

# GM542

Measure  
Title:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Report  
Title:

Deputy Director of the Department of Health

Current  
Referral:

CPH

TESTIMONY OF  
CATHY ROSS

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

MARCH 7, 2019  
10:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 542,  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department  
of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS, for a term to expire at  
noon on 12-05-2022.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before the committee to discuss my nomination for Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH). I am humbled to be considered for this position in a department that I consider "home", and am thankful to Governor David Ige for this opportunity to continue to serve our community. I am providing my responses to the questions from the committee.

**1) Description of my experience in this field**

After graduating from the University of Hawaii at Manoa's School of Public Health – in the last class before the School was closed, and the last class with the emphasis in community health education and development – I began my public health career at Kaiser Permanente in the health education department and the center for health research. Feeling a calling to serve our state, I joined the DOH and spent 12 years in the areas of tobacco prevention, school health and wellness, nutrition and physical activity promotion, and served as the DOH's first performance improvement manager. This experience exposed me to seeing the significant impact of primary prevention on large populations, as well as small communities and individuals, and taught me the importance of addressing health issues within the context of systems. Many in this room may be happy to hear that these models and frameworks still resonate with me – environmental-, systems-, and policy-changes, the socio ecological model, stages of change, health in all policies, and the social determinants of health, to name a few. Additionally, I learned the value of rigorous program planning and evaluation, and the

need for quality data to measure and track performance and outcomes, as well as develop sound data-driven policies and practices.

Though the development of amazing partnerships with other state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community advocates, I experienced many significant public health successes.

- Through a diverse group of education and health stakeholders, developed and implemented the comprehensive Local Wellness Policy through the Hawaii Board of Education and the annual Safety and Wellness Survey
- Researched and introduced to Hawaii elementary schools the recess-before-lunch strategy to improve student behavior, classroom performance, nutrient intake, and physical activity
- Expanded quality health and physical education training through the Department of Education and University of Hawaii
- Expanded the Hawaii Youth Risk Behavior Survey from only state-level reporting to state- and county-level reporting in response to community feedback

My six years with Department of Public Safety (PSD) was invaluable as it exposed me to a department with different management systems and strategies. This allowed me to observe and evaluate the strengths of the different approaches and help refine my understanding of the ways a departments' central service operations can support the mission and goals of the department. My experience at PSD also showed me that the public health systems and strategies extend into our jails and prisons as well as the larger criminal justice system. Social determinants of health did not just apply to health, but it also applied to criminal justice outcomes. And I found that the public health skillset was transferrable to administrative functions as well. I am grateful to have worked alongside a strong and wonderful team focused on providing quality service to the PSD corrections and law enforcement operations.

## **2) An assessment of my strengths and weaknesses**

What I believe I bring to the DOH is a strong commitment to improving public health outcomes through strengthening administrative operations, growing interdepartmental collaborations such as the DOH-DHS Ohana Nui framework, and exploring new ways to engage with service providers. My experience in two large and complex departments

provides a unique perspective in addressing some of our state's most pressing social challenges and opportunities through maintaining and expanding existing operational excellence, adopting best practices, and exploring innovative methods to deliver central service functions.

I also have a passion for increasing and improving the use and analysis of data to increase our understanding of complex issues such as the intersection of homelessness, behavioral health, substance abuse, criminal justice, and emergency department utilization, in order to better inform public policy, impact programmatic decisions, and better utilize resources.

Recently, I have not had much time to be involved in neighbor island issues and look forward to working closely with the District Health Offices to reacquaint myself with the neighbor island communities. My past experiences working with neighbor island communities is that they provide rich insight and perspectives to some of the most important issues in our communities.

**3) An assessment of the department's strengths and weaknesses. Please include an explanation of how the department's strengths may be best utilized, as well as how the department's weaknesses may be improved**

As the DOH Director Bruce Anderson previously mentioned, the most important strengths of the DOH are the dedicated public health professionals and staff who are committed to improving the health and environment of Hawaii. However, it has been increasingly difficult to fill the many vacant positions, particularly the highly specialized positions and these vacancies often mean employees juggle the responsibilities of multiple positions. Director Anderson and I are committed to developing and implementing new strategies to reduce vacancy rates including increasing workforce development partnerships with local universities and community colleges, expanding fellowship opportunities, increasing targeted recruiting, and taking a creative approach to utilizing existing resources such as vacant positions and associated budgets.

Additionally, with the growth of federally-funded programs and changing social service needs, many programs find themselves diverting time away from their public health expertise to needing to become subject matter experts in administrative functions such as procurement and contracting, human resources, accounting, reorganizations, etc.



More times than not, the corresponding administrative central offices did not grow accordingly, thus multiplying workloads on existing staff. I believe these issues can be addressed by assessing which functions should be centralized, decentralized, or even outsourced, and looking within to creatively repurpose existing resources to the greatest extent possible before making any requests for additional positions or funding.

**4) An overall vision for the department, specifically what goals can be accomplished within the next four years and what types of annual benchmarks can be used to evaluate the department's progress towards those goals**

In supporting the department's vision to create a culture of health throughout Hawaii, and considering the administrative functions of the Deputy Director, a few initial goals are:

- Reducing vacancies (# or % vacancy days)
- Increase intra- and interdepartmental data sharing and analysis (# and description of data sharing and analysis events)
- Utilizing the increased data analysis, develop policies, programs, and strategies across divisions and departments to improve community health outcomes (# related legislative proposals, # interdepartmental agreements and changes, qualitative data on changes in policies, programs, strategies)

I would like to emphasize that these are my current thoughts after being back at DOH since mid January, and they may change as I further assess the needs of the department.

**5) The department's top budgetary priority for the biennium**

The DOH's budgetary priorities are those in the executive budget request. Of particular note, the renovations to the existing Hawaii State Hospital and funds to support the new psychiatric facility are critical to keeping our clients and staff safe and expanding critical bed space at the facility. Other budgetary priorities include supporting the necessary and critical funding needs of the Emergency Medical Services System across the entire state as they provide essential services in the continuum of care.

**6) An assessment of the department staff's morale, including the turnover rate for personnel**

From the short time that I've been back at the DOH, I perceive the morale is good. In 2014, DOH implemented an optional exit interview survey to provide data that can assist with recruitment and retention efforts. While this is an optional survey for employees leaving the DOH, the two largest reasons for leaving were better job opportunities and wage issues. While turnover rates are not currently calculated, the DOH current vacancy rate is about 18% which is at the DHRD-calculated state average. I am committed to reducing vacancies in order to assure programs are properly resourced, which will hopefully positively impact staff morale.

**7) Any foreseeable possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service in the department and how you would overcome them**

No, I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest during my service as the DOH Deputy Director.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments to the committee. It is a honor to be considered for the position of the DOH Deputy Director.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of  
David Y. Ige  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**  
March 7, 2019  
10:00 a.m., Room 229

In consideration of  
**GM 542, Cathy Y. Ross**  
as the  
Deputy Director of the Department of Health

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and committee members:

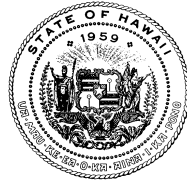
I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Cathy Y. Ross as the deputy director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Cathy's appointment as deputy director marks her return to the Department of Health where she previously served in various positions before leaving in 2012 to become deputy director for administration in the Department of Public Safety. Cathy earned a B.A. in psychology, M.P.H. in public health, and an M.B.A. from the Shidler College of Business from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Cathy's commitment to public health and her focus on improving performance and accountability will help to ensure that DOH continues to strive to meet its mission to protect and improve the health and environment for all of Hawai'i residents.

My administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I am confident that Cathy Ross will support our employees at DOH in this effort. Moving forward together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM542**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 7, 2019

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** I am here to support the nomination of Ms. Cathy Y. Ross for First  
3 Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Health. Ms. Ross is a long-time department  
4 employee whose career focused on primary prevention, which means assuring that decisions we  
5 make now about the systems and environments in which we live, work, and play maximize our  
6 future health potential.

7 In addition to this core public health skill set, Cathy earned an MBA and was appointed as the  
8 Department of Health's first Performance Improvement Manager, whose task was to assure  
9 DOH's readiness in meeting emerging public health practice standards. This role honed Cathy's  
10 organizational management sensibilities, but she never lost sight of the individual employee and  
11 customer experience and chose to emphasize initiatives focused on improving communications.  
12 As a result of these experiences, Cathy's professionalism and dedication to quality improvement  
13 caught the attention of then-Director of Public Safety Ted Sakai, after which point, she left DOH  
14 to pursue opportunities in PSD.

15 Those who know her understand that public health is Cathy's "home." In my brief time working  
16 alongside her, I recognize in her the passion we all share in this field: the power of government  
17 to do good for the greatest number of people. With her combination of education and  
18 experience, I expect Cathy to discharge the duties of First Deputy with business efficiency and

1 an integrity of public administration that is informed by empathy for the individual human  
2 experience.

3 I respectfully urge the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health to  
4 unanimously endorse Cathy's nomination to the full Senate. Thank you for the opportunity to  
5 testify.

6 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

7

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Acting Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

## TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,  
& HEALTH

MARCH 7, 2019  
10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 542  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
CATHY Y. ROSS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022

Chairperson Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 542, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Cathy Y. Ross, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Ms. Ross has served in various roles in state government, including the Deputy Director for Administration with the Department of Public Safety and the Performance Improvement Manager at the Department of Health. Her vast experience and leadership will be vital for the State of Hawaii as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

JASON MINAMI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

February 26, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
For Hearing on Thursday, March 7, 2019  
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 229

By

RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

**Governor's Message 542**  
**(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)**

Dear Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Chang and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

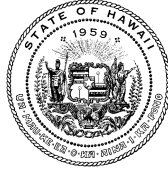
RE: Consideration and confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross for Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Cathy Ross as Deputy Director of the Department of Health. I have had the pleasure to work with Cathy Ross over the past two years as Deputy Director of the Department of Public Safety, and currently in her capacity as Deputy Director of the Department of Health. I have found her be a dedicated, measured and helpful person who is well suited for the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Health. During all of our interactions I have experienced Ms. Ross as cooperative, helpful, and welcoming.

