

Testimony of the Board of Psychology

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 686, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SHERRY SUTHERLAND-CHOY,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Sherry Sutherland-Choy's reappointment to the Board.

Dr. Sutherland-Choy's appointment to the Board was confirmed on April 20, 2016, and she has continued to serve well. She has been licensed as a psychologist in Hawaii since April 2015, and her license is current, active, and in good standing.

Dr. Sutherland-Choy currently works with vulnerable populations at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. She is familiar with the public mental health issues affecting Oahu, including consumer access to mental health services. Dr. Sutherland-Choy is licensed as a psychologist, as well as an advanced practice registered nurse; she is therefore able to provide both medication and talk therapy to her clients and patients.

As the Board's chairperson, Dr. Sutherland-Choy is familiar with the Board's duties, which include granting, suspending, and revoking licenses, promulgating administrative rules, and enforcing provisions governing the State's regulation of psychologists. She understands the expectation that board members regularly attend and participate in the Board's functions. Importantly, Dr. Sutherland-Choy continues to express a strong interest in participating in policy and consumer protection issues at the board level.

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The Board believes that Dr. Sutherland-Choy's 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.

GM-686

Submitted on: 5/7/2020 7:59:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 5/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paige Heckathorn Choy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write today in strong support of Sherry Sutherland-Choy's nomination to the Board of Psychology. In her career and her personal time, she has shown an incredible commitment to serving those who are most vulnerable and who society often chooses to ignore or forget. Sherry's dedication and compassion to this occupation--and how it directly benefits many Hawaii residents--makes her uniquely qualified for this nomination and she will continue her service on this board admirably. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in strong support.



**WAIANAЕ COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**

www.wcchc.com

Kristy Sakai-Costigan, Psy.D.
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Behavioral Health Department
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center
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May 7, 2020

Hawaii State Senate
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in strongest support of Dr. Sherry Sutherland-Choy's nomination to the Hawaii Psychology Licensing Board. Dr. Sutherland-Choy is an excellent candidate with whom I have had the privilege of knowing as her Director of Training for her internship (September 2009- August 2010) and postdoctoral fellowship (September 2013- March 2015), and as one of our most trusted and respected colleagues at Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) since that time.

In terms of training received as an Intern and Postdoctoral Fellow at WCCHC, Dr. Sutherland-Choy received comprehensive training and experience in working with culturally diverse and medically underserved populations, many of whom had severe psychological and/or organic conditions and often have multiple traumatic experiences, challenges with substance abuse and/or dependence, and multiple psychosocial stressors, sometimes including homelessness. She gained experience in working with diverse presenting concerns and a wide range of diagnostic presentations. She engaged in psychological testing and wrote integrated reports, attended didactic trainings, and provided presentations for other students as well.

I have observed her to be extremely knowledgeable and comprehensive in her clinical interactions, and she demonstrates a genuine care for her patients. Colleagues and students have had exceptionally high praises for her clinical work, knowledge base, and her commitment to clinical care.

Given her unique training and certification as an APRN-Rx, in addition to being a Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Sutherland-Choy is extremely knowledgeable in psychopharmacology and the biological bases of mental illness and provides our interns training on these topic. Feedback from interns has consistently been outstanding. She is extremely knowledgeable on the subject matter

and presents the information in a way that is engaging and relevant to our interns, who are very fortunate to have this invaluable learning opportunity.


As faculty at WCCHC, Dr. Sutherland-Choy also provides supervision to psychology interns and practicum students. Students have consistently provided excellent feedback about their experiences with Dr. Sutherland-Choy, frequently commenting about her substantial knowledge base, as well as their opportunities to further their understanding of pathology and treatment from a biological perspective. Our internship program is accredited by the American Psychological Association, and Dr. Sutherland-Choy has been an invaluable member of our internship selection team. She also participates in our monthly Internship Training Committee Meetings where student matters, progress, and matriculation through the program are discussed. She demonstrates ethics, quality, and integrity in all aspects of her work.

