



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

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, May 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 687, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DENBY RALL,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2022**

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. Denby Rall's appointment to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology (Board) as an audiologist member.

Ms. Rall served as the chief of audiology at Tripler Army Medical Center since the end of 2011. At Tripler, she served as a graduate clinician in 2008 and a licensed audiologist in 2009. Prior to that, Ms. Rall gained experience on the mainland as a graduate clinician while pursuing her doctorate in audiology at Central Michigan University.

Ms. Rall has demonstrated her desire to serve and volunteer in past practice. She previously served as chapter president of the National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology and volunteered with Special Olympics for a dozen years. Ms. Rall is also on the school board of her alma mater, Maryknoll School. She appreciates and understands the commitment necessary to prepare for and attend the Board's quarterly meetings.

The Department believes that Ms. Rall's professional and volunteer experience will offer an insightful perspective to the Board. In addition, her 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.

11 May 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Denby Rall for the past 19 years at a personal and professional level. I am writing a letter for Dr. Rall in support of her appointment as a Board Member on the State of Hawaii Speech Pathology and Audiology Board.

I am Dr. Rie Chan, an Audiologist at Tripler Army Medical Center. I have known Dr. Rall since 2001 when we both attended University of Hawaii at Manoa and majored in Communication Disorders. She and I went on to Central Michigan University where we earned our doctorates in Audiology. After receiving her doctorate, Dr. Rall began employment at Tripler Army Medical Center in 2008 where she completed her 4th year externship from 2007-2008. In 2012, she earned the title of Chief of Audiology which she currently holds to date. Working under Dr. Rall's leadership at Tripler Army Medical Center from 2010 to present has been an honor and an experience I have learned a tremendous amount from.

Dr. Rall has always ranked top of her class and excelled academically and professionally. She is very well respected in the Audiology community and is known for her expertise in vestibular assessment and rehab. She manages the Audiology externship program at Tripler and provides in-service trainings throughout the year for various medical providers. Dr. Rall is a natural leader who holds strong ethical standards and manages her team in a cohesive manner. She is also a great team player who is willing to take the time out of her busy schedule to help others. Outside of work, she is a busy mother of triplets and also serves on the board for Maryknoll School.

With Dr. Rall's knowledge, leadership, motivation, and strong ethical standards, I believe the State of Hawaii Speech Pathology and Audiology Board would benefit from having Dr. Rall serve as a Board Member. Please feel free to contact me at rie.n.chan.civ@mail.mil or at 808-256-4607 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Rie N. Chan, Au.D.
Audiologist
Tripler Army Medical Center

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

To be able to be more involved on a State Level of what is happening in my profession.

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

To best represent the profession and to ensure that the State of Hawaii is upholding the highest standards for patient care in the realm of Speech Pathology and Audiology. I believe that the role of being a Board member include advocating for our profession and being a knowledgeable resource to those who make legal decisions about our profession. By doing this, the board can protect the patients who are seen and the consumer of our professions.

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

With knowledge and self-practice of Best Practices and Research Based Evidence for Care, I can help with informed decisions to protect the patient from less than optimal care.

(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.

I do feel I am qualified to be a member of the Board. I have over a decade of professional experience in the field of Audiology, daily interacting and working with Speech Pathologists. I have also been serving on a school board for a private institution and recently I have served on a credentialing board for Audiology. I have done budget reviews and approvals. I have been the chief of Audiology at Tripler for 9 years, so far, with interactions across supervisory levels and different medical professional fields.

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

I would like to see the licensing process of Speech Pathology and Audiology in Hawaii be reworked.

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

1. I am patient. This has been helpful across many aspects of my job and when working with other people.
 2. I am considerate. I will not speak out of turn and am loyal to my beliefs while being respectful and open to discussions on any topic.
 3. I am knowledgeable. I have an understanding of what is needed to have good clinicians and providers of patient care.
- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

Reviewing the credentials of another Audiologist, with a plan for review and follow-up. This was a hard process that made me stop and realize the reality of poor patient care. The experience is priceless in my ability to appropriately contribute information and awareness to difficult tasks.

- (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?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interest.