I support the confirmation of Ms. Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 542 and Cathy Y. Ross.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO  
COMPTROLLER  
AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY  
OF  
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
ON

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019, 10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 542

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
**CATHY Y. ROSS**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 542. I support the nomination of **MS. CATHY Y. ROSS** to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have known Ms. Ross since January 2015 in her capacity as Deputy Director, Administration for Hawaii State Department of Public Safety. We have worked together on various projects and have found her to be dedicated to her work and to her department. She is a caring leader, always thinking how to better the process.

Ms. Ross continually demonstrates professionalism and has a strong commitment to serve the people and the State of Hawaii. She will truly be an asset as Deputy Director to the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.





**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 7, 2019  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 229

**G.M. 542**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022**

Senate Committee on Commerce Consumer Protection and Health

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Prior to serving as the Deputy Director of Public Safety for the past four years, Ms. Ross worked at the DOH for fourteen years as the Performance-Based Management Coordinator where she focused on implementing a department-wide accountability system. The staff-centered process helped transform and improve workflow and business outcomes within the DOH.

The DOT affirms Ms. Ross's decision to return to her roots in State government as we believe she has the executive experience, wisdom and understanding to accomplish much more at the DOH. We look forward to developing a strong partnership in cleaning our environment, encouraging exercise, providing disability access and other federal and local mandates that promote our wellness today and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI  
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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February 25, 2019

To: The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair,  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,  
and Health

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. No. 542 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy  
Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY ROSS**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

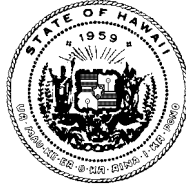
My name is Scott T. Murakami, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in support of Governor's Message 542, Gubernatorial Nominee, Cathy Ross, as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DoH).

Ms. Ross has demonstrated that she has the leadership and experience to assist in leading the DoH. As the former Deputy Director of Administration of the Department of Public Safety, Ms. Ross ensured that corrections and law enforcement staff were able to carry out their duties by providing support services like staff training and fiscal management and by serving as the Performance Based Management Coordinator. In addition, Ms. Ross' prior service at the DoH as a Performance Improvement Manager and Department School Health Coordinator show her understanding and commitment to supporting the DoH Director and ensuring that the State's health is improved and protected.

I urge you to confirm Ms. Ross to serve as the Deputy Director of the DoH so that she may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Ross.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 3, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **GM 542 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Cathy Y. Ross, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Hearing: March 7, 2019, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, my name is Pankaj Bhanot and I am the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). The DHS is in strong support of GM 542 submitted by the Governor for consideration and confirmation of Ms. Cathy Y. Ross as the Deputy Director of the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), for a term to expire at noon on December 05, 2022.

Ms. Ross has a distinguished career spanning 18 years in various capacities in public health and public safety areas. Cathy has previously served as the Deputy Director from January 2015-December 2018; and Performance

Based Management Coordinator from October 2012-December 2014, of the Department of Public Safety (PSD). From 2000 to 2012, Cathy also served in various programmatic and administrative capacities at the DOH. Cathy has the professional experience, education, knowledge, skills, abilities, and the lived experience to honorably and competently serve as the Deputy Director of the DOH.

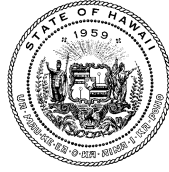
I have the privilege and honor of working collaboratively with Cathy, in her capacity as the Deputy Director of PSD, on various policy and operational issues impacting PSD and DHS. We partnered to address the public assistance needs of incarcerated individuals who were close to their release from prison; and explored the possibilities of filing for Medicaid application/reimbursements for incarcerated individuals who were eligible to seek treatment outside of the prison. DHS, at the request Ms. Ross, provided technical assistance to PSD on business process transformation.

Throughout my interactions with Cathy, I found her to be a person who is sincere, humble, knowledgeable, professional, fair, and deeply rooted in a strong belief that we must do the right thing for right reasons when making critical policy and operational decisions.

I request the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, to unanimously confirm my dear friend and colleague Ms. Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the DOH.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of GM 542.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO  
COMPTROLLER  
AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH  
ON  
MARCH 7, 2019, 10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 542  
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
CATHY Y. ROSS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 542. I support the nomination of Cathy Y. Ross to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Ms. Ross has served as DOH Deputy Director from January 2015 to Present. Previously, she served as the Performance Based Management Coordinator at the Hawaii State Department of Public Safety. Ms. Ross also served in a variety of positions at the Hawaii DOH which includes Performance Improvement Manager, Departmental School Health Coordinator, School Health Education Project Coordinator, and Tobacco Prevention Youth Educator. In addition, Ms. Ross has served as an Appeals Officer for the Office of Hawaii Nutritional Child Nutrition Program.

Ms. Ross's extensive background in public service makes her an ideal candidate to be the DOH Deputy Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

KENNETH S. HARA  
BRIGADIER GENERAL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON G.M. NO. 542  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION & CONFIRMATION OF  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
CATHY Y. ROSS

PRESENTATION TO  
THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION & HEALTH

MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
ADJUTANT GENERAL,  
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND  
HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

MARCH 7, 2019

Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Stanley Chang and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health (CPH),

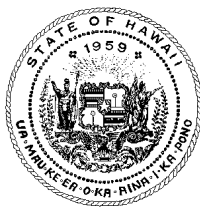
I am Major General Arthur Logan, Adjutant General, Director of the State Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor. I am providing written testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 542, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Cathy Ross, as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Ms. Ross has demonstrated she has the leadership and experience to successfully serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health. She has an extensive history of serving in public service and has outstanding academic and professional experience and expertise in the public health field accumulating over 19 years of experience in the public and private sectors.

I urge you to confirm Ms. Ross, as she will make an outstanding Deputy Director to help lead the department and support Dr. Bruce Anderson.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Ms. Ross.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**NOLAN P. ESPINDA**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Renee R. Sonobe Hong**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 542  
NOMINATION OF CATHY ROSS AS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

by  
Nolan P. Espinda, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 7, 2019; 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Ms. Ross served as the Deputy Director for PSD from January 2015 to January 2019, overseeing the general administration of our department. She provided optimal administrative support, overseeing our fiscal, personnel, and human resource sections; spearheaded strategic planning; and provided the vision and direction to manage initiatives for training, inmate programs, and information technology support. She facilitated the resolution of many challenging fiscal, human resource, and information technology concerns.

Ms. Ross has displayed exceptional project facilitator skills during her frontline and directly hands-on interactions with Corrections, Law Enforcement, and Administration staff statewide. Her project successes include, but certainly are not limited solely to, our PSD Data inventory, HI Pay payroll conversion, PSD employee

personnel actions report, and PSD leave without pay projects. Ms. Ross has demonstrated the necessary skills, effective management style, and compassionate dedication to assist programs staff to do their job. Her demonstrated skills will translate well to the Department of Health.

Through her extensive resume, and capacity to collaborate and work efficiently within and across department, she will be a valuable asset to DOH. As she has demonstrated that she is committed to working across programs and organizations rather than working in silos, we look forward to the building further public health and public safety partnership so together we can build a better state for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN  
ADMINISTRATOR  
BONNIE KAHAKUI  
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

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TESTIMONY  
OF  
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR  
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 2:45 PM

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 542**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the**  
**Deputy Director of the Department of Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee,**  
**CATHY Y. ROSS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on GM 542.

The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports Cathy Ross's confirmation as Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Ms. Ross, in her capacity as Deputy of Department of Public Safety (DPS), responded to SPO requests for information timely with full transparency. Over that time, we have worked with DPS successfully. This leadership also allowed their top procurement specialist to be involved in a nation-wide cooperative contract, assisting us with evaluation and specialized expertise.

SPO conducted specific reviews over the last four years, and every time information was required, Ms. Ross and her leadership displayed openness, interest in improving, and a passion for their mission. All reviews have been cleared and currently, there are no procurement violations.

Thank you.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK  
CHIEF INFORMATION  
OFFICER

## OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119  
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922  
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of  
DOUGLAS MURDOCK  
Chief Information Officer  
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTED, AND HEALTH  
Thursday, March 7, 2019

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 542  
Gubernatorial Nominee Cathy Y. Ross

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committee:

I am submitting testimony supporting the nomination of Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health. Her extensive work history in that department includes many positions of increasing responsibilities, such as Performance Improvement Manager, Departmental School Health Coordinator, School Health Education Project Coordinator, and Tobacco Prevention Youth Educator. Ms. Ross most recently provided leadership and guidance to the Hawaii State Department of Public Safety where she was Deputy Director for Administration from 2015 to 2018, and earlier as Performance Based Management Coordinator.

