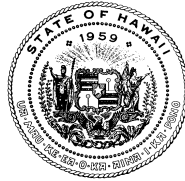


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CAROLINE CADIRAO  
DIRECTOR

BRUCE ANDERSON, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0742**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, COLETTE BROWNE, for a term to expire 06-30-2023**

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: May 13, 2020  
9:30 a.m.

Room Number: 229

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health, is in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Colette Browne to the Policy Advisory
- 3 Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).
- 4 **Comments:** Dr. Colette Browne is a well-known and highly respected expert in the field of
- 5 Gerontology and with her knowledge and experience, Dr. Browne would be a tremendous asset
- 6 by providing guidance to the EOA. Dr. Browne had been a professor at the Myron B. Thompson
- 7 School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii since 1985 and has also held positions as
- 8 Chair of the Gerontology Program, Interim Director of the University of Hawaii Center on
- 9 Aging, visiting professor at Columbia University School of Social Work, Project Director of the
- 10 Office of Social Work Education and Research at the Queen's Health Care System, Principal
- 11 Investigator and Project Director for the Pacific Gerontology Social Work Education Project for
- 12 the Administration on Aging, and Director of Geriatric Services at the Kuakini Medical Center.

1 Dr. Browne has published numerous journal articles, book chapters, technical reports,  
2 monographs, research papers and grants and has received a long list of honors and awards from  
3 the Council on Social Work Education, the National Association of Social Workers, the Hawaii  
4 Pacific Gerontological Society, the National Academic Honor and Professional Society in  
5 Gerontology and the University of Hawaii Board of Regents Award for Exemplary Community  
6 Service and Award for Teaching Excellence. In addition, in 1998, President Bill Clinton  
7 appointed her to the White House Summit on Retirement.

8 To highlight two of her most recent honors, the Ha Kupuna Program was honored with the  
9 Award for Excellence in Multicultural Aging by the American Society on Aging. Dr. Browne is  
10 the Principal Investigator for Ha Kupuna, one of three National Resource Centers for Native  
11 Elders, funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging and the U.S. Department of Health and  
12 Human Services. This program seeks to improve the health and increase the life expectancy of  
13 our Native Hawaiian elders. Secondly, in 2015, Dr. Browne was named the first Takasaki  
14 Endowed Professor of Social Policy at the University of Hawaii, Myron B. Thompson School of  
15 Social Work. In this capacity, she examined policy questions related to equity-related concerns  
16 of diverse groups.

17 We would be honored and grateful to have Dr. Colette Browne on PABEA and urge your  
18 support of her confirmation.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM-742**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 8:34:54 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marilyn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would be pleased to recommend Dr Colette Browne for consideration of an appointment to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. She has a long and distinguished record of experience in

the field of aging that lends itself to excellent participation on PABEA. I have been her colleague for over thirty years and can personally attest to her knowledge and expertise in aging and to her much appreciated skills as a dedicated informed board member who always operates with compassion, fairness and understanding. Thank you. Marilyn Seely

**GM-742**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 11:57:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GARY SIMON	Testifying for Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

I am Gary Simon, Vice Chair of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA.

***PABEA strongly supports the nomination of Colette Browne for the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).***

Ms. Browne is an icon in the field of women and aging and in the field of public policy and the aged.

Hawaii will benefit greatly with her wise counsel on PABEA.

We urge you to support her nomination and confirmation, and we thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With warmest aloha,

Gary Simon

Vice Chair, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

May 12, 2020

2020 Hawai'i Legislature  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health (CPH)

Dear Committee Chairs and Members:

I write today in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Colette Browne for re-appointment to the State's Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs (PABEA). I have worked with Dr. Browne for the past 30 years, and believe I can speak well of her background and contributions in our State.

Dr. Browne recently retired as the Takasaki Endowed Professor in Social Policy from the Myron B. Thompson (MBT) School of Social Work at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa (UHM). She is an outstanding teacher, researcher, and policy advocate in social policy and gerontology. Dr. Browne has won teaching awards from the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents, from the Hawai'i Pacific Gerontological Society, and from the local chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She has been awarded competitive grants to further develop gerontology social work training, including a Hartford grant. She also has written grants to provide stipends for graduate students focusing on gerontology.

From 2011-2019, Dr. Browne served as Principal Investigator of Hā Kūpuna (HK), the National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian Elders, located at UHM. Ha Kūpuna is a university-community collaboration whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiian elders through research, education and dissemination. She works closely with Dr. Noreen Mokuau, Dean of the MBT School of Social Work, and me as co-investigators in conducting and disseminating research that benefit Native Hawaiian elders and their 'ohana. Ha Kūpuna has received national recognition from the American Society on Aging, the country's largest professional association in aging, for exemplary work with multicultural elders.

