

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawai'i Medical Board?

Becoming a member of the Hawai'i Medical Board would provide a most valuable means by which I could make an uncompensated contribution to the people of the State of Hawai'i. It would be an honor and I would appreciate the opportunity to use my life experience, professional experience and educational background to help positively affect the lives of people that require and utilize the services of physicians (and other providers) within the multiple and varied health care delivery systems of Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Medical Board is an essential body and of the highest importance to the population of the state (ensuring patient safety) and the medical profession (ensuring utilization and promotion of best practices). I would like to be part of that mission.

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

My understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the members of the Board is that there are many and they are important. Largely, the Board accepts, reviews, and renders decisions on applicants for licensure (or re-licensure) as physicians (M.D.s, D.O.s and others). The Board also reviews concerns brought forth by members of the public regarding individual clinicians. The Board may have to make recommendations for sanction against practitioners who hurt or injure their patients/clients or are perceived to have acted in an unprofessional manner. Additionally, the Board, at its bi-monthly meetings, responds to industry and public concerns about technological and practice-based developments within the practice of medicine. The Board also communicates with specialty organizations that have an interest in health care delivery and determines whether proposals or desires on the part of those entities should be supported and forwarded to state lawmakers and/or those who develop public policy.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Hawai'i Medical 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 have lived in the State of Hawai'i for 53 years and have a good understanding of public need in the area of healthcare. I have worked in under-graduate and post-graduate medical education since 1977 and despite not being a practitioner I have a very good understanding of clinical health care and health care delivery systems. My role as a residency program administrator (for the surgical, orthopaedic and surgical critical care training programs with the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine/Hawai'i Residency Programs, Inc. [2007-2020]) contributes to my being highly functional in understanding healthcare environments and practitioners. I feel that I have an excellent understanding of the healthcare paradigm from physicians and other clinical providers through the level of patient, including the underserved patient. I have dealt with a good number of matters that were relevant to professionalism, disciplinary action, and licensure. I served on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology from June 2014 through June 2020. For the last 12 months of the second term, I served as Vice-Chair of that Board. I have a solid understanding of how the Boards function and the roles of the participants (Board members and DCCA personnel).

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

I would hope to help maintain the high level of service and activity currently provided by

the Hawai'i Medical Board. As a public member I would provide a perspective, based upon my unique experience, different from that of the physician or surgeon members.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Hawai'i Medical Board.

1. Willing and Eager to Serve – I am a hardworking individual and my work output and quality largely define who I am as a person. I am able to successfully navigate through familiar and less-familiar territory – I consider myself a pragmatist and am able to get the job done. I retired from my position as Program Administrator for the Surgical, Orthopaedic and Surgical Critical care training programs on September 15, 2020. This would provide me with more than adequate time to perform the functions required as a member of the Hawai'i Medical Board.
2. Competent and Inquisitive – I am of above average intelligence and have received a good education (both at James Campbell High School and the University of Hawai'i). I pride myself on being admired for my work quality and my work ethic.
3. Honesty and Integrity – My honesty and integrity supersede all other qualities and characteristics I possess.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Hawai'i Medical Board member.

My professional role as a Residency Program Administrator and my many years in healthcare education would be the most valuable contributors to success as member of the Hawai'i Medical Board. My post-graduate training is in Education. I have a Master of Education from the University of Hawai'i which provided the training to observe and absorb from different viewpoints and to see things from a systems perspective. On the personal side, I have had many opportunities to help others navigate and negotiate complex healthcare issues and have found this to be tremendously rewarding.

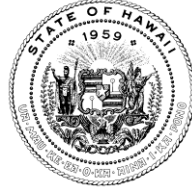
(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Hawai'i Medical Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

In my professional role I was required to closely monitor healthcare trainees and their training environments. I provided advice as needed to these trainees and their interactions with multiple entities and believe that I am very capable of recognizing any conflicts which may arise. If I believed I was in a controversial position I would likely discuss the situation with the Chairperson of the Board, the Deputy Attorney General or perhaps the Executive Director and ask for guidance. In the absence of such guidance I would declare myself as unable to participate; I would recuse myself from participation in that particular matter.