Through her career of dedicated public service, she has gained extensive experience in administration and management of state programs and has developed strong working relationships in the health field. Her subject matter education, experience and wealth of knowledge of the department of health makes Ms. Ross extremely qualified for this job. For those reasons, I strongly urge the committee to confirm her nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Cathy Ross.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH  
HEARING ON MARCH 07, 2019 AT 10:00 AM IN CR 229

IN SUPPORT OF

**GM542**

for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, **CATHY Y. ROSS**,  
for a term to expire 12-05-2022

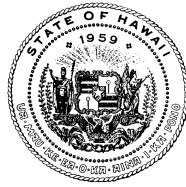
March 07, 2019

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee:

It is an honor to provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Cathy Y. Ross, as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Ms. Ross's background and professional and varied experience make her well-qualified for this appointment. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands looks forward to working with the DOH on a wide-range of issues of concern to our homestead communities statewide.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

Testimony of Dr. Keith E. Kawaoka, Deputy Director, Environmental Health  
in SUPPORT of GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 542  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the First Deputy Director of  
the Department of Health  
**CATHY Y. ROSS**, for a term to expire 12-05-2022.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,  
& HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 7, 2019      Room Number: 229

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross to serve as First Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have worked with Cathy in the capacity as fellow deputies the last few years. She has demonstrated the necessary skills set, effective management style, and dedication to assist department programs to do their jobs. The administrative operations and functions are a vital core to the Department in accomplishing its mission. Cathy has both the understanding and appreciation of the business needs of state government to work in successful collaboration with federal, state, and local partners. Cathy's experience, knowledge, valuable perspective, and strong sense of integrity will serve the Department and the State well as we all strive to work together to transform health and health care.

Please grant her the opportunity to continue her leadership and commitment to the overall goals of the Department of Health.

Mahalo, again, for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/7/2019 8:06:10 AM  
Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.	Testifying for Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	Yes

Comments:

Having worked with Cathy early in her career at DOH, I am confident she will do an excellent job as Deputy Director of the Department.



February 26, 2019

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: GM 542 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM 542, the confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Ms. Ross is an experienced professional that has worked in various roles throughout the state since 2001. Most recently she served as the Deputy Director for Administration at the Department of Public Safety since January 2015. She has also served in various capacities at the Department of Health as Performance Improvement Manager, Departmental School Health Coordinator, School Health Education Project Coordinator, and Tobacco Prevention Youth Educator. Prior to working for the state, Ms. Ross was a Research Assistant/Behavioral Specialist at Kaiser Permanente Hawaii.

With a Master of Business Administration degree and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, as well as extensive experience within the Department of Health, we believe that Ms. Ross is highly qualified for the position of Deputy Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 542. Your consideration of the confirmation of Ms. Cathy Y. Ross as the Deputy Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong  
Vice President, Government Relations



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Thursday, March 7, 2019; 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**RE: SUPPORTING GM0542, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CATHY Y. ROSS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Hirokawa and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA strongly **SUPPORTS** the nomination of Ms. Cathy Y. Ross for the position of Deputy Director of Health.

The HPCA has long held that the social determinants of health -- more than any other factor -- contribute to the overall wellbeing of our people. Persons who experience homelessness, language barriers, and poverty are more likely to suffer persistent, chronic health issues and have shorter life expectancies than those who do not.

I have known and worked professionally with Ms. Ross for over a decade and can attest to her dedication and tireless commitment to furthering the health and wellbeing for all of Hawaii's communities. As demonstrated throughout her career, Ms. Ross fully understands the importance of socio-economic equity in the pursuit of optimal health outcomes for all our citizens.

**For these reasons, the HPCA urges your confirmation of the nomination of Ms. Cathy Y. Ross for the position of Deputy Director of Health.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.



**February 19, 2019**

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair,  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Date: Monday, February 25, 2019

Time: 9:00 am

Place: Conference Room 229  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

From: Cindy Matsuki, Economic Development Specialist,  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

Re: G.M. No. 542 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of  
the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in on G.M. 542 in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of CATHY Y. ROSS to the position of Deputy Director for the Department of Health.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Ross for almost a decade and I am impressed by her thoughtfulness of the people that make up her team and her innovative outlook on problem solving. I am constantly amazed by her ability to build strategic short and long-term plans to improve the performance of the departments she has worked at. Her breadth of knowledge and skill must come from her extensive career in the health industry and at the Department of Health. She brings a important human-centered perspective into any challenge she takes on, including her previous position as Deputy Director for Administration of the Department of Public Safety.

Ms. Ross has taken the time to understand the workings of the Department of Health, she knows and cares for the employees and is always thinking of ways to improve productivity. She will continue to be a tremendous asset for the Department of Health and the State of Hawaii. I strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Ross as the Deputy Director for the Department of Health. Thank you for allowing me to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of Governors Message 542 and Cathy Y. Ross.



**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/5/2019 2:47:34 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

**WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS NOMINEE ON THE BASIS OF THE INVESTIGATION THAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE REGARDING SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF THE PROCUREMENT CODE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY. THIS CONFIRMATION SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE AG'S INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETE & CATHY ROSS IS CLEARED OF ANY WRONG DOING. THE INVESTIGATION IS A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, CRIMINAL NUMBER: 19-0734. THERE SHOULD BE NO CONFIRMATION UNTIL CATHY ROSS IS CLEARED OF ALL WRONG DOING.**



## **GM541 Confirmation for Bruce Anderson for Director of DOH**

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH:

- Sen. Baker, Chair; Sen. Chang, Vice Chair
- Thursday, Mar. 7, 2019: 10:00 am
- Conference Room 229

## **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports Cathy Ross as Deputy Director of DOH:**

*GOOD MORNING CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of almost 40 non-profit alcohol and drug treatment and prevention agencies.*

Under new leadership, HSAC is hopeful that Hawaii could implement vast changes that could open the door to affordable, quality healthcare.

Building on what works in Hawaii, we have the opportunity to “fix what’s broken”<sup>1</sup> by providing better access to care with prevention and treatment that includes the gamut of the continuum of care model spanning complex patient models in residential to outpatient to harm reduction by integrating behavioral health with physical medical care as well:



- Reduce costs by “investing” in preventive treatment and processes that improve care.
- Implement payment reforms that provide incentives to behavioral healthcare and medical practitioners to provide care to people with multiple chronic illnesses.
- Improve care coordination and quality by ending fragmentation between state agencies, hospitals, clinics, treatment providers and support services.
- Ensure people get the care they need when they need it.
- Minimize unnecessary hospital readmissions by developing new policies that support preventive treatment models.
- Bring down health care costs by spending more wisely.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform/healthcare-overview>

Statement of  
**Mike McCartney**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

Thursday, March 7, 2019  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**GM 542**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the**  
**Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee,**  
**CATHY Y. ROSS, for a term to expire to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee.

I **support** the appointment of **Cathy Y. Ross** to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Ms. Ross has extensive professional experience working in the State of Hawaii's health and public safety departments and is currently serving as the Deputy Director for the Department of Health. Her dedication and service, of over 18 years, as well as her keen understanding of the health challenges facing our state will be an asset to the position of Deputy Director of Health for the State of Hawaii and will benefit the people of the State of Hawaii well.

For these reasons, I urge her confirmation for the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Testimony of  
Rhonda Chang-Schoknecht, CALEA Professional Standards and Compliance  
Training and Staff Development Academy  
Department of Public Safety  
before the

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
Thursday, March 7, 2019  
10:00 AM Conference Room 229

**Governor's Message No. 542  
Relating to the Consideration and Confirmation of  
Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS  
As Deputy Director of the Department of Health**

TO CHAIR R. BAKER, VICE-CHAIR S. CHANG AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

I respectfully urge your strong support for the confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

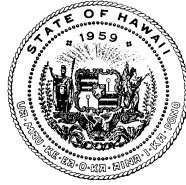
Her education in the health field, her experience in the Departments of Health and Public Safety demonstrate her commitment to public service.

My experiences with Cathy have shown her to be a dedicated professional, knowledgeable, caring and fair. Sometimes all of these traits are not easy to find in one person, Cathy possess all of them.

Most recently she gave very strong support to The Department of Public Safety's Training Academy in our effort to obtain national accreditation for The Academy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and confirmation of Ms. Cathy Y. Ross as Deputy Director for the Department of Health.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

Testimony of Danette Wong Tomiyasu, Deputy Director of Health Resources Administration  
In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 542

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 7, 2019

Room Number: 229

I am writing in strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

In addition to her background and experience in public health, her experience as Deputy Director of Administration at the Department of Public Safety makes her uniquely qualified to join the leadership team at the Department of Health.

I believe that her experience in state government as well as her passion for serving the public will bring significant value to the health department. In my experience working with Cathy, I have found her to be dedicated, knowledgeable, and solution-oriented.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Cathy Y. Ross for Deputy Director of Health.



**February 25, 2019**

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair,  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Conference Room 229  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

From: Cindy Matsuki, Economic Development Specialist,  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

Re: G.M. No. 542 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of  
the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in on G.M. 542 in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of CATHY Y. ROSS to the position of Deputy Director for the Department of Health.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Ross for almost a decade and I am impressed by her thoughtfulness of the people that make up her team and her innovative outlook on problem solving. I am constantly amazed by her ability to build strategic short and long-term plans to improve the performance of the departments she has worked at. Her breadth of knowledge and skill must come from her extensive career in the health industry and at the Department of Health. She brings a important human-centered perspective into any challenge she takes on, including her previous position as Deputy Director for Administration of the Department of Public Safety.

Ms. Ross has taken the time to understand the workings of the Department of Health, she knows and cares for the employees and is always thinking of ways to improve productivity. She will continue to be a tremendous asset for the Department of Health and the State of Hawaii. I strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Ross as the Deputy Director for the Department of Health. Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Governors Message 542 and Cathy Y. Ross.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on  
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2019

Wednesday, March 7, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

Testimony on **Governor's Message No. 542**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the **Deputy Director of the Department of Health**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Cathy Y. Ross**, for a Term to Expire on December 5, 2022.

To the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, the Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Cathy Ross to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

Over the last four years, I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Ross, who prior to being appointed as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, served as Deputy Director of the Department of Public Safety. As both a deputy director for Health and Public Safety, I observed Ms. Ross to be very competent and helpful on matters that involved legislation or other matters that crossed our jurisdictions. Ms. Ross is a thoughtful, hard-working, and collaborative public servant who has demonstrated she possesses the skills and temperament needed to assist in leading the Department of Health.

