

GM536  
Board of Massage Therapy  
Amy Okura

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Massage Therapy?

I value the profession of massage therapy, the protection of the public, and would like to give back to the community through service on the board.

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

I perceive the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Massage Therapy to be to understand the current policies and procedures, to further develop the policies and procedures, and to uphold the rules for licensees, all for the purpose of serving the general public.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Massage Therapy 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 have been a licensed massage therapist in the State of Hawaii for nearly 20 years. I have experience working in accordance with the policies and procedures that the Board of Massage therapy works to uphold.

I also spent eight years as a legal assistant for an estate planning law firm. During that time I gained experience with reading HAR, trusts, and other legal documents. I'm able to identify when written language can be interpreted in more than one way and when insufficient information is provided. I can also think abstractly about the big picture and keep it in mind while addressing details.

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

I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how the board functions and help it to function more effectively while giving a voice of representation to the outer islands.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board of Massage Therapy.

Open-minded - I'm able to see from various perspectives which assists me in thinking matters through more thoroughly.

Communicative - I can communicate clearly and respectfully which is essential for teamwork.

Organized - I manage my schedule well and meet deadlines.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board of Massage Therapy member.

I've had multiple experiences as an employee that will be beneficial as a board member. Whether I was actively involved in brain-storming sessions with superiors, bringing fresh ideas to my boss, or explaining why I thought direct orders from my boss should be modified, I have plenty of experience with expressing my ideas and opinions even in difficult situations. I also have experience accepting that sometimes those ideas and opinions are not heard or not applied for any number of reasons. As an employee, I believe I have a duty to share ideas that I think will be beneficial for the company while accepting that the power to

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implement most ideas are not in my hands exclusively. Lack of implementation of my ideas has never been a reason to stop sharing ideas.

I have also worked as a manager sometimes having to take disciplinary measures and make difficult decisions in favor of a greater purpose.

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

Any conflict of interest that might arise would be between serving my role as a board member and serving my role as an employee at a massage establishment. For example, if there were a complaint against one of the massage therapist employees or the establishment itself were to be at risk of losing its licensing or being fined, I might have a conflict of interest. In that case, I would inform the board of the conflict of interest and abstain from any involvement in the matter.

**Testimony of the Board of Massage Therapy**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Wednesday, March 10, 2021  
9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 536, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, AMY OKURA,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Risé Doi, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Massage Therapy (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Ms. Amy Okura to the Board as a licensee member.

Ms. Okura has been a licensed massage therapist in Hawaii since July 1, 2001, and her license is current, valid, and in good standing. She currently works at Klein Natural Health and Wellness, where her clients trust her to provide massage therapy to ease physical discomfort. In the past, Ms. Okura has volunteered her time at a public charter school, a domestic violence shelter, and was a member of the Easter Seals.

Ms. Okura was appointed to the Board on an interim basis on January 14, 2021. The Board meets quarterly, and due to a scheduling conflict, Ms. Okura's first meeting with the Board will be in April 2021.

The Board looks forward to working with Ms. Okura and believes that her experience and dedication to the profession and her willingness to serve the public will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# KLEIN NATURAL

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## HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

March 5, 2021

Regarding: **GM536**

Testimony: **IN SUPPORT**

Aloha e Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Chang & Committee Members,

It is my great pleasure to recommend Amy Okura, LMT for the State of Hawaii's Board of Massage Therapy. I have known Ms. Okura for more than 20 years and I have had the opportunity to work closely with her in many settings.

Over the years, she has impressed me greatly with her attention to detail and professional attitude. She is hardworking but also caring, respectful, and personable. Her previous experience working in a law firm honed her insight and critical thinking skills which will serve her well as a board member.

As a massage therapist, she excels not only in the physical skills required but also in providing compassion and understanding to her patients. Her reliability, intelligence and clear communication skills will make her easy to work with and the board will benefit greatly from her service. I have no doubt that she will make an excellent board member and will act in the best interest of the public at all times.

I wholeheartedly recommend her for appointment to the State Board of Massage Therapy, without reservations. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this testimony.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rachel Klein

February 27, 2021

Thirty-First State Legislature  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: GM536 - Nomination of Amy Okura to the Board of Massage Therapy**

Dear Senate Committee members,

I am writing in support of appointing Amy Okura to the Board of Massage Therapy as requested in GM536. In the 25 years I have known Amy, she has always demonstrated a clear intention to help others for the greater good. Her character is one of integrity and commitment. In addition to her professional background as a massage therapist, Amy's aptitude for organization, creative problem solving, critical thinking and objectivity make her an excellent nominee for consideration. I have no doubt that she would provide a valued contribution as a Board member.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Mahalo nui,*  
Chris Yoakum  
Kea'au, HI