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**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 533, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SUSAN MAY,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the confirmation of Ms. Susan May's appointment to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology (Board) as an audiologist member.

Ms. May has over 25 years of experience in audiology. She has been Kaiser Permanente's supervising audiologist since 1997, and she previously held the same role at The Queen's Medical Center. She completed her audiology clinical fellowship in Idaho.

Testimony of DCCA

G.M. 533

Page 2 of 2

Ms. May volunteers as director of the Hawaii Special Olympics Healthy Hearing program. In addition, she twice served as a board member for the Hawaii Academy of Audiology.

The Department believes that Ms. May's professional experience, desire to serve on the Board, and commitment to actively participate in board meetings will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

March 18, 2020

Jennifer Clark, M.A.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist

Department of Health: Early Intervention

1010 Richards Street, Suite 811

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 594-0061

Subject: Recommendation for Dr. Susan May

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Dr. Susan May, Supervising Audiologist for Kaiser Hawaii. As a colleague of Dr. May's, I enthusiastically support her application to join the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. Over the past 10 years, I have witnessed Dr. May's positive and lasting impact on services for deaf and hard of hearing children, birth to three years of age, through her work with Kaiser. As a board member, she will continue to make significant change on a state level.

Dr. May has a tireless work ethic and she is wholly committed to supporting deaf and hard of hearing children. She takes her time to ensure that family members fully understand their child's level of hearing loss is and explains how it will impact their development in many areas including language, cognition and social-emotional. She thoughtfully answers questions that families have regarding their child's diagnosis and goes above and beyond to settle their nerves.

In addition, Dr. May has an incredibly supportive and respectful perspective on Deaf culture and American Sign Language. Her approach to working with the Deaf community is considerate and courteous, and her positive reputation of cultural open-mindedness is well known.

Please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized first name and a last name with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jennifer Clark, M.A.

March 17, 2020

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Senate District 6
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 230

To Senator Rosalyn Baker and whom it may concern.

I am writing in full support of Dr. Susan May's nomination to the Hawaii Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. Dr. May has been my Audiology Supervisor at Kaiser Permanente for the past 10 years that I have been employed with them. Dr. May also co-chairs the hearing testing for Hawaii's Special Olympics Summer Games. She is a phenomenal leader who sets a great example for all to follow. She is very compassionate to her patients and truly goes the extra mile for them. She does the same for the staff she oversees. She has outstanding people skills when dealing with her patients, staff, and colleagues. The otolaryngologists we work alongside with at Kaiser Permanente have great respect for Dr. May's clinical expertise, bedside manner, leadership qualities, and great personal character as do I. I am extremely proud to support Dr. Susan May and believe she would make an excellent addition to the Hawaii Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristen Chun, Au.D., CCC-A".

Kristen Chun, Au.D., CCC-A
Kaiser Permanente Audiologist

From: Judith Mason
Subject: Support for Dr. Susan L. May

Dear Senator Baker:

I am writing in support of Dr. Susan L. May, Au.D. and her candidacy for the Hawaii Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. I have known and worked with Dr. May since she came to work in the Audiology Department at Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center in 1993.

Her tenure at Kaiser has been marked by an impressive array of accomplishments beyond the normal caseload of a supervising audiologist. These include: cochlear and osseointegrated implant programming and rehabilitation for the infant through adult population; being clinical director for the Special Olympics Healthy Hearing Program; collaborating with the cleft palate multidisciplinary team; and running the first newborn hearing screening program in the state.

Dr. May is extraordinarily compassionate and caring, and will routinely go out of her way to ensure excellent service for all her Kaiser patients. I have felt honored to be her colleague for 27 years.

You will be fortunate indeed to have her as part of your regulatory agency.

Yours sincerely

Judith A. Mason, Au.D.
Retired Audiologist,
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center

you.

Dale T. Matsumoto-Oi, AuD
741 Sunset Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808)733-9067

Honorable Senator Rosalind Baker:

It is my pleasure to highly support Dr. Susan May for confirmation to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. Dr. May is currently the Supervising Audiologist at Kaiser Permanente Hawaii.

I have known and worked with Dr. May for over 30 years, first as a fellow student in the University of Hawaii Manoa's speech pathology and audiology graduate program, then as an audiology colleague working to provide hearing services to children enrolled in my Department of Health Hearing Program.

Most recently over the past 10 years, I have enjoyed working with Dr. May in her role as Special Olympics Hawaii's Healthy Hearing venue director. I have appreciated her leadership and management in planning and conducting the hearing screening for Special Olympic athletes at the Hawaii Summer Games.

Thank you for the opportunity to highly support Dr. Susan May to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Sincerely,

Dale T. Matsumoto-Oi, AuD

GM533
Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology
Susan May

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology? I've worked as an audiologist in Hawaii for over 20 years and would like to give back to this important community.
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology? I understand that the board meets regularly to discuss issues which affect our profession and the community as a whole. The board is responsible for policies relating to the field of speech pathology and audiology.
- (3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board. I abide by the American Academy of Audiology and ASHA code of ethics. I have worked in multiple settings for this field and have a strong grasp of the history and a vision for the future. I've worked as a leader in a hospital setting and assist patients and their families to provide them with the best service possible. I collaborate with many other providers in speech pathology and audiology.
- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? I don't have a specific agenda but would like to work together with the other board members to improve our professions.
- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. 1) I work well with others and have good communication abilities 2) I am dedicated to promoting and improving the profession. 3) I want what's best for the people of Hawaii.
- (6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology member. I've worked for over ten years as a Director of the Special Olympics Healthy Hearing program. This program brings together speech pathology students from UH and volunteer audiologists once a year to screen over a hundred athletes. This collaborative event really shows how are two fields compliment each other. We thrive when working together for a common purpose.
- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology? How would you overcome conflicts of interest? I do not foresee any conflicts of interest.