I firmly believe Ms. Ross will continue to be a valued and highly productive member of Governor Ige's cabinet, and respectfully request that you recommend approval of her nomination as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to support G.M. No. 542. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 5:41:39 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jesus F. Benitez	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

February 25, 2019

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Senator

and Members of the Senate

Thirtieth State Legislature

Hawai'i State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Nomination of Mrs. Cathy Y. Ross for Director of the Department of Health (GM 542)

Dear Senator Rosalyn H. Baker and Members of the Senate,

I am writing to express my strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Mrs. Cathy Y. Ross for the Director of the Department of Health.

For the past 4 years, I have had the honor of working for Mrs. Cathy Y. Ross. Cathy was the Deputy Director of Administration for the Department of Public Safety. During this time she supported and supervised Training and Staff Development (TSD); is responsible for training over 2400 officers and civilian staff.

Cathy was an effective contributor to our department's success. She performed her responsibilities and duties with professionalism. Cathy supported her employees and held them to a higher standard as her moral compass reflected integrity, fairness, and



consistency. Cathy will be sorely missed by department members and the entire faculty and administrative staff we serve.

In summary, I can attest to Mrs. Cathy Y. Ross 's experience, education, integrity, attitude, and all around positive interpersonal skill set; she would be a valuable contributing member of the

Department of Health. I strongly support her nomination and urge the Committee to support her confirmation.

TESTIMONY OF LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
HEALTH

Thursday, March 7, 2019

**G.M. 542 Cathy Y. Ross**

Honorable Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Chu Takayama, Director of Taxation, and I offer this testimony in strong support of Cathy Ross' confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Although I have not known Cathy for very long, I have already been impressed with her energy, creativity and persistence in dealing with issues, big and small, that arise in the course of the work day. Her response is routinely reasonable and effective.

She will be a tremendous asset to the Department and the many challenges they face.

I look forward to working with her and urge your favorable consideration of her nomination.

Thank you.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY  
RODERICK K. BECKER  
AND  
ROBERT YU  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 542

**Thursday, March 7, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 229**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CATHY Y. ROSS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

We strongly support Cathy Ross' appointment to the position of deputy director of the Department of Health (department). We are working with Ms. Ross in our professional capacities as Director and Deputy Director of Finance, respectively.

Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our keiki, our kupuna, and the disadvantaged.

Ms. Ross is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Ms. Ross has been in various positions at the Department of Health from 2000-2012. She was also at the Department of Public Safety from 2012-2019 and most recently as the deputy director for the past four years. Her work experience and knowledge of the Department of Health will benefit the department and the State; therefore, we support confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

February 25, 2019

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Senator  
And Members of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Nomination of Mrs. Cathy Y. Ross for Director of the Department of Health (GM 542)

Dear Senator Rosalyn H. Baker and Members of the Senate,

It is with great pleasure that I unequivocally, support the confirmation of Cathy Ross. It has been an honor to work with her for the past 4 years while she was the Deputy Director of Administration for the Department of Public Safety.

Cathy was an effective contributor to our department's success. She has always supported the Department of Public safety Training Academy, from updating the Department Policies and Procedures to equipping their Law Enforcements officers with the latest and greatest tools. It is this type of leadership that we need when dealing with life and death decision that has to be made.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I respectfully ask for your favorable condition and confirmation of Mrs. Cathy Y. Ross

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 9:55:38 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clifford Asato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My testimony is in support of the appointment of Cathy Ross to the Deputy Director of the Department of Health. I served as the Fiscal Officer for the Department of Public Safety since it's inception on July 1, 1988 until my recent retirement on December 31, 2018. During the final four years of my career as the Fiscal Officer it has been my honor and pleasure of working for and along-side Ms Ross. She is a professional administrator able to grasp and understand the technical and sometimes complex information in Accounting, Payroll, and Bill payment during her service as the Deputy Director of Administration, for the Department of Public Safety. I strongly support this nomination of Cathy Ross to the Department of Health. She is smart, easy to work with, self-motivated, and an excellent worker.

TESTIMONY OF DAMIEN ELEFANTE  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019 9:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

GOV. MSG NO. 542

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
CATHY Y. ROSS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Committee. I am testifying as an individual and I am in support of Cathy Y. Ross' confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

She has worked at the Department of Health in various capacities and has developed an administrative understanding of the department. Her general working experiences in the public sector is an asset and resource for the State.

I urge you to support the confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross as the Deputy Director of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/1/2019 8:49:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shirley Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 1, 2019

Senator Roslyn Baker and Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health committee members,

I am writing in support of Cathy Ross as the State Department of Health Deputy Director. I had the privilege of working with Ms. Ross from 2004 to 2009 while she served as the Department of Health School Health Coordinator.

Ms Ross's leadership skills along with her broad based knowledge of public health strategies resulted in a very successful Statewide Coordinated School Health Program which was recognized nationally. Her work garnered wide support from school staff, parents, and the community, carrying forth initiatives to improve students' overall health and well-being. A major highlight of Ms Ross's initiative was the development and the successful adoption of the Department of Education's statewide Wellness Policy.

As Deputy Director, Ms Ross will excel in her role to protect and improve the health of Hawaii's people.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support. Ms Ross will definitely be an asset to the Department of Health!

Sincerely,

Shirley Robinson

808 722-7742

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/3/2019 1:03:19 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



TESTIMONY OF KEITH YAMAMOTO  
REGARDING

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 542  
CONFIRMATION OF CATHY ROSS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, CHAIR  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 3, 2019

Room Number: 229

1 As the former Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH) **I strongly support** the nomination of  
2 **Cathy Ross** as the **Deputy Director of Health**. Ms. Ross's education background (Master of Public Health  
3 and Business Administration) is ideal in providing a strong academic foundation to enable her to  
4 efficiently address the wide range of administrative responsibilities of the department as well as a deep  
5 understanding and commitment to establishing effective public health programs and services across the  
6 state.

7 In addition to Ms. Ross's educational background, her past professional experiences in working in the  
8 DOH as a Performance Improvement Manager; Departmental School Health Coordinator; School Health  
9 Education Project Coordinator; as well as the Tobacco Prevention Youth Educator has provided her with  
10 an extensive understanding and unique perspective of the department (from the program/service staff  
11 level). Ms. Ross's experience as the Deputy Director of Administration with the State Department of  
12 Public Safety also provides her with a solid foundation and valuable understanding of the overall state  
13 public sector system which is relevant to the functioning and operation of any state department.

14 In working with Ms. Ross, I have found her to be an **intelligent, hardworking, honest and trustworthy**  
15 individual. I again ask that you support her nomination as the Deputy Director of Health.

16 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dear Senators Baker and Chang,

I would like to submit testimony in favor of the confirmation of Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee Cathy Y. Ross, for a term to expire at noon on 12/05/2022. I have over 35 years of experience working with programs that are funded through federal grants or MOA's between UH and State of Hawaii Departments. Cathy's efforts are exceptional and she is the best government (federal or state) liaison I have ever worked with.

Summary of my work experience: From 2000 to 2010, I worked in the Mental Health Services, Research, Evaluation, and Training (MHSRET) Program that was an agreement between DOH and UH. MHSRET was tasked with providing DOH with evaluation services and helping them attain federal grant funding. I worked briefly from 2010 to 2011 with the UH Community College under the Carl Perkins Act that provides funding to promote and improve career and technical education in the State. In this position, I worked closely with the DOE. From 2011 to 2013, I worked for the Hawaii Island Beacon Community Project at UHH under a cooperative agreement (\$16.7 million) with the federal government to facilitate electronic medical records with private physicians and Hawaii island hospitals. Cathy and I worked together from 2014 to 2018, when she was the Deputy Director of Administration for the Department of Public Safety. During this time, I worked for the Research and Evaluation in Public Safety Program (REPS) under a MOA between UH and PSD.

Cathy is a strong supporter of partnerships with UH researchers that bring expertise, evidence-based practices, and data driven decision to promote positive changes into the correctional facilities. She believes strongly in reviewing long serving practices and effectuate change to provide greater efficiency and proficiency. As an example, Cathy supported the REPS project that worked with United Self Help (non-profit) to provide peer support services to "max-out" released offenders. "Max-out" offenders serve their entire sentence and are not paroled. Hawai'i's Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS) data shows that they have the highest recidivism rates compared to paroled offenders. REPS has tracked those receiving services from USH for a 2 year period, to record rebookings (incarcerations and indicates of a new arrest or revocation of probation or parole, but not necessarily a conviction for a new crime). To do a comparison with the ICIS data, these "max-out" released offenders will need to be tracked for 3 years. But, the data in a 2 year period does show that these services have reduced recidivism in this population. This program has been now been transferred to the PSD Re-entry Office. Another successful collaboration was the Data Infrastructure Improvement Program (DIIP) that UH contracted with vendor Pas de Chocolat to review current corrections management system and needs of end users. The goal was to make recommendations replacing their old system that will encompass all offender management, data and reporting needs of PSD. Reasons for REPS contracting this service and not PSD was because the MOA between PSD and UH addresses three critical areas to improve PSD operations: 1) evaluation of inmate programs and services; 2) measurement of PSD goals, objectives, and performance indicators; and 3) development of a mental health services quality/performance improvement program. This project ended in January 31, 2019 giving PSD a mapping of all the data being collected and improvements that need to be made in their data information systems.

Cathy is highly organized and a very dedicated public servant. She encourages your efforts if she believes you are doing good work but will also give you negative feed-back if she feels your performance is not up to the standards required. This insures that State funding is aptly spent. She has been a strong supporter of inter-agency communication and efforts that avoids duplication of services.