Sincerely,



Gary F. Belcher, M.Ed.



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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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 and Consumer Protection
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 612, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GARY BELCHER,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025**

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 Mr. Gary Belcher to the Hawaii Medical Board (Board) as a public member.

Mr. Belcher offers an impressive amount of administrative medical experience through his years of affiliation with the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). He served as the program administrator for the University of Hawaii Surgical Residency Program, Orthopaedic Residency Program, and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship from January 2007 to his retirement last September. His tenure with JABSOM dates back to 1982.

In addition to his participation and administrator roles in other professional associations, Mr. Belcher has served twice as a public member on the Board of Speech

Testimony of DCCA

G.M. 612

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Pathology and Audiology, including serving as vice chair. Thus, he understands the commitment involved in preparing for and attending the Board's monthly meetings.

Mr. Belcher's administrative experience in the medical profession 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.

Arthur Richard Philpott
46-206 Lilipuna Road
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

March 1, 2021

Senator Rosalyn Baker
and the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii. 96813

*Re: Nomination of Mr. Gary F. Belcher for Hawaii Medical Board Public Member
Appointment*

Dear Senator Baker and Committee Members:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend Mr. Gary Belcher for an appointed position as Public Member of the Hawaii Medical Board. Mr. Belcher has my strongest personal and professional recommendation.

Until December, 2020, I was the Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel of Hawaii Residency Programs, Inc. ("HRP"). HRP has employed and trained more than 60% of the resident trainees who have gone on to practice medicine in Hawaii. Every year, HRP sponsored more that 200 MDR or DOSR license applications/renewals before the HMB. I am therefore well acquainted with the requirements for medical licensure in Hawaii and the role of the Hawaii Medical Board in that regard.

I have known Mr. Belcher for more than 25 years. For the past 17 years, and until his recent retirement as the General and Orthopedic Surgery Residency Training Programs Program Administrator, and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Program Administrator, I was his senior supervisor.

Mr. Belcher's qualifications are well beyond the ordinary or expected:

Integrity: Mr. Belcher will advocate for, and do, the "right thing" without regard to personal consequences. He listens to others and considers their opinions, but ultimately he will stand firm in matters of accountability to the public as a Board Member.

Good Judgment: During the 17 years that I supervised Mr. Belcher, he was presented with numerous challenges that required him to balance the interests of the Surgery Programs, the individual residents/fellows, the academic and professional concerns, and the employer's concerns. His judgment was flawless. He never compromised, but neither did he insist on an outcome in which he was personally invested. "Do the right thing" were his watchwords.

Expertise: During his tenure as Program Administrator, Mr. Belcher was responsible for overseeing the education of more than 25 residents & fellows each year - most of whom are now practicing in Hawaii. He knew the academic requirements, the accreditation requirements, the interests of the residents, and the interests of the Programs. He was a virtual encyclopedia in that regard. He was our resident expert.

Professional Respect: I employed Program Administrators for our 17 Resident and Fellows training programs. Most of them were with us for many years because they were prestigious positions that rarely became vacant. Mr. Belcher was the "Senior Statesman" of this elite group of professionals. When a difficult question arose for the group, or for the supervising executives, all eyes turned to Gary to ask "what do you recommend?" And the problem was rarely resolved until he responded.

Above all, Mr. Belcher is simply a gentleman who respects others, listens to others, and decides important questions based on expertise and fundamental fairness. What more could the public desire in its representative to the HMB?

Should you have any additional questions, I may be reached at this email or (808) 383-3287.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,


Arthur Richard Philpott

March 4, 2021

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Commerce and Consumer Protection Health Committee, Chair
Hawai'i State Senate
Email: baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Rosalyn Baker and the Commerce and Consumer Protection Health Committee,

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation to support Gary Belcher's nomination as a public member of the Hawaii Medical Board. I have known Gary since 2007 and worked more closely with him since 2012 when my role in graduate medical education expanded, and he was a Program Administrator at Hawaii Residency Programs.

