

# GM704

Measure  
Title:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Dentistry, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHARON TANAKA, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Report  
Title:

Board of Dentistry

Current  
Referral:

CPH

**Testimony of the Board of Dentistry**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Friday, April 5, 2019  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 704, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF DENTISTRY,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SHARON TANAKA,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee

My name is Sandra Matsushima, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Dentistry (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Ms. Sharon Tanaka's reappointment to the Board as a public member.

Ms. Tanaka has served on the Board as a public member since July 1, 2017. Ms. Tanaka is a devoted member of the Board and has attended 10 out of 12 meetings. Ms. Tanaka's active participation during board discussions demonstrate that she has prepared for the matters on the Board's agenda. In addition, by sharing her valuable insights gained from more than 30 years of experience as a social worker with the Department of Health's Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled Branch, Ms. Tanaka contributes a breadth of information that the Board has found useful when making its decisions. Ms. Tanaka is very effective in providing a perspective from the public's point of view.

Ms. Tanaka's experience and willingness to continue to serve the public and contribute to the community are an asset to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

7519 Hualoha Street  
Honolulu. Hawaii 96825  
February 22, 2019

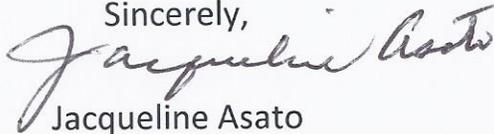
To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Ms. Sharon Tanaka to the Board of Dentistry. I have had the pleasure of being Sharon's friend for 18 years. Throughout those years Sharon's loyalty, compassion, and sensitivity to everyone's needs made her a trusted friend and confidant. Sharon demonstrated this openness to and empathy for the opinions, feeling, and perspectives of others, along with shrewd powers of observation, all qualities that makes her an outstanding friend and a true people person.

Sharon truly demonstrates a positive mindset, and she inspires others to adopt that valuable perspective. Her caring personality allows her to work well with others regardless of age or gender. I fondly recall relying on my friend's expertise in the Social Work field to help transition both my mother and mother in-law into a care setting. She contacted and arranged all necessary paper work to get both parents into a wonderful environment. Sharon is an active, outgoing presence in our social group with a great sense of humor.

Sharon has my highest recommendation for admission to the Board of Dentistry because I know, collaborating with others, combined with her willingness to contribute to betterment of others, leads me to believe she will be an excellent board member.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Asato

Personal Friend

Phone # 808-3427647

February 26, 2019

It is my pleasure to submit this recommendation of Ms. Sharon Tanaka to your office in support of her reappointment to the State Board of Dentistry.

I have known Ms. Tanaka for over 30 years, first as a colleague in the field of developmental disabilities and later as a personal friend. When I worked with her at the Community Services for persons with Developmental Disabilities Branch in the early years of the transition of individuals from the institution into the community, I found her to possess keen skills in the areas of problem identification, assessment and problem resolution. Her Master's in Public Health and Master's in Social Work degrees provided her with a broad perspective of the health issues challenging our community while remaining cognizant of the impacts the community has on the individual. She used her knowledge and skills effectively while working in various positions in the Department of Health as a medical social worker, program specialist, foster home certifier, statewide case management supervisor and program manager with responsibility for oversight of quality assurance, policy review assessments and program development.

Her attention to detail, and knowledge of applicable laws and rules, assisted our program in its ongoing internal and external evaluations and budget preparations. Also, her ability to present information clearly in both writing and orally was especially helpful in gathering community support for the program's efforts to craft a community support system for persons with developmental disabilities that thrives today. Among the programs she assisted in developing are the adult foster home system of care, respite services for families of disabled adults and children and family support services for the those individuals with developmental disabilities in the community.

Hers is an advocacy that builds on basic workable foundations. She believes that the realization of dreams and visions works well with a respect for process, collaboration and a drizzle of humor.

She is committed to excellence in service delivery and support networks for individuals and groups. She put forward her personal time and knowledge to assist efforts to improve both health and social systems. I believe that she will be a continued asset as a member of your Board.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Lee

Chief, Case Management and Information Services Branch

(Retired)

1301 Manua Street  
Wahiawa, HI 96786  
February 19, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Ms. Sharon Tanaka has asked me to write a letter of recommendation on her behalf. This, I am very glad to do.

Ms. Tanaka and I have worked together for over 20 years and I have known her for over 30 years. In this way we came to know each other quite well. As the HR (Human Resource) Manager for the Developmental Disabilities Division, I worked with Ms. Tanaka and on all Personnel/HR matters for her Branch and by working with her, I came to have a sincere respect for her work ethics. We consulted almost daily about the various functions of Personnel/HR, including recruitment/classifying jobs/labor relations and disciplinary actions. With her background in Social Work, it enhanced her empathy in working with employees and clients in the organization. As an administrator, she had a thorough working knowledge and understanding of the Department of Health/Developmental Disabilities Division's organization, mission and functions as well as other agencies she interfaced and interacted with.

In all of the years I have known her, Ms. Tanaka has been a loyal, hard working and responsible employee in whatever role she has undertaken and served. She is cooperative and well informed in all aspects of the organizational structures she has worked at. She is also trustworthy, and this was reflected in her ability to work on many confidential HR matters as well (i.e. grievances, reorganizational matters and other labor relations issues).

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation because, she will, I know, be an asset to your organization.

Sincerely,



Thelma Sakane  
Personnel Management Specialist

(Retired)