In summary, Cathy is an outstanding public servant. She has patience, understanding, knowledge, and the skill to bring people to work together that insures success. She is a great role model and mentor for young people thinking of a career in public service. She is the best person the governor could appoint for this position that will assure the DOH is run efficiently and effectively. I highly support the confirmation of Cathy Ross as Deputy Director of DOH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula L. Chun". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paula L. Chun

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM542: NOMINATION OF CATHY ROSS TO THE  
POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health;  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Jan Harada

**Hearing: Thursday , March 7, 2019, 10:00am; CR 229.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of GM542 and the nomination of Cathy Ross, as Deputy Director, Department of Health, for a term expiring on December 5, 2022.

I have had the great fortune to work with and interact with Cathy over the past 8 ½ years, since becoming the CEO at Helping Hands Hawaii. During that time, I have been able to get to know her professionally as well as understand her personal drive and motivation to lead in Hawaii in a variety of ways. In my time working with her while she was at the Dept. of Public Safety, I was always encouraged by the commitment she showed to looking at continual improvement, being open to public and private feedback, and always thinking about ways to create better outcomes for those whose lives they impacted. I also had the opportunity to interact with her on a personal level, and have found her to carry the kinds of soft skills and strengths we hope all public servants come to the job with – integrity, humility, compassion, and commitment.

The Department of Health is at a critical time in its history, as it works to navigate a host of challenges and opportunities in the coming years. From my personal perspective, those challenges center around changes to funding streams, challenges with staffing vacancies, business process evolution and infrastructure questions, and changes to the systems of care that the Dept. of Health is involved with at the local, State and federal levels around not just traditional definitions of health, but also the myriad of social determinants of health that the communities they serve are faced with. The opportunities also co-exist with those challenges, including best practice standards, opportunities for greater communication and collaboration with the Dept. of Human Services whom they are so closely connected to, increasing focus on the value of public/private partnerships, and an increasing desire of those they serve and work with such as community providers, to have a voice in the systems and policies that all of us have to navigate. In my personal opinion, Cathy is rightly suited for these challenges and opportunities not just from a skill set standpoint, but also from a strengths standpoint as well as energy, drive and the ability to navigate what always tends to be the trickiest path to navigate when addressing challenge and pursuing opportunities – people barriers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Cathy Y. Ross for the position of Deputy Director, Department of Health.

TESTIMONY OF JO ANN UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:00 AM  
Conf. Rm 229

G.M. 542

**Testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 542  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the  
Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS  
for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
THE HONORABLE STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am writing to express my strong **support** of the appointment of CATHY Y. ROSS to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022. My name is Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi and I am submitting this supporting testimony in my personal capacity.

I have had the opportunity to work with Cathy Ross for the past four years in her capacity as Deputy Director of the Department of Public Safety and more recently as Deputy Director at the Department of Health. She has been collaborative, helpful, and keenly interested in seeking solutions to issues of mutual concern. She is intelligent and hardworking, an advocate for her department, and is an individual who has the temperament, experience, ability and wisdom to effectively represent the Department of Health.

I believe Ms. Ross is and will continue to be a valuable public servant and an asset to the administration and to the state, and respectfully request that you recommend advise and consent of her nomination as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 542.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/4/2019 3:10:13 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Ford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Testimony of Support for the Confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross, Gubernatorial Nominee for Deputy Director of the Department of Health**

Dear Chair Baker and members of the committee:

My name is Julie Ford, and I am fortunate enough to have lived and worked in Hawaii for more than 25 years. Hawaii is known across the world for its forward-thinking approach to health policy and health care insurance coverage. It is because of our state's holistic approach and attention to the social determinants of health that Hawaii consistently ranks at the top in terms of health care outcomes.

We must continue to build upon the strong foundation that has been laid, and strong leaders are needed to pave the way. Cathy Ross is an ideal candidate for this position, which is why I am submitting my strong support for her to be confirmed to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

As you know by now, Cathy is a highly accomplished, hard-working, intelligent, and principled candidate who is more than qualified for this extremely important position in our state. She has had many accomplishments throughout her career, both in government and the private sector. She brings far more to the position than an impressive resume and excellent education. She is uniquely qualified to help Dr. Anderson lead the Department through the years ahead in which Hawaii will face significant public health challenges, an aging population, federal uncertainty as it relates to health care insurance, and a series of other issues.

As Hawaii seeks to face its challenges, head on, we need the right leadership to push us forward and to keep our population healthy and informed. Cathy's special dedication to excellence is absolutely necessary in order for all of us, as a state, to succeed.

I have known Cathy for many years, and have always been impressed by her high ethical standards, inclusive style of leadership, respect for others of all perspectives, and constant drive to learn more and become better. She leaves every situation better than she found it, and is an egoless leader who genuinely cares about achieving the highest and best good for all concerned.

Hawaii is fortunate to have such a highly competent person who is willing to step up and serve in this role. I urge you to confirm her nomination.

Should you have any questions for me, you may contact me at 808-593-2890.

With aloha,

Julie Ford, Kakaako

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/3/2019 8:26:16 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:



February 25, 2019

Dear Chairman Baker and Vice Chair Chang:

I would like to submit this testimony in support of the confirmation of Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have known Cathy for 12 years and have worked with her for the last 8, when Cathy came to PSD as a work flow, policy, data analyst, under then PSD Director Ted Sakai. During those years, I was impressed with this smart, innovative, out of the box thinking young woman. As a Senior Administrator, I saw the potential abilities Cathy possessed. It was no surprise to me when she assumed her previous role as the PSD Deputy Director for Administration.

Everyone is stressing positive change in State Government and I strongly believe that Administrators such as Cathy Ross will provide the smarts, technology savvy, and vision to have a positive impact on the future of State Government. As someone who has the experience and understanding of the Department of Health, this is a natural progression of her career in serving the People of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley Mun', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wesley Mun  
1251 Ekaha Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
358-5898

Statement of  
**Mary Alice Evans**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH**

Thursday, March 7, 2019  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**GM 542**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the**  
**Deputy Director of the Department of Health,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS,**  
**for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee.

I respectfully urge your **strong support** for the confirmation of Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have had the pleasure of working with Cathy since 2015 in her capacity as the Deputy Director for Administration of the Department of Public Safety. Prior to her working for the Department of Public Safety, she had extensive experience working for the Department of Health.

Cathy is an excellent administrator who understands the fiscal and personnel challenges of the Department of Health. She has a strong work ethic and integrity.

I respectfully urge your **favorable consideration** of the nomination of Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 10:00AM, Conference Room 229

Testimony in **Strong Support** of GM542,  
CATHY ROSS  
Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH)

Good Morning Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

It is a great privilege to be in front of this committee to testify in favor of the confirmation of Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I want to preface my testimony: I have worked for our State for over 30 years and engaged with numerous state agency personnel, court personnel, legislators, state administration and community members throughout the decades. I am a former deputy public defender and served for years on the Superintendent of Education's committee on gender equity, as well as the State-wide commission on juvenile justice. I have experienced the wide span of personalities and motivations within state government and its impact to our diverse communities. I also know first hand how difficult it is to lure and support individual people to serve in leadership positions within our various state agencies. It is imperative that our state identify and sustain excellent leaders to evolve and address the changing needs of our precious unique place we call home. Governor Ige has made a brilliant choice of moving his Deputy Director of Public Safety over to become the Deputy Director of the Department of Health. Ms. Ross possesses the educational background, practical experience, peaceful temperament, collaborative disposition, authentic motivation, compassionate caring, exceptional judgment, and hardcore work ethic that has earned her the reputation of an effective leader and the rich respect of many at the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Health, as well as UH personnel and independent contractors and vendors.

Our state has benefited from Ms. Ross's willingness to serve our state and her continued commitment and dedication will contribute to the advancement of our health directives and new initiatives to address the constantly changing challenges of our generation. It is critical to support leaders who go through this process with dignity, determination and the brightness of their light. Anything less will have a chilling effect on the next individuals who contemplate a life of public service within the State and respective communities. I ask you to confirm Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of DOH.

Mahalo Piha,

Jill Leilani Nunokawa, Esq.



**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/5/2019 4:18:13 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sandra Labuguen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/5/2019 5:16:51 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pedro Haro	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 7, 2019 10:00 am  
Conference Room229

**TESTIMONY IN SUPORT OF THE CONFIRMATION OF CATHY ROSS**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Committee Members, my name is Pedro Haro and I am testifying as an individual in support of Cathy Ross's confirmation as Deputy Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH).

Ms. Ross has a an extensive professional history that has made her uniquely qualified for the position. With various positions within the DOH, Ms. Ross understands clearly the various roles and programs that the DOH is responsible for. As the Youth Educator for the Tobacco Prevention program within DOH, Ms. Ross worked effectively to reduce tobacco use amongst use and was integegral in the establishment of REAL, the Hawaii Youth Movement Against Tobacco Use. I myself got to witness her quality work as I worked with REAL and the youth that were impacted through her efforts.

Ms. Ross also has experience in working to build gaps within departments. Later on in her career, Ms. Ross expertly worked with both the DOH and the Department of Education to develop joing strategies to address the health of Hawaii's students.

It is no surprise that Ms. Ross later took her talents to the Department of Safety, where she once again excelled as the Performance Based Management Coordinator and later the Deputy Director for Administration.

I wholeheartly support Ms. Ross for the Deputy Director position. I strongly believe that she will bring performance-based accountability to programs within the DOH.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pedro Haro  
haroarvi@gmail.com

Senator Rosalyn Baker  
Senator Stanley Chang  
Senate Committee On Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

I am testifying as an individual in strong support of GM 542 submitted by the Governor for consideration and confirmation of Ms. Cathy Y. Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, for a term to expire at noon on December 05, 2022.

