



**TESTIMONY BY:**

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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May 12, 2020  
2:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 229

**G.M. 609**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Medical Advisory Board,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER TORTORA, for a term to expire  
06-30-2021.**

Senate Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** Governor's Message 609, which nominates Christopher Tortora, MD, to the Medical Advisory Board, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Section 286-4.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides for the establishment of a medical advisory board (MAB) within the State Department of Transportation. The purpose of the MAB is to review the medical records of persons who an examiner of drivers has reason to believe may have a mental or physical condition that might impair their driving ability. The MAB then provides advice to the examiner of drivers, who makes the final licensing decision. The goal is to bring about an equitable decision that considers both the safety of the driver and the safety of other roadway users. Board members serve without compensation.

Dr. Christopher Tortora is board certified in general ophthalmology with sub-specialty in glaucoma and cataract. He has been in practice in Hawaii for over 28 years. He is currently the medical director at Hawaiian Eye Center where he has served as the medical director since 2003. Dr. Tortora's qualifications, experience and expertise in ophthalmology is of great value to the board which must regularly review medical cases dealing with vision.

The DOT is very fortunate to have Dr. Tortora volunteer as a new board member and respectfully requests that this Committee confirm Dr. Christopher Tortora to the Medical Advisory Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.