She is currently investigating issues of poverty among older women in Hawai'i and in the global community, a serious and too often neglected societal topic. Her work with a leading research and think tank in Washington DC led to specific prevention and support policies for women in mid to later life here at home. She maintains a research focus on ethno-gerontology, i.e., the study of culturally linked values and behaviors and how they impact perceptions of aging and caregiving, as well as help-seeking behaviors. These publications are used across the UH campus and beyond in classes taught in various departments and schools. Dr. Browne regularly lectures on women and aging in Hawai'i and at national and international conferences.

In summary, Dr. Browne is a social policy leader and teacher, a well-respected researcher, and an advocate for gerontology. This is evidenced by awards from university and community groups and the respect she garners in gerontology circles.

I submit this support letter with great enthusiasm. I can be reached at 330.1759 or at [kbraun@hawaii.edu](mailto:kbraun@hawaii.edu) if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathryn L. Braun'.

Kathryn L. Braun, DrPH  
Barbara Cox Anthony Endowed Co-Chair on Aging  
Professor, Office of Public Health Studies

**Colette Browne**  
**Nomination, Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs**

**1. Why do you want to be a member of the Board?**

For the past forty years, my professional and personal life's work has been committed to improving the lives of older adults and their families. More than an individual and family responsibility, our entire community must become age-friendly and age-supportive. PABEA has broad oversight on many state policies impacting the well-being of our older citizens. It has been and will continue to be a privilege to have this opportunity to continue to contribute to this important work.

**2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?**

My understanding of the roles/responsibilities of the Boards have not changed with my most recent appointment. Namely, members must be knowledgeable about present and future demographic trends, policies, and programs for older adults, be advocates for elder consumers, be aware of those evidence-based and culturally grounded programs and services that may be applicable and supported here in the Islands, and be able to identify those needs that need attention and action. It is imperative that we are accessible and listen to older adults—and be able to always seek out and hear what are their real concerns and needs.

**3. In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?**

I became a gerontologist with an academic and personal interest. After more than 40 years in the field, I am now an older adult myself (69) and see more than ever the important role of advocacy for the rights and responsibilities of older adults in our society. I am especially concerned about poverty in our midlife and elder population, financial abuse and neglect, and the lack of a permanent and sustainable long-term care-financing program for our State and nation. I remain a strong supporter of Social Security and will advocate for its continued support.

**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.**

My academic background is in the fields of social work and public health, with a specialization in gerontology. I have been a practicing social worker, an administrator for geriatric programs at Kuakini Medical Center, and a faculty member at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work for the past 25 years prior to my retirement this December 31, 2019. In this capacity, I developed and chaired the state's only gerontology training program for social workers. I also serve as principal investigator for Ha Kupuna National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian elders, one of three federally funded research centers to benefit the lives of Native elders. Finally, I had the privilege of serving as the Takasaki Endowed Professor in Social Policy. Two years ago, and working in collaboration with the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington DC, we completed a study that for the first time examined poverty among older  
Colette Browne

adults in Hawai'i, broken down by age, race and gender. The results of this study, widely cited, are leading me to a new direction around the promotion of financial security for older women and ethnic minority populations. I believe that, through my work and personal experiences, I have learned about the importance of knowledge and advocacy for fall older adults but with special focus on our most vulnerable. As a two-year appointee (ending July 1 2019), I have been able to share research results pertinent to Hawai'i with members of PABEA and also the Plans and Projects Review Committee. Moreover, I continue to see real benefits of connecting our students to policy work and engaging them in policy practice. PABEA provides excellent opportunities for these efforts. As a professor emerita, I will continue to serve in this capacity.

**5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?**

I hope to advocate for long term care financing, continue to introduce young adults to the policy process in aging through PABEA's work, and use my experiences with PABEA to serve as an advocate for older adults, with attention to those most economically vulnerable. What results COVID-19 will have on older adults' health and well-being will require our utmost attention.

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

I am quite serious about becoming knowledgeable about the issue discussed and will do all necessary groundwork to become proficient in the topic. I was raised to be respectful toward older adults. I am also persistent and do not give up when advocacy is requested or required. Finally, as a lifelong educator, I am very optimistic about the future for older adults and for society. I believe we are just beginning to see the assets around growing old and that of an older population rather than a sole focus on age issues and challenges. Adversities exist but so do resiliencies. We all have much to learn but I see great potential when people work together in commitment to the greater good. Given the great bipartisanship of this era, it is important that we are respectful and courteous to those with different points of view. However, we never stop advocating for what we believe in; e.g., a strong Social Security, Medicare.

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

I have served on PABEA with previous governors, and was very engaged in previous State attempts to pass a long-term care financing program. To date, these efforts were unsuccessful. I have also just completed a 6-year board term with the American Society on Aging, the nation's largest professional aging association, and also served for four years on the Oahu Regional Health Care Board. I was engaged in strategic planning and staff educational and dissemination efforts in both., I have just completed a 2-year term on PABEA appointed by Governor David Ige. I will be honored to be given the opportunity to continue to serve.

**8. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome these conflicts of interest? No.**