I have known Cathy Ross for over fifteen years, personally as a friend and professionally as a public health advocate. Her public health background, leadership and administrative experience in key positions in state government and her strong work ethic make her highly qualified for the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Health. Ms. Ross is well respected for her integrity, professionalism and dedication to public service in Hawaii.

I would like to respectfully request that the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health favorably consider Ms. Cathy Ross for the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 542.

Kathleen Koga, MPH  
908 Puu Kula Drive  
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782



## Natalie Wagatsuma

95-1034 Hakala Street • Mililani, Hawaii 96789  
Mobile: (808) 223-7446 • Email: nakeliw@gmail.com

February 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
State Capitol, Room 229  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 542 - Consideration and Confirmation as the Deputy Director  
of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Cathy Y. Ross

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

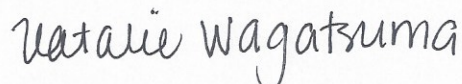
I am respectfully submitting testimony in strong support for Ms. Cathy Ross's appointment as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I am presently a Private Secretary to Deputy Director Cathy Ross of the Department of Health and have been employed by the State of Hawaii for 34+ years—all with the Department of Public Safety (PSD). I have known Ms. Ross since 2012 when she joined PSD as the Performance-Based Management Coordinator and have been her Private Secretary from 2015 when she began her appointment as the Deputy Director for Administration. It was during this time that I observed her strong leadership and successful management skills. She has proven to be a team player and would often introduce new ideas that motivated and encouraged staff to work together for the best interest of the department. She is one of the most kind-hearted and caring person I've ever met.

I sincerely believe Ms. Ross's background, knowledge and understanding of the civil service system, and prior work experience with the Department of Health makes her well qualified to lead as the First Deputy Director. Her integrity and dedication make her a valued asset to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I humbly ask that you confirm Ms. Cathy Ross's nomination as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Respectfully Submitted,



Natalie Wagatsuma

THE SENATE  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 10:00AM, Conference Room 229  
Testimony in **Strong Support** of GM542,  
the Confirmation of CATHY Y. ROSS for  
the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH)

Dear Chair Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

I am testifying in strong support of the confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross for the DOH Deputy Director. In March 2014 the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM) entered into an Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Public Safety (PSD) for the Research and Evaluation in Public Safety (REPS) project. I joined REPS in November 2016 and served as Associate Director of the program until the end of the contract in January 2019. Prior to this position I worked on several large research grant projects at UHM and have served rural communities in community health centers and primary care clinics across our state providing mental/behavioral health care. During my time with REPS I worked very closely with then PSD Deputy Director of Administration (Dep-A) Cathy Ross, who was a very strong supporter of our work.

REPS was a unique and important university-state agency partnership that was developed to provide PSD with third-party program evaluation and quality/performance improvement studies as well as consultation, technical assistance, and training on data-driven decision-making and evidence-based correctional practices. PSD Director Nolan Espinda and Dep-A Ross provided REPS with unprecedented access to PSD facilities, programs, and data. This provided our project with the rare opportunity to conduct research inside the department and cultivate extraordinary insight regarding public safety operations and issues. Although this placed PSD in a potentially vulnerable position, Dep-A Ross championed the contract and worked hard to facilitate the research that came out of this contract.

Since 2014 REPS has successfully completed many notable research initiatives for PSD, including multiple evaluations of PSD correctional programs; ongoing continuous quality improvement studies for PSD's Health Care Division; several focused statistical analyses of PSD's Level of Services Inventory – Revised data; training and technical assistance for PSD staff to develop pilot projects that expand and improve inmate services; and assisting PSD in a strategic planning process, to name a few. The REPS contract also included a qualitative and quantitative assessment of PSD's inmate tracking and data management system, as well as peer specialist reentry planning and support services administered by United Self Help (USH) for inmates who served maximum sentences.

These initiatives have had a significant impact on PSD's operations and inmates affected by those services. For example, preliminary analyses conducted by REPS suggested that USH

services are associated with a reduction of recidivism rates. The REPS Project was instrumental in the successful resolution on June 30, 2015 of case CV08 00585 JMS KSC filed on December 28, 2008 pertaining to mental health care at a PSD facility, and compliance with the settlement agreement between the State of Hawai'i and the Federal Department of Justice. REPS has provided research training and academic funding for dozens of local graduate students, many of whom have gone on to serve our communities. Dep-A Ross's leadership, support, and collaboration was essential to the success of all of these initiatives.

Mrs. Ross is a visionary and one of the most ethical people I have had the privilege of working with. She has a highly effective blend of strong leadership and collaboration skills, and demonstrates exceptional professionalism and excellent judgment. Through her years of dedicated service, she has developed expertise and a rich understanding of the most pressing public health issues our State faces today. She would be a tremendous asset to DOH as Deputy Director and her confirmation will truly benefit our State - it is clear that Mrs. Ross authentically cares about the health and well-being of the people of Hawai'i and that she is deeply committed to improving the future of our communities.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Mrs. Ross to serve as the DOH Deputy Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mrs. Ross.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Takishima-Lacasa, PhD  
Research Specialist  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 7:32:10 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jill Tamashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators Baker and Chang and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of Cathy Ross for the Deputy Director position at the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH).

My name is Jill Tamashiro and I have the honor of knowing Ms. Ross personally for approximately 25 years, and professionally for over 10. By far, she is one of the most intelligent, forward-thinking, public health minded people I know. She is articulate, thoughtful, and assertive. She possesses both the character, intellectual capacity, and communication skills to make her well-suited for this position. She is a systems thinker, but also has the ability to recognize and appreciate the details involved in day to day operations and interpersonal interactions among colleagues and employees.

Ms. Ross not only has the personal characteristics that deem her fitting for the position, but her formal training and experience is well-aligned for the job too. She has degrees in both public health and business. This means she is trained in public health content as well as business operations. This is a valuable skillset to have as a DOH administrator. She has a long history in two important positions at DOH such as School Health Coordinator and Performance Improvement Manager. Her role as School Health Coordinator has given her insight into working with the Department of Education (DOE), and familiarized her with the health needs of Hawaii's youth. Her role as Performance Improvement Manager enabled her to look critically at the operations within the DOH—certainly appropriate preliminary training for stepping into a position as Deputy. Finally, Ms. Ross's experience in high-level management has prepared her well for this new role at the DOH.

It is with great honor and excitement that I provide this testimony in support of the nomination of Cathy Ross for the Deputy Director position at the Hawai'i State Department of Health. I look forward to the impact she will have on the health status of our Islands and DOH workforce. I respectfully request the Senate's highest consideration of her nomination.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 8:20:40 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward Suarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing to you in opposition to the appointment of Cathy Y. Ross as deputy director in the Department of Health. From 2017 to 2019, as Director of the Research and Evaluation in Public Safety (REPS) program funded by DPS at UH, I worked closely with Ms. Ross and during that time numerous grave ethical concerns have arisen for me regarding her professional behavior and performance in her position as Deputy Director of Administration for DPS. In fact, I have never been so disappointed in a fellow public servant in my 25 years of public service in Hawaii. In this short period of time, I have become aware of numerous what I believe may be serious civil rights and ethical violations at DPS, reported them to Ms. Ross and DPS, and dissatisfied with their responses, which I considered apathetic at best, I then reported these concerns to the appropriate regulatory bodies who are now investigating these issues.

Therefore, I urge this committee to consider the performance track record of this department and its leadership and demand accountability and transparency from its director and deputy directors (as well as all public servants) here and now in the form of these confirmation hearings and beyond. In my opinion there is an unacceptable level of humanity and accountability at DPS which should not be tolerated in our public officials as it erodes the public faith and is a disservice to those involved in the criminal justice system. It is my testimony and firm belief that confirmation the re-appointments of the DPS director and deputy directors would be an endorsement of, and an invitation to, a continuation of the status quo, which, in my opinion amounts to a great public disservice. Mahalo

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 8:45:57 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Edward Mersereau	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

March 6, 2019

**RE: GM 542 CATHY Y. ROSS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee,

I am respectfully submitting testimony in support of Cathy Y. Ross, gubernatorial nominee for the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have witnessed her hard work and dedication during her tenure as the Deputy Director of Administration with the Department of Public Safety and am impressed with her ability to effectively tackle any issue that she is faced with. I believe Ms. Ross' intelligence, decisiveness, and "can do" attitude along with her pleasant demeanor make her the most capable and deserving person to take on this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

Nalani Myers

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 542  
NOMINATION OF CATHY ROSS AS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the nomination of Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH). I had the privilege and opportunity to work with Ms. Ross since October 2015 while she was the Deputy Director of Administration for the Department of Public Safety (PSD). I was the Sheriff, and am now the Deputy Deputy of Law Enforcement.

Responsible for the Administrative Division of PSD, Ms. Ross selflessly answered all questions and resolved issues regarding human resources, budget, fiscal, training, and information technology support. Her patience and motivation to find resolution to issues, big or small, was always much appreciated. She is a team player and problem solver, always compassionately dedicated to helping our programs get the job done. Ms. Ross can recognize the need for change, but carefully listens to all opinions and concerns and respectfully considers the viewpoints of all involved. I am certain that her dedication, commitment, and extensive experience will be valuable assets for DOH.

Ms. Ross and I often spoke about improving operations collaboratively, rather than programs working within our own divisions, to get the job done for the good of the entire department, our employees, persons committed to our custody and care, and as a result, the public. We embraced the same vision of working collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholders as well. If given the opportunity, I am excited to work together with Ms. Ross to build and strengthen public health and public safety partnerships.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Respectfully,

Renee Sonobe Hong





# GM 542

## Chair Baker and Committee Members

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

I'm writing in strong support of Cathy Ross' nomination as Deputy Director of Department of Health for the State of Hawaii.

v

As the State's former CIO, I had the privilege of working with Cathy in various roles. Cathy is a strong leader with a drive to improve the State system. She leads with Aloha and inclusion.

