

GM523

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance, Gubernatorial Nominee, DIANA FELTON, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance

Current Referral: CPH

Diana Felton (HACDACS)

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

Problems with drug and alcohol abuse are complicated and affect people from all walks of life. There are many ways to help both prevent and treat drug and alcohol abuse, but it requires a coordinated effort. I have been helping people with these problems for years in an Emergency setting. Being a member of HACDACS would give me the opportunity to help the people of Hawaii on a larger scale, including addressing some of the systems/societal issues that contribute to drug and alcohol abuse.

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

I perceive the role of a Board member to be an engaged participant, willing to work with the other members to achieve the board's goals.

This includes attending meetings, following up on assigned tasks and keeping current with the associated issues.

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

I am hopeful that together, we can help protect the people of Hawaii from a worsening opioid epidemic. In addition, I am hopeful that HACDACS can help people struggling with any kind of alcohol and drug abuse including working together with people of different disciplines.

- (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 an Emergency Physician and Medical Toxicologist, I believe I bring a unique skill set to the board. I feel I can aid in providing scientific data and background to our decision making. In addition, I can help liaison with the Emergency Medical Community who is often frequently involved with people suffering from drug and alcohol abuse. I am also involved with the Hawaii Poison Center, which can be a useful partner in data gathering and understanding what is working in other states.

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

During my term of service, I hope to aid the committee to provide scientifically sound recommendations on helping prevent and treat alcohol and drug abuse in Hawaii. I also hope to learn more about the services currently available and areas for improvement.

On a larger scale, I would like to do a small part in helping to improve the lives of people of Hawaii with alcohol and drug abuse.

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

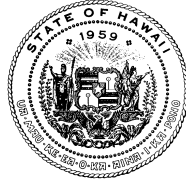
Diligence, experience, and compassion. I care deeply about these issues and strongly believe that a coordinated effort on behalf of the government can make lives better. I have the clinical and scientific experience to contribute a unique perspective to the committee. I am committed to working hard and being an engaged participant of the committee.

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

As an ER physician and medical toxicologist, I interact on a regular basis with people struggling with drug abuse. I have treated thousands of overdoses, helped families cope with their loved ones illnesses and seen the damage drug abuse has on lives. In addition, from 2009-2015, I worked in one of the highest heroin usage regions of the country and have experienced the effects of the opioid epidemic first hand.

- (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 don't foresee any conflicts of interest. If any were to arise, I would immediately disclose the conflict to the chair of the committee and follow directions for reporting and resolving the conflict.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM523
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance, Gubernatorial Nominee, DIANA FELTON, for a
term to expire 06-30-2019

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 7, 2018 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
3 of Diana Felton, M.D., F.A.C.E.P., to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and
4 Controlled Substances (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2019.

5 HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not
6 limited to pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational,
7 legal defense, enforcement and corrections segments of the community, pursuant to HRS §329-2.

8 Dr. Felton is currently a licensed physician with the Hawaii Emergency Physicians
9 Associated, an assistant clinical professor in the surgery department of the University of Hawaii,
10 John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), and maintains a board certification in medical
11 toxicology. As an emergency room physician, she has first-hand experience in the treatment of
12 addiction as emergency rooms are front lines in the fight to rescue those struggling with the
13 predatory effects of alcohol and drug addiction. As an assistant clinical professor of surgery at
14 JABSOM, she is involved in the design and instruction of medical curricula. And as a board
15 certified toxicologist, Dr. Felton has conducted extensive research in the related fields of
16 poisoning and drug addiction. The appointment of Dr. Felton will give much-needed expertise
17 and representation of the medical segment in HACDACS deliberations.

1 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration for the nomination
2 of Dr. Diana Felton to serve on HACDACS.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of a committed educator and
4 volunteer whose appointment adds to the cross-section of community interests represented on
5 HACDACS.

6 **Offered Amendments:** None.



Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane and effective drug policies since 1993

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Public Health
FROM: Carl Bergquist, Executive Director
HEARING DATE: 7 March 2018, 10AM
RE: GM523, Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Diana Felton, **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tokuda, Committee Members:

The Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i (DPFHI) strongly supports the nomination of Dr. Diana Felton to serve on the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance (HACDACS) for a term to expire on 6/30/2019. Dr. Felton would be filling the medical seat on HACDACS, and as an emergency room physician as well as one of the few licensed toxicologists in Hawai'i, she is eminently qualified to fill the role. I currently serve in the HACDACS community affairs seat, and I have already had the privilege of seeing Dr. Felton participate on an interim basis at a HACDACS meeting. We would indeed be very fortunate to have her as a fellow commissioner, with her experiences from Hawai'i as well as Massachusetts in dealing with the impact of the opioid epidemic informing our work. Further, should she be willing, I hope that the Committee next year will give her consideration to serve a full term starting in 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-523

Submitted on: 3/6/2018 10:27:11 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dhruv Bhatnagar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Diana is a fantastic and extremely qualified professional who works hard and puts care, thought and deliberation to anything she does. Further, she cares about her community and the people of Hawaii and will represent their interests well.



407 Uluniu Street, Ste 411
Kailua, HI 96734

September 21, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Dr. Diana Felton and her application to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. Dr. Felton is a fantastic emergency physician and board certified toxicologist. I believe she will be an asset to the commission and to the state. I recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,

William Scruggs, MD
Chair, Castle Medical Center Department of Emergency Medicine

From: [Nathan Chin, MD](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Dr. Diana Felton Testimony
Date: Monday, March 5, 2018 10:25:47 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a testimony in support of Dr. Diana Felton's nomination to serve on the Hawaii Advisory Commission for Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Felton for over 1 year now. She is an excellent physician, has a great team player attitude and strong work ethic. Through my interactions with her, I can tell she truly cares for her patients and for the community and the people of Hawaii. On top of that, she has training and experience in the field of toxicology which gives her a unique set of skills/knowledge that would significantly benefit the committee.

I strongly support Dr. Felton's nomination to the committee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Nathan Chin
Assistant Director, Emergency Department, Wahiawa General Hospital
nchin@hepa.net
(206) 313-8887