On a personal note, Dr. Sutherland-Choy is an absolute pleasure to have as a colleague! She is exceptionally knowledgeable, bright, and kindhearted. She volunteers to help with additional responsibilities and is ethical and thorough in her interactions. She takes on more than what is expected and is insightful, self-aware, and produces high quality work. She is honest, extremely hardworking, and has a good sense of humor. She routinely consults and collaborates with others to provide the best quality of patient care and gets along well with staff, providers, and students. She is extremely supportive of and respected by our behavioral health team.

It has been a privilege to work with Dr. Sutherland-Choy. I have the highest regard and respect for her, both clinically and professionally, and she is a valued part of our Behavioral Health team and training faculty. I give her my highest recommendation without reservation. Given her unique training as a Psychologist and APRN-Rx, she will be able to provide invaluable insights to the Psychology Licensing Board. Please feel free to contact me, by phone at 808-697-3469 or by email at ksakai-costigan@wcchc.com, should you desire any additional information about this exceptional candidate.

Sincerely,

**KSakai-
Costigan**

 Digitally signed by KSakai-Costigan
DN: dc=com, dc=wcchc, ou=wcchc.com,
ou=Employees, ou=Behavioral Health,
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Date: 2020.05.07 13:26:35 -10'00'

Kristy Sakai-Costigan, Psy.D.
Director of Psychology – West Oahu
Director of Training
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

GM686 Questionnaire for Sherry Sutherland-Choy

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I am very passionate about promoting access to mental health care in Hawai'i. I have spent my entire career working in psychiatric facilities and providing care to underserved communities. Since April 2016, I have had the privilege of serving on the DCCA Board of Psychology. I am currently the chairperson of the Board and remain highly committed to providing consumer protection and establishing standards of competency for psychologists.

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

In recent years, government boards have come under scrutiny amid allegations of being a self serving guild versus promoting public safety and welfare. As a Board member, I believe that it is my duty to maintain public trust by upholding ethical guidelines, promoting policies through rules and regulations, and maintaining equanimity in all of my deliberations.

- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

As a Board member, my role is to protect the consumer by ensuring clinical competency in licensees. I have become knowledgeable regarding licensure standards, Hawaii Statutes/ Administrative Rules, and APA ethics codes. Most of all, I believe that it is important to promote the interests of the public by addressing the needs and the welfare of the consumer.

- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board 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.

Currently I am a supervising psychologist and am dually board certified as a family nurse practitioner and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner at Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.

In addition, I am an adjunct professor at Chaminade University where I teach psychopharmacology to doctoral level students. I am deeply involved in the clinical and academic training of future psychologists. My background has given me a broader understanding, not only of the areas of clinical competence required for the licensure of psychologists, but also a unique perspective on legislative matters pertaining to prescription authority for psychologists.

- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

To assist the Board of Psychology with adopting step 2 of the EPPP and create a prescription formulary if psychologists obtain prescription authority.

- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

I am highly conscientious and hard working. I am constantly striving to be a person of integrity. I believe that these attributes have helped me to be thorough and thoughtful when evaluating applicants for licensure. By being self-reflexive and aware of my personal biases, I am able to approach situations in a more objective and reasonable manner. In terms of my role as a Board member, having a strong sense of personal integrity is a guiding force in dealing with ethical dilemmas and disciplinary actions brought before the Board.

- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

Over the past four years, I have gained a substantial amount of experience in reviewing applications, attending hearings, and deliberating upon legislative and adjudicatory matters brought before the Board of Psychology. Every year, since being on the Board, I have been proactive in attending annual conferences for The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards. Attending these conferences has been very instrumental in helping me better understand my role and responsibilities in consumer protection.

- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

Conflicts of interest could arise if I were involved in a dual relationship with a licensee. If I were stakeholder or had financial investments with other organizations/institutions within the community could also create a conflict of interest or at least give the appearance of impropriety. If these situations were to occur, I would consult with the assistant attorney general of my Board. I would also recuse myself from voting on Board decisions where there is an actual or potential conflict of interest with a particular individual or organization.