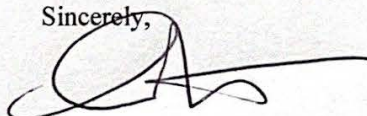
For background, Hawaii Residency Programs, Inc. (HRP) is essentially a consortium consisting of the major hospitals of Hawaii and the John A. Burns School of Medicine. HRP supports the advancement of medical education and training for medical residents in Hawaii, coordinates the administration of the residency programs and acts as a liaison between the residency programs (18) and the affiliated hospitals/healthcare systems. HRP employs about 230 resident physicians and 40 administrative staff and managers.

Prior to his retirement from HRP, Gary was the Program Administrator for the Surgery and Orthopaedic Residency Programs as well as the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Program with a combined total of about 34 trainees in those programs per year. He oversaw an administrative staff of four. As Program Administrator, Gary's tasks were to provide day-to-day administration oversight to ensure compliance with various entities' requirements, manage the budget and expenditures of the programs, maintain collaborative communication between faculty, residents and administration and engage external partners to support resident physician training.

In his role as Program Administrator, Gary took his job seriously and always provided careful consideration prior to making decisions. He understands and is respectful of roles and responsibilities. He is able to work with individuals and multiple entities at all levels. He has a strong work ethic and will bring knowledge and experience in physician training requirements and processes. He is fair, balanced and conducts himself with professionalism.

I have found Gary's strengths to be his honesty and integrity, a strong sense of responsibility and his caring deeply to serve the people of Hawaii. I am confident Gary will be an asset on the Hawaii Medical Board. I recommend him highly without reservations.

Sincerely,



Courtenay Matsu, M.D.

March 3, 2021

RE: Letter of support for Mr Gary Belcher for a seat in the Hawaii Medical Board

To Whoever it may concern:

It is with utmost pride that I write a letter in support of Mr Gary Belcher to the important role of being a Hawaii Medical Board member.

I have been in practice for 35+ years, and as Professor of Surgery, i have worked almost daily with Mr Belcher to teach, nurture, and also discipline the young surgeons in training. He truly understands the makings of a physician and also the daily pressures of providing healthcare. Mr. Belcher understands the nuances of providing excellent care to patients, and has been one of the moral backbones of the department of Surgery as he skillfully managed three programs in the department of surgery (no one has managed more one). Many young physicians in training have benefitted from his guidance in the last several decades.

There are multiple qualities all of which are equally important and necessary for this important role, and Mr Belcher exemplifies each and every one of these qualities:

Honesty

Integrity

Compassion

Fairness

A deep understanding of the education process, and maintenance of physician skills.

and most of all, commitment to the cause of licensing safe physicians.

Mr Belcher keeps in mind the ultimate goal of medicine: patients first!

He will be a truly valuable member to the Hawaii Medical Board and brings to the table a profound knowledge about medicine, healthcare, perspectives from being a patient and patients family, and also perspectives of a physician.

I cannot think of a better choice than Mr Belcher for the Hawaii Medical Board.

thank you for your consideration. I have enclosed also the signed letter.

please reply to confirm receipt of this email, thanks

--

Mihae Yu, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery
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mihaey@hawaii.edu

Lamont Dahlquist
1424 Ainapua St
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

March 4, 2021

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
415 S Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT - TESTIMONY - BELCHER HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD

Dear Senator Baker and the Commerce and Consumer and Protection Committee ,

I am writing on behalf of Gary Belcher regarding membership on the Hawaii Medical Board. Gary and I have been lifelong friends since seventh grade in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. We attended high school and the University of Hawaii together and have at times been members of the same associations and clubs. During college we were also roommates for part of that time. With a life time of shared experiences I can thoroughly vouch for his character and abilities.

