

Testimony of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 524, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KRISTEN COLES,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2024**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Kristen Coles' reappointment to the Board as a naturopathic physician member.

Dr. Coles was appointed to the Board on an interim basis in February 2018. She has been licensed as a naturopathic physician in Hawaii since October 24, 2012, and her license is current, active, and in good standing.

Dr. Coles has been practicing at Steelsmith Natural Health Center in Honolulu since 2012 and has been a public speaker, writer, and educator lecturing across Oahu to various groups, including hospitals and the University of Hawaii's School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene.

Dr. Coles has quickly familiarized herself with the Board's responsibilities and duties involved in granting, suspending, and revoking licenses, promulgating administrative rules, and enforcing provisions governing the State's regulation of naturopathic physicians. She understands the expectation that board members regularly attend and participate in the Board's functions. Importantly, Dr. Coles continues to express a strong interest in participating in policy and consumer protection issues at the board level.

The Board believes that Dr. Coles' combination of experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to public service continue to make her a strong choice for reappointment to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: [David Kern](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 524
Date: Monday, March 2, 2020 7:31:20 PM

To the Honorable Chair Senator Rozalyn Baker and Vice Chair Stanley Chang and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

This letter is written in support of Dr. Kristen Coles for member of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine. I have known and worked with Dr. Coles for 10 years. Dr. Coles has an excellent reputation as a skilled clinician, known for her commitment to a high standard of care for her patients and the community she serves as a naturopathic physician. Dr. Coles is someone who gives back to her profession by volunteering her time to the state naturopathic association and the Board of Naturopathic Medicine. She is held in high regard by her colleagues for her intelligence, insight, commitment to excellence, as a physician, and for the integrity she is known for through her work on various naturopathic committees. For these reasons, I believe Dr. Coles is an excellent choice to continue her work as a member of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine.

Sincerely,

David Kern, ND, LAc

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From: [Laurie Steelsmith](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM524 Letter of Support
Date: Monday, March 2, 2020 7:46:33 PM

To Whom this May Concern,

I am writing to ask you to support the nomination of Dr. Kristen Coles, licensed naturopathic physician and licensed acupuncturist, to the State Board of Naturopathic Medicine for her second term. Dr. Coles has practiced naturopathic medicine and acupuncture in the state of Hawaii since 2012, she has also been actively involved in The Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians, and is leader in our profession. She is a highly respected naturopathic doctor, and tirelessly serves her patients and the naturopathic community. She has been, and I hope will continue to be, a reliable member of the State Board of Naturopathic Medicine.

Sincerely Yours,
Dr. Laurie Steelsmith N.D., L.Ac.

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