She is the right person at the right time to help lead the Department of Health.

Warm regards,



Todd Nacapuy



**Joan K. Yanagihara**  
**Kaaawa, Hawaii**

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 542  
Consideration and Confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross  
as Deputy Director, Department of Health  
to the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 7, 2019; 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Cathy Ross as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with Ms. Ross when she served as Performance-Based Data Coordinator and Deputy Director for Administration at the Department of Public Safety, from 2013 through 2018. She took on difficult projects and produced great results, all while maintaining a positive and nurturing attitude. She impressed me with her keen intellect, her hard work, and her abilities to present and communicate to a variety of audiences, but most importantly, I appreciated the depth of her commitment to Public Safety and the betterment of life for the people of Hawaii.

I urge the Committee's favorable consideration of the nomination of Cathy Ross as Deputy Director of Health. DOH and we, the people, will benefit from the contributions of this exemplary public servant.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 1:39:52 PM  
Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roxanne Ayala	Testifying for TSD - CALEA Professional Standards Unit	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

My name is Lieutenant Roxanne Ayala. I am and have been employed with the Department of Public Safety, Sheriff Division since May 1992; nearing 27 years. Since January 2016, I was assigned to the DPS, Training and Staff Development (TSD); Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) to work on achieving accreditation for the Department's Law Enforcement and Administration; Academy Divisions.

I am writing to express my strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Mrs. Cathy Ross to the State Department of Health as First Deputy Director.

Since my assignment at TSD, three (3) years, I have had the pleasure and opportunity to work with the Academy Administrator, Staff and Deputy Director for Administration; Cathy Ross.

Mrs. Ross is always looking for and applying best practices to all her tasks. Additionally, she is willing to share her knowledge and mentor others. She is honest and conducts herself professionally with integrity and fairness.

Mrs. Ross has formed strong working relationships with her staff. I along with the TSD Section strongly support Mrs. Cathy Ross's nomination to the State Department of Health, First Deputy Director. I am confident that with her positive attitude and high level of professionalism, she is a great candidate to serve the State of Hawaii.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

March 6, 2019

To: The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

**LATE**

From: Ted Sakai

Re: Governor's Message 542: Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Cathy Y. Ross for  
Deputy Director of the Department of Health

Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am offering comments on the nomination of Cathy Y. Ross for Deputy Director of the Department of Health. I hope that I can lend some perspective on the quality of Ms. Ross's work, her work ethic and her character.

I served as the Director of the Department of Public Safety from December 1998 until December 2002, and again from June 2012 until December 2014. When I assumed the position in 2012, the State of Hawaii had just adopted the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI), a data-driven approach to improve public safety, reduce corrections and related criminal justice spending, and reinvest savings in strategies that can decrease crime and reduce recidivism. JRI involved evidence-based approaches and required a major shift in thinking and in management of the Department of Public Safety.

I quickly learned that the Department was ill-prepared to implement JRI. The management information system was rudimentary. It had been implemented early in my first term as Director and had not been upgraded since. It simply did not provide us with data needed to inform basic management decisions and assess the viability of programs. Moreover, it appeared that the Department's managers were not using common sets of information to make administrative and programming decisions.

It was in this context that Cathy Ross joined the Department as Performance-Based Management Coordinator. The challenges facing her were daunting. She was tasked not only to re-implement a performance management system, but also to guide managers and staff in the use of such systems. Moreover, she was an important player in the Department's efforts to identify new systems that would be required to address the JRI and other critical management activities.

Ms. Ross performed admirably. She is very smart and resourceful. Her quiet but clear communication style enabled her to work effectively with Department managers. She was able to develop an effective plan for implementing various projects. She displayed initiative, suggesting new approaches and bringing in outside resources that furthered the interest of the Department. With her strong work ethic, she was able to persistently pursue projects to completion despite challenges.

Ms. Ross' work in establishing a tracking system for detainees at Circuit Court provides a good example of the quality of her work. In late 2012 and early 2013, two escapes from the First Circuit Court exposed the Department's inability to track detainees who appeared in court, from the time they left the correctional facility, while they were in court, and until they returned to the facility. Ms. Ross put together a team that included correctional staff, deputy sheriffs, and court personnel to document the process by which detainees moved from facility to the Court and back, and also within the Court, from holding cell to courtroom. She marshalled outside resources, including expert consultation and a grant to devise an updated management information system that tracked the detainees. Because of her work, deputy sheriffs were better able to account for detainees, and correctional facilities were able to learn when detainees were ready for return. This relieved pressure from badly overcrowded holding rooms at Court, and also enabled the correctional facility to consolidate transportation runs.

This is an example of the kind of work that Ms. Ross is capable of doing. She performed well in all aspects of her job. Throughout the time we worked together, she displayed sound character and a strong work ethic. She made significant contributions in a short period of time. I am pleased that she continues to pursue a career in public service.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 2:58:35 PM  
Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chrisanta Hilario	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

My name is Chrisanta Hilario, HRS II with the Department of Public Safety (PSD) with the Training Academy (TSD). I have been a public servant since 2007 originally with Department of Human Resources (DHRD) then with the Reduction-In-Force (RIF) I was sent to PSD, Civil Rights Compliance Office. Since accepting a position with TSD close to three years ago I have worked rather closely with Cathy Ross. Cathy Ross was Deputy Director of Administration (DEP-A) for the Department of Public Safety.

Cathy Ross has worked very closely with the staff at TSD. She has always been readily available to answer any questions and has always provided knowledgeable and encouraging feedback. Many times I would be rushing to the AAFES building to get Ms. Ross' approval and or signature for some immediate issue and she has always tried to accommodate me. Even if she did not approve a request Ms. Ross has always explained her decision and always without bias. She conducts herself professionally with integrity and fairness.

Ms. Cathy Ross was an asset to the Department, always concerned about the betterment of the department and the safety of the employees. She will be an asset to the State Department of Health as First Deputy Director.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my written testimony.

Chrisanta Hilario

**LATE**

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 4:17:49 PM  
Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marte Martinez	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair Stanley Chang, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHY Y. ROSS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022 (GM542).

As the Department of Public Safety’s Training Officer and Training Academy Administrator I wish to express my support for Ms. Cathy Ross, as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

It has been my privilege to have worked directly for Cathy during the last 4 years while she served as the Department of Public Safety’s Deputy Director of Administration. As you all well know, the Department of Public Safety has very unique challenges, often the most scrutinized and criticized of all State government agencies. With that being said, Cathy first came to the Department in 2012 to improve performance and accountability of DPS management and programs in an effort to better serve our public.

For more than 6 years, Cathy dedicated herself to fostering transparency, improving program delivery; building and maintaining partnerships with outside agencies, community groups, and stakeholders; and problem solving through cooperation and collaboration. She provided direct oversight and managed the most critical functions of the Department including personnel management, administrative services, capital improvement, planning, budget and fiscal, training and professional development.

Cathy was instrumental in the development and implementation of a viable, standards-based training program for the Department of Public Safety and the establishment of the Training Academy. Upon learning of training program deficiencies, Cathy held training improvement as a priority within the Division. The transformation of the program in the last three years has been extraordinary, culminating in the Academy seeking accreditation this year through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement.



Cathy constantly mentored, and provided opportunities for her Staff Officers to excel and move programs forward through process improvement, implementing technology and seeking solutions.

Cathy's leadership expertise and innate ability to empower others to pursue professional excellence is her greatest asset. She truly models a passion for public service. She is the most genuine manager I have ever had the opportunity to work for in the past 35 years; her integrity is above reproach and her strong work ethic is refreshing in a time when some in government service believe this is just a job.

Cathy's education and background, serve her well in communicating with even the most difficult persons or subject matter. She is consummate professional and that is why I strongly encourage the Committee to support her nomination to serve as the Deputy Director for the Department of Health.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Sincerely,

J. Marte Martinez

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 8:25:14 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Glenn	Testifying for OEQC	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,  
I am writing in support of the appointment of Cathy Ross to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Ms. Ross has extensive experience with the Department of Health and its mission to protect human and environmental health. I have worked with Ms. Ross in her capacity as the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Safety. Since coming to the Department of Health, she has been a valuable partner in improving the effectiveness of the OEQC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 9:18:20 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jared Redulla	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Cathy Ross is one of the most talented State managers that I have worked with in the more than 25 years that I have worked for the State. Her greatest strength is her ability to identify broken government processes and fix them. Fundamentally, Cathy makes things better. As a result, I strongly request that the Committee support Cathy's confirmation as the Deputy Director for the Department of Health.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 10:19:32 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jodie Maesaka-Hirata	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair Stanley Chang, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee (GM452) CATHY Y. ROSS as the First Deputy Director of the Department of Health, for a term to expire at noon on 12- 05-2022 (GM542).

You have been presented with testimonies of many colleagues who support Cathy's nomination. There isn't much more to add to the list of her accomplishments, forward thinking, impeccable ethical standards and professional integrity. I do want to clearly say Cathy is a great visionary, planner, master of data collection and interpretation and a creative leader who always thinks of the end goal of doing what's best for the people in Hawaii that we serve.

For the last three years, I have had the privilege of being one of three Deputy Directors for the Department of Public Safety reporting to Director Nolan P. Espinda. I believe Director set the standard for excellence by raising the bar to the next level and not accepting Status Quo. He challenges all in the Department to improve on how we do business. With that said, I have been humbled working along side our Deputy for Law Enforcement Renee Sonobe-Hong and our former Deputy for Administration Cathy Ross. I truly believe when Director Espinda put us together, he knew that we would not only dedicate ourselves to the Department but to each other as one team.

