



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**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. 534, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BRIAN CHEN,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021**

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 Dr. Brian Chen's appointment to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology (Board) as an otolaryngologist member.

Dr. Chen's service as a medical corps major brought him to Hawaii in 2018. In Hawaii, he has undertaken various roles at Tripler Army Medical Center, including assistant chief of otolaryngology, audiology medical director, and director of the cochlear implant program. Previously, Dr. Chen served in various otolaryngology positions at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas.

Dr. Chen completed his clinical fellowship for neurotology and skull base surgery at the House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles, California, and his otolaryngology/head and neck surgery residency at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington.

The Department believes that Dr. Chen's education and professional experience across the country will offer a diverse and meaningful perspective to the Board. In addition, his 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.



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
1 JARRETT WHITE ROAD
TRIPLER AMC, HAWAII 96859-5000

28 Feb 2020

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Dr. Brian Chen

To whom it may concern. I am providing a letter of support for Dr. Brian Chen for nomination to be on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Dr. Chen has served in positions of leadership at Tripler Army Medical Center for the past 1.5 years. He is the chief of neurotology and is the medical director for audiology. Dr. Chen completed a fellowship in ear surgery at an institution that is highly regarded world-wide. He is an expert in ear disorders and ear surgery.

I have known Dr. Chen for several years and have found him to be an outstanding surgeon, is highly professional and is very intelligent. He would make a great addition to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. It is without reservation that I am recommending Dr. Chen. Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Macario Camacho".

MACARIO CAMACHO | LTC, MC |
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Service |
Chief of Otolaryngology Services |
O: (808)433-3191 | F: (808)433-9033 |
macario.camacho.mil@mail.mil

Subject: Confirmation of James Pleiss, D.C. to chiropractic board of examiners.

Aloha Senator Baker,

I am writing to support the confirmation of Dr. James Pleiss for the Chiropractic Board of Examiners position. I have known Dr. Pleiss both professionally and personally for 30 years. He is very qualified to be a member of the Board. He has served as past president of the Hawaii State Chiropractic Association and has always been an ethical and caring chiropractic physician. Please vote to confirm his appointment.

Sincerely,

TRACY C. MATSUMOTO **President

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REPLY TO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MADIGAN ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
9040 JACKSON AVENUE
TACOMA, WA 98431-1100

MCHJ-DC

March 2, 2020

Dear Senator Baker,

It is a truly a privilege to recommend Dr. Brian Chen to serve as the Otolaryngology representative on Hawaii State Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology. I have had the pleasure to get to know Dr. Chen for the last several years in my role as the specialty leader and consultant for otolaryngology to the Army Surgeon General. I can unequivocally state that Brian is one of the finest surgeons and clinical leaders with whom I have had the opportunity to work in my 25-year medical career.

Dr. Chen has distinguished himself throughout his military career as a highly respected officer and neurotologist. He completed a premier neuro-otology fellowship at the House Ear Clinic and serves as a subject matter expert within the Army and Department of Defense for issues and policies related to hearing, speech and balance disorders. He is recognized as a leader nationally in neuro-otology and has authored numerous book chapters and articles in the peer-reviewed literature related to this complex field of medicine.

Brian is also a gifted educator who is dedicated to developing others. He serves as core faculty for the Tripler Army Medical Center otolaryngology residency training program. He is also the medical director of one of the busiest hearing clinics in the Army inventory.

In summary, it is an honor to give Dr. Chen my highest recommendation for this very important position. He is the entire package of talented surgeon, clinician, educator and leader. There is no doubt that Brian will represent otolaryngology well for the state of Hawaii and will contribute immensely toward policies and standards related to this field.

If I can provide any further information, please feel free to contact me at 253-968-1190 or scottie.b.roofe.mil@mail.mil.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott B. Roofe".

Scott B. Roofe, MD, FACS
Colonel, US Army
Otolaryngology Consultant to the
Army Surgeon General



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
1 JARRETT WHITE ROAD
Tripler AMC, Hawaii 96859-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

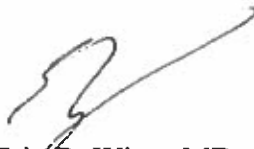
MCHK-DSH

3 March 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR Senator Baker

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation for MAJ Brian S Chen in the role of Otolaryngology representative to the Hawaii State Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology

1. I highly recommend MAJ Brian S Chen, MD in the role of Otolaryngology representative to the Hawaii State Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology.
2. I have known Dr. Chen for two years as the Neurotologist at Tripler Army Medical Center. Upon arrival to Tripler, he was quick to accept the leadership positions of Medical Director of our Audiology Service and Director of our Cochlear Implant Program. Through these roles he has had the opportunity to not only strengthen our Audiology program to where now we are able to support Audiology services for over 400,000 beneficiaries while growing and improving the financial longevity of our Cochlear Implant Program.
3. It is no surprise Dr. Chen has successfully been able to institute so much positive change in such a short time when you look at his academic history. Dr. Chen received his educational and leadership training through obtaining his undergraduate degree at the prestigious United States Military Academy, West Point, NY immediately followed by obtaining his medical degree at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. After completing his Otolaryngology (ENT) residency at Madigan Army Medical Center, he was one of the few military ENT graduates to be selected to receive fellowship training in neurotology at the world-renown House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles, CA.
4. Dr. Chen is bright, hardworking, detail oriented, and eager to conquer new challenges. Dr. Chen is quick to earn the trust and respect of his patients, and practices professionalism in all his interactions. He is a team player and is well liked by all his peers, colleagues, and clinical staff.
5. In summary, Dr. Chen is an asset to Army Medicine that surely prove to be vital resource to the States of Hawaii. For these reasons, I fully endorse him for Otolaryngology representative to the Hawaii State Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology.
6. Please contact me if you have any questions by telephoning (808) 433-3170 or via email at eric.d.wirtz.mil@mail.mil.



Eric D. Wirtz, MD
LTC, USA
Otolaryngology Program Director
Tripler Army Medical Center