Gary is extremely conscientious and thorough in all that he does. Once Gary makes a commitment he will meet the due date and he will produce an A+ deliverable. His skill at production of presentations is excellent. But I am sure many of his peers and the doctors and other professional he works with and has helped over the years could attest to his work force excellence skills, I however am uniquely qualified to attest to his personal and friendship skills.

Gary is a true leader, people follow him because they trust him and they trust him because he cares about them. I know of no one who can better step in to calm animosity, I know of no one who can better listen and create understanding or consensus and I know of no one who can better support a friend in need.

As juniors and seniors in high school Gary and I were on the wrestling team and football team together and naturally when as a junior Gary was appointed to be the Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper he appointed me to be the Front-Page-Editor. Gary set high standards for himself and others and led by example thus we spent many hours during and after school perfecting our craft. While we have aged and gained valuable experience over the years, Gary has become more dedicated to the pursuit of excellence

and a flame has always burned inside of him to excel and to give back to the community.

Thus I recommend whole heartedly that you appoint Gary Belcher to the Hawaii Medical Board and allow him to make this contribution to the people of the State of Hawaii.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the above address or by phone at (808) 227-6282.

Aloha and Mahalo,
Lamont Dahlquist, P.E., Ret
Senior Supervising Electrical Engineer
Hawaiian Electric

March 4, 2021

Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senatorial District 6
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov

**RE: Gary Belcher, M.Ed.
Candidate for Public Member, Hawaii Medical Board**

Dear Honorable Chair Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to present a written statement for your consideration **in strong support of Mr. Gary Belcher's confirmation** to the Hawaii Medical Board as a public member.

By way of brief background, I had previously served on the Hawaii Medical Board for 8 years, serving as Chair of the Board for 5 of those years. After a brief hiatus, I am again a member of the Hawaii Medical Board. Hence, I am familiar with the role of the Hawaii Medical Board, which had been statutorily established to ensure public safety in matters of State licensure and regulation. I am also a tenured full Professor at the University of Hawaii and the prior Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Hawaii. In this role, I had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Belcher, particularly in his role as the Program Administrator for the General Surgery Residency, Orthopedic Surgery Residency, and our Surgical Critical Care Fellowship training programs for a number of years. I therefore believe that I am in good position to speak to the qualities that make him well-suited to serve the public on this Board.

First of all, Mr. Belcher had been involved with graduate medical education for innumerable years, and is well-versed in matters of accreditation, as it pertains to training programs that individuals must complete in order to be eligible for Board certification in a particular health care field. To this end, he is also familiar with licensure requirements, as even trainees must possess State licenses.

Moreover, he is a leader who works well with others, and he has excellent interpersonal communication skills. He is highly dependable and detail oriented, and he had continually demonstrated the highest level of integrity and professionalism in performing all of his duties. Notwithstanding, he is well-respected by all who have had the opportunity to work with him.

In closing, I believe that Mr. Gary Belcher has the requisite qualifications and skills to serve the public in an exemplary manner as a member of the Hawaii Medical Board, and I unequivocally support his candidacy with the highest possible enthusiasm.

Thank you for your time and efforts, and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Danny M. Takanishi, Jr., MD, FACS, FSSO

March 2, 2021

Henry Lee
94-354 Aaahi Street
Mililani, Hi. 96789

Attn: Senator Baker and the Commerce and Protection Committee
Subject: Gary Belcher on the appointment to the Hawaii Medical Board

I have known Gary for over forty years and throughout he's been a loyal and trustworthy friend. He is a person with great character and moral fortitude with whom I respect tremendously.

He is dedicated to his career and family and after putting long hours at work, still manages to balance his personal obligations.

This past year is a prime example of how he handled very difficult situations and made it more manageable for everyone to understand and therefore easier to cope with.

His knowledge and experience helped him to develop a true concept of desire to help others, that is why I feel Gary is the perfect person for this position.

Your time and attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank-you,
Henry Lee