

# GM 588

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOSEPH HEW, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 585, GM 586, GM 587, GM 588, GM 589, GM 590  
NOMINEES TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: Fri, March 24, 2017 9am Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Air travel and transportation costs to attend meetings.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the following appointments to the  
3 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee (EMSAC).

4 Mr. Cody Bonilla (GM 585) is a Mobile Intensive Care Technician (MICT), operations  
5 supervisor, and injury prevention coordinator for American Medical Response (AMR) on Kauai.  
6 He currently serves on this committee. His knowledge and expertise is an asset to EMSAC.

7 Mr. Eric Ishida (GM 586) is a MICT and an ambulance station supervisor for AMR on  
8 Kauai. He has over 20 years of experience in EMS to bring to EMSAC. He has served on this  
9 committee since 2012.

10 Mr. Gerald Wright (GM 587) is a MICT and operations team leader at the Hana  
11 ambulance station for AMR on Maui. He has over 20 years of experience in EMS to bring to  
12 EMSAC.

13 Dr. Joseph Hew (GM 588) is a retired gastroenterologist. He worked to improve  
14 communications between several departments at Maui Memorial Medical Center.

15 Mr. Karlson Pung (GM 589) is a MICT and the operations manager for AMR on Hawaii  
16 island. He has over 20 years of experience in EMS, currently serves on EMSAC, and served on  
17 State Health Planning and Development Agency's Sub-Area Council Board. Mr. Pung plays a

1 vital role in the strong working relationship between AMR and Hawaii Fire Department, the  
2 county of Hawaii's 911 provider. His background, experiences, and contributions are an asset to  
3 EMSAC.

4 Dr. Michael Hayashi (GM590) is the trauma medical director and a board certified  
5 surgical intensivist practicing at The Queen's Medical Center. He should bring valuable  
6 knowledge, experience, and perspectives to the committee.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 7:20 AM  
**To:** CPH Testimony  
**Cc:** csmorimoto@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM588 on Mar 24, 2017 09:00AM\*

**GM588**

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 24, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Curt S. Morimoto	Individual	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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N I W A O  
&  
R O B E R T S

*Certified Public Accountants, A Professional Corporation*

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**Before the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health**

**Re: GM588 - In Strong Support of the Confirmation of  
Dr. Joseph T. Hew, Jr.  
to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and committee members:

I am a Hawaii CPA, an attorney, and president of Niwao & Roberts, CPAs, a P.C. I have known Dr. Joseph Hew Jr. personally and professionally for over 24 of my 38 years in public accounting practice. From my knowledge of Dr. Hew acquired since first meeting him in 1993, I whole-heartedly support his appointment to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee.

Before retiring from his medical practice as a gastroenterologist at the end of 2013, Dr. Hew was a prominent and highly respected physician on Maui. To this day, wherever he goes in public, former patients and their families rush to embrace and thank him for the high level of compassionate, high quality care he provided during his career. Although now retired from medical practice, he continues to display the same compassion and caring for the people of Hawaii every day.

Over the years, Dr. Hew and I have held many, often lengthy, discussions about the unique medical requirements facing the State of Hawaii given its isolated location. From his words and deeds, I know that he is deeply concerned about medical needs of the citizens of Hawaii in the event of an emergency. Together with his medical roots serving as a U. S. Army medical service officer during the Vietnam War, when he provided emergency care for soldiers and their families, the combination of his experience and commitment make him an excellent candidate for the Advisory Committee.

Medicine is a demanding profession, often leaving physicians exhausted by the end of their careers. Dr. Hew, however, remains as high energy and engaged as the first day that I met him, ready for the challenge of continuing to serve the people of Hawaii.

In my opinion, Dr. Hew would be an excellent addition to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, and I highly recommend his appointment.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilyn M. Niwao, M.S.P.H., J.D., CPA, CGMA, ATA



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March 14, 2017

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
415 S. Beretania St., Suite 230  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: G M #588

Dear Senator Baker:

This letter of recommendation is being written on behalf of Dr. Joseph Hew who is being nominated to serve on the State of Hawaii Emergency Medical Services Committee. My wife Jeanette and I have known Dr. Hew and his wife Bertha for over thirty (30) years—ever since they started attending Kahului Union Church (KUC) in 1983 and became members of KUC in 1985.

