing social worker, developed and directed the geriatric programs at Kuakini Medical Center, and have been a faculty member at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work for the past 25 years. In this capacity, I developed and chair the state's only gerontology training program for social workers. I also serve as principal investigator for Ha Kupuna National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian elders, one of three federally funded research centers to benefit the lives of Native elders. Finally, I have the privilege of serving as the Takasaki Endowed Professor in Social Policy. Together in collaboration with the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington DC, we are completing a study that examined poverty among older adults in Hawai'i, broken down by age, race and gender. I believe these experiences will assist me in being an advocate for all older adults but with special focus on our most vulnerable. I also see real benefits of connecting our students to policy work and engaging them in policy practice. PABEA provides excellent opportunities for these efforts.

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

I hope to advocate for long term care financing, introduce graduate students to the policy process in aging through PABEA's work, and use my experiences with PABEA to serve as an advocate for older adults.

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

I am very serious about becoming knowledgeable about the issue discussed and will do all necessary "homework" to become proficient in the topic. I am persistent and do not give up when advocacy is requested or required. Finally, I am an educator and as such I am very optimistic about the future for older adults and for society. This is because I believe we are just beginning to see the assets around growing old and that of an older population rather than a sole focus on age issues and challenges. Adversities exist but so do resiliencies. We all have much to learn but I see great potential when people work together in commitment to the greater good.

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

I have served on PABEA with previous governors, and was very engaged in previous State attempts to pass a long-term care financing program. I have also just completed a 6-year board term with the American Society on Aging, the nation's largest professional aging association, and also served for four years on the Oahu Regional Health Care Board. I was engaged in strategic planning and staff educational and dissemination efforts in both.

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

No.