With that said, I want to share about Cathy Y. Ross the person. She is a daughter, wife and mother. Cathy has spent many a hour balancing her work and family life. We often joke about how most of our waking hours is focused on work, go home to our families and start our real jobs as mothers. Like Renee and I, Cathy has dedicated her life to Public Service in hopes that she can make a difference for the people of Hawaii. Cathy wants a safer Hawaii that can sustain the challenges of ever growing social ills such as mental illness, substance abuse, abuse/neglect of children and the aging, homelessness, criminal activity, etc., we as a State face. She does this without any reservation as she would for her family and friends.

As a peer, I also see Cathy as a mentor to many. Without hesitation, she will take the time to teach and explain what we are tasked with and what are the proper measures to take to ensure success for what is being planned. She has taught me a lot as a

professional in the last three years. More importantly, she is a constant reminder that someone like me stuck in trenches and desensitized from working in an environment in which criminal behavior and activity is addressed on a daily basis, needs to remain empathetic and compassionate to all we come in contact with.

Cathy is no stranger to adverse actions by others. As you are all aware, the Department is under constantly scrutiny by those public. Taking the higher road isn't always easy, but Cathy handles each situation with grace and humility. In the last several months, the Department was put under a microscope by misguided individuals. This included trusted colleagues accusing Cathy of procurement violations, mismanagement of State funds, discrimination, etc., to all which are unfounded. This is inexcusable behavior by others to ruin her reputation. If the allegations were found to be true, the Attorney General's Office would have most other State Departments under investigation for misconducts based on allegations brought on to Cathy for partnering with another State entity on projects, data mining, interpretation, program improvement, training, facilitation, etc.

The main purpose of this particular Memorandum of Understanding was to do a full data dive of what the Department had in existence, to determine if the data collected was what we needed to properly analyze "in my own terms" the successes and pitfalls of existing inmate programs (did the program fit the needs of the inmates, was the program following evidence based practices that were researched based, outcome driven, task driven, risk-need driven, etc.) to make recommendations for improvement to systemic issues identified, create a data dashboard that would work across agencies to avoid late Court appears of inmates, and the list goes on.

The false accusations weighs heavily on Cathy's heart to this day as she is that gives her all to Public Service and the work she does. To see a self-reliant, independent, go-getter be picked a part based on inaccurate information and misgivings has not been easy. Cathy is a fighter for the underdog and always looks for the best in people. Now, she is the underdog and still dedicates herself to Public Service. This certainly shows her Character and her Professional Integrity to be outstanding.

On a more personal note, Cathy's huge compassionate heart and her willingness to help others has left an impression upon me that has made me a better person. Several years ago, I suffered a medical condition (not a stroke or heart attack) which made it very difficult for me to articulate what was in my brain and to explain what I was thinking. I thought I was destined for an early retirement. Cathy checked on me regularly, helped me with meetings and she also knew that I was worried about doing my job well. She had become one of my biggest cheerleaders. Cathy showed a genuine care for me like a Sister-Friend for which I will never forget.

In the many faces of adversity, Cathy continues to be kindhearted, sensitive to others facing the same plight, and continues to still put on her armor to serve those in the community who are in need of assistance.

I humbly ask that this committee confirm Cathy Y. Ross as the First Deputy for the Department of Health.

Thank you all for this opportunity to provide testimony,



Lila Rae Johnson  
P.O. Box 161258  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

TESTIMONY OF  
Lila Johnson

TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

MARCH 7, 2019  
Conference Room 229

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF  
HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE – Cathy Y. Ross

I am testifying as an individual in support of GN 542 submitted by the Governor for the consideration and confirmation of Ms. Cathy Y. Ross to the position of Deputy Director of Health.

Ms. Ross possesses the academic qualifications and professional experience to serve as Deputy Director at the Hawaii State Department of Health. I have known her for close to twenty years and first worked with her shortly after she graduated from the University of Hawaii with a Master of Public Health degree. Early on, she demonstrated great potential.

Ms. Ross has faithfully served the State of Hawaii as a strong and capable administrator for an impressive variety of programs, successfully collaborating with staff and the community. She would bring sharp intellect, effective management skills, accountability, and vision to the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 10:35:49 PM  
Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachael Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Cathy Ross, MPH, MBA as the Deputy Director for Administration of the Department of Health. I had the privilege of serving in the public sector and working with Cathy when I led the Department of Human Services. I can attest to her integrity and dedication to improving the public's health.

I can also share that Cathy is a professional who answered the call to public service and focused on improving the well-being and lives of Hawai'i residents because of her belief in others' goodness and potential. She brings all her experience, training, intelligence, character, and compassion to this position and will continue to serve Hawai'i well.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



A. Michael Wylie, Ph.D.  
60 N. Kuakini St. #2i  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
[wylie@hawaii.edu](mailto:wylie@hawaii.edu)  
(808) 282-1770



RE: GM 542

My name is Michael Wylie and I am testifying as a private citizen in **strong support** for the nomination of Cathy Ross to the position of Deputy Director of Administration at the Department of Health. I am a clinical psychologist, recently retired from the University of Hawaii, with over 20 years of experience as a consultant to both the Public Safety Department and the Department of Health.

I first met Cathy in 2012 while working with the Department of Public Safety where I developed various mental health program evaluation and quality improvement measures to help the Department exit a federal consent degree surrounding the mental health program at OCCC. I was very impressed with Cathy during numerous discussions as her expertise fit well with mine and, at that time, Cathy was interested in developing outcome and quality improvement measures for the Department at large.

Working with Cathy and DPS I developed and directed the Research and Evaluation in Public Safety Program (REPS) at the Social Science Research Institute from 2014 until my retirement at the end of 2016. Cathy was my direct supervisor during this period. She excelled at this and was very competent in developing REPS contract objectives, providing feedback to our execution, and working across agencies.

I know her as a bright, articulate, ethical person and strategic thinker focussed on improving the Department and various systems within the Department of Public Safety. I am certain that she will bring these characteristics to the Department of Health. She is very community oriented and will work hard to bring public health improvements to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Audrey Hidano  
1620 Hau Street  
Honolulu, HI 96817

TESTIMONY  
OF  
AUDREY HIDANO  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
ON

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019, 9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 542

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
**CATHY Y. ROSS**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 542. I support the nomination of **MS. CATHY Y. ROSS** to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have known Ms. Ross since January 2015 in her capacity as Deputy Director, Administration for Hawaii State Department of Public Safety. We have worked together on various projects and have found her to be dedicated to her work and to her department. She is a caring leader, always thinking how to better the process.

Ms. Ross continually demonstrates professionalism and has a strong commitment to serve the people and the State of Hawaii. She will truly be an asset as Deputy Director to the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 7:42:24 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tina Tamai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senator Baker and Senator Chang,

I am writing in support of Cathy Y. Ross's confirmation as Deputy Director of the Dept. of Health.

I have known Cathy since 2002 as a fellow program coordinator at the Dept. of Health, both in the Tobacco Prevention Program and the current Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division (CDPHPD).

Cathy has utmost integrity and has a true understanding of public health. She has always been dedicated to improving health in the community and among children, and has been a champion of programs to promote better health among all populations in Hawaii. Public Health is her first love. We have spent many years as co-program managers at CDPHPD collaborating and integrating my work in SNAP-Ed/low-income populations and her work in School Health to improve environments to increase health. She is extremely capable, dedicated and hard working. She is also innovative and will be able to help move public health and the Dept. of Health forward as new challenges confront health in our communities and in our State.

She will be an important asset to the Dept. of Health and our community. I urge your confirmation of Cathy Y. Ross as Deputy Director.

Sincerely,

Tina Tamai, MPH, JD\*

Hawaii Good Food Alliance

\*A Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Leader Fellow

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 9:14:09 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ian Kitajima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for Cathy Ross, candidate for Deputy Director, Dept of Health

I've known Cathy for ~8 years. She was one of the first people in Hawaii to learn Design Thinking. Today, Design Thinking is a movement in Hawaii. Back then it was just starting, and Cathy was a leader bringing Design Thinking to the Dept of Health, and later to the Dept of Public Safety. Through her leadership, she created an environment that allowed people to try new things, including a successful program to teach computer programming to inmates at Waiawa and Halawa Correctional Facilities. I think she will be an amazing deputy and someday director. She could easily come to the private sector but I respect her commitment to public service. She's a smart, compassionate, and passionate public servant. Please contact me if you have any question. 531-3017 Mahalo, Ian

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 9:43:10 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/25/2019 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I have known and worked with Cathy since 2010. She has an incredible work ethic and is a visionary. Beyond that, however, is her sense of commitment to our community and her ability to lead with compassion. I recall working on an impactful project with her at the Department of Public Safety. The work we were doing was not easy, as we were asking employees to completely rethink the way they were working. She helped to create an environment where people thrived through improvement to process and procedures. It was important that while we were asking people to change, we included them in the process.

I recommend Cathy Ross to serve as the Deputy Director of the Dept of Health. She will be an incredible asset to your team, and the public can rest assured she has their best interests at heart.

Mahalo,

Forest Frizzell

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/7/2019 6:56:54 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/7/2019 10:00:00 AM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Eby Konan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Senator Baker,

I write in support of the nomination of Cathy Ross as Deputy Director of the Department of Health. In her role as Deputy Director at the Department of Public Safety, the College of Social Sciences has advanced several fruitful projects that helped bring valuable insights and knowledge for the benefit of PSD. I value her creative ideas and recommendations on how to build stronger collaborations between the UH and agencies within the Executive Branch of government. I believe that we will be able to work together to forge intentional research programs to the benefit of the Department of Health.

I'm writing in my capacity as an individual.

Sincerely,

Denise Eby Konan