As someone who was born and raised on Maui and has been very active in many community organizations and affairs, I cannot think of a better person to represent Maui on the Emergency Medical Services Committee (EMSC) than Dr. Hew. His wide range of experience and participation in the activities of the medical community—both locally and state-wide—would make him a most valuable addition to the EMSC. More importantly, as a native of the islands, Dr. Hew has had the benefit of learning about, living in, experiencing, and practicing the Spirit of Aloha—his love for the people and their best interests are always paramount in his mind and actions.

Shortly after obtaining his license to practice medicine in Hawaii in 1970, Dr. Hew faithfully and honorably served his country as a doctor during the Vietnam war. After practicing medicine in Honolulu for several years and getting involved in and serving on numerous medical committees and organizations, Dr. Hew and his wife decided that it was time for them to return to Maui so they can put down their roots, start their family and become involved in the community that they love so much.

As active members of KUC for over 30 years, we have had the honor and privilege of working together on many different projects, programs, and activities that required us to work together to do what was necessary and in the best interest of the church and its members. Dr. Hew's quiet, calm and determined attitude to find positive solutions to various issues helped a lot to resolve problems before they got out of hand. He is truly a leader that knows how to lead and how to make people feel good when they listen to his wise counsel.

Although Dr. Hew had a private medical practice on Maui, he was called on many different occasions to assist with problems and issues that were present at Maui Memorial Medical Center. He was very generous with his time, talent and resources to assist the medical community in providing the best medical services possible and to help the residences of Maui with many, many hours of volunteer service. He truly is a servant of the people—a man of integrity, dedication, commitment and compassion.

As a team player and someone who always listens to and considers other peoples' opinions and ideas, and as an individual who is not afraid to work and look for solutions/answers to difficult and sometimes controversial problems through collaboration, cooperation, compromise and/or consensus building, I have every confidence in the world that Dr. Hew will be an outstanding member of the Emergency Medical Services Committee. **I support and endorse his nomination one hundred percent.**

Sincerely yours,

  
William T. Kinaka

**GM588**

**Joseph Hew: Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee**

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

I would like an opportunity to serve on a medical service committee at the state level.

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

I perceive my role as a member in this statewide committee would be to learn and to understand how this committee can contribute and can improve the integration of emergency medical support services and resources with various state agencies, county governments, law enforcement and federal agencies, and military services that are mandated to provide statewide support for emergency medical services to individuals or communities after accidents or catastrophes-natural or terrorist-related.

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

Prior to my retirement I served for many years in my local hospital's peer review process attempting to improve patients' safety and outcomes. Also, I have a consumer's interest in public health based on science and economics.

**(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.**

A physician's perspective of medical emergency experiences while living on Oahu and a neighbor island. These experiences have allowed me to have a consumers' perspective of emergency medical resources. I believe having both perspectives can provide helpful insight in the delivery and allocation of statewide emergency medical services and resources.

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

I hope to make contributions that will improve the scope, quality, and accessibility of the statewide emergency medical services and medical resources.

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

a. Willingness to listen and learn from senior committee members.

- b. Ability to formalize, respectfully, choices during periods of confusion or conflict.
- c. A desire to negotiate toward reasonable and responsible solutions. \

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

I helped resolve interdepartmental medical staff delays on the delivery of emergency care for specific diagnoses at the Maui Memorial Medical Center via "FEMA" methodology. The collegial and collaborative effort reduced tension between the medical staff departments and helped expedite necessary surgical and medical care for numerous patients.

**(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 do not perceive any conflict of interest with any community, organization, hospital, and business which would affect my independence in judgement or preferences as a member of this committee. Any conflict of interest would require my recusing myself from the issue/topic/conflict.