

#1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Optometry?

I believe I am an asset to the optometry community because I bring a unique set of skills and experience.

(I will expand on this more in questions #3, #4.)

#2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Board of Optometry.

I understand that the primary roles of board members is to approve new members, and when the situation arises, fairly review disciplinary matters.

#3 Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Hawaii Board of Optometry 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 member of the Board.

I have been a licensed Optometrist since 2002. While my career has been primarily as a Pilot with Hawaiian Airlines,

I have served for many years as Aeromedical Chairman for HAL's Pilot Union. In this role, I have frequently educated fellow pilots about the role of Optometry in a persons overall health.

For the past three years, I have been a member ALPA's "Pilot Peer Support Committee," providing counsel to fellow pilots who may be experiencing trauma or stress in their life.

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

I have been stressing that my unique perspective (as an ex Banker-FHB, current Airline Captain, and weekend Sports Warrior) can help broaden the public's awareness and understanding of the value of Optometrists. Optometry is a unique profession.

We are health professionals.

We also play a big part in retail- Why is there an Optometrist in every Sears, Costco, JC Penney, Sam's Club, etc?

And because we specialize in vision (and therefore brain) function, we are able to assist athletes, students, Teachers, Pilots, Jewelers, sailors become the best at what they do.

Optometrist can play a big role in "Sports Concussions."

Optometrists can really take the lead in helping Teachers, students, and parents dealing with Myopia, and the strains of using computers.

GM610

Hawai'i Board of Optometry

Peter Searl, OD

#5 Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Hawaii Board of Optometry?

I grew up in Hawaii and care deeply about our community. I have a life long passion for the vision sciences and how they can improve human performance.

I am hardworking. For example, when I was furloughed from Hawaiian Airlines, I attended Pacific University College of Optometry.

I bring a wide range of life experience outside the traditional setting of office based Optometry.

#6 Name a previous experience you have had that will be beneficial as a Hawaii Board of Optometry member.

I am a member of the Airline Pilot's Association national "Peer Support" group. Pilots experiencing family, career, and/or personal difficulties come to us. For instance, a pilot was about to meet with the FAA about a situation, and came to me.

I was able to guide this pilot to be prepared and confident for the encounter. The pilot told me how much they appreciated my help.

#7 Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Hawaii Board of Optometry?

How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interest. If a situation arises, I will be totally transparent.

I am honored to have been nominated for this position.

I want to thank Governor Ige, and my friend, and colleague, Dr. Robb Shibayama for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Peter Clayton "CLAY" Searl OD



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

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

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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

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

**On the following measure:
G.M. 610, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE HAWAII BOARD OF OPTOMETRY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PETER SEARL,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

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 appointment of Dr. Peter “Clay” Searl to the Hawaii Board of Optometry (Board) as a licensee member.

Dr. Searl has held an optometry license in Hawaii since August 23, 2002, and his license is current, active, and in good standing. He has worked as a pilot for Hawaiian Airlines since 1992, and he has specialized in sports vision and concussion education since 2002.

Dr. Searl devotes his time to the Hawaii chapter of the Airline Pilots Association’s (ALPA) Aeromedical Committee and ALPA’s National Pilot Peer Support Committee.

Dr. Searl's unique work experience will offer a meaningful perspective to the Board. In addition, his commitment to actively participate in board meetings will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Dear Senator Baker, I am writing in support of Clay Searl's appointment to the Hawaii State Board of Optometry. I have known Clay for his entire life and can unreservedly attest to his integrity, judgement, and sense of service to the State. He is both an Optometrist and a senior pilot with Hawaiian Airlines and would make an excellent member of the State Board. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any other information. Very truly yours,

Robert S. Silberman
Executive Chairman

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Dear Senator Baker,

This is to recommend Peter Clayton Searl for the Hawaii Board of Optometry. I understand he will be considered at a hearing at 9:30 a.m. on March 10, 2021.

I am an attorney, licensed in Hawaii for 34 years, and a commercial real estate asset manager. Mr. Searl and I have a close personal friendship going back to our time together at Punahou School. I am very familiar with the arc of his education and career both as an optometrist and a Captain for Hawaiian Airlines. I have followed his experiences as an athlete and he continues to be involved in competitive sports to this day. Mr. Searl has developed a unique area of expertise in optometry building on his experience as an athlete and commercial airline pilot. He is passionate and innovative about using optometry to benefit athletes and pilots. He will be an excellent member of the Board.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you want more input.

Sincerely,

K. James Steiner, Jr.

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