



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

By

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GM 618 – Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, NICOLE APOLIONA, For A Term To Expire 06-30-2025

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM 618 and the nomination of Dr. Nicole Apoliona to serve on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council (Council).

Dr. Apoliona is the Medical Director of the Kula Hospital and Clinic, which is part of the Maui Health System. Dr. Apoliona completed her Family Medicine Residency training at JABSOM in 1997. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor with the JABSOM Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and has a long history of training our medical students and encouraging them to pursue further training and work in rural areas of Hawai'i.

Her medical director role gives her the perspective of challenges in recruiting and retaining physicians on the neighbor islands. She had been a constant advocate for addressing the physician workforce shortage through a system-wide, community-engaged approach. Dr. Apoliona currently serves as a board member of the Pacific Cancer Foundation and previously served as the President of the Hawai'i Academy of Family Physicians.

As an actively practicing physician in Maui County, Dr. Apoliona brings a meaningful perspective related to the community and neighbor island needs. Her leadership and advocacy for medical student and resident education would make her a valuable asset and champion for the medical education community to benefit the people of Hawai'i.

We stand in strong support of Dr. Apoliona's nomination and urge this Committee to confirm her appointment to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

GM-618

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 2:55:19 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/6/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Traci Nunokawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Nicole Apoliona to the Hawaii Medical Education Council.



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4/5/2021

Recommendation for Hawaii Medical Education Council

Aloha,

I would like to express my strongest recommendation for Nicole Apoliona to serve on the Hawaii Medical Education Council.

She is an outstanding physician whom I have known since 1996. Her clinical and interpersonal skills exceed those of other physicians. In addition, she is dedicated to the community and a force of good in Kula. Her efforts on HMEC will be invaluable and I offer her my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelley Withy MD PhD".

Kelley Withy, MD, PhD
Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
Director, Hawaii/Pacific Basin AHEC
John A Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii

GM-618

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 2:59:37 PM

Testimony for HRE on 4/6/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Mikuni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to offer my full support for Dr. Apoliona to be confirmed to the Medical Education Council as a Gubernatorial Nominee. Dr. Apoliona is uniquely qualified to support the Council and is an excellent resource for identifying trends in Maui County's healthcare landscape, as well as familiarity with a broad cross-section of providers in Maui County. She has many partners statewide working to build the rural healthcare workforce. Her knowledge of the native Hawaiian health community brings a valuable perspective to the Council. In all the years I have known her, she has been a devoted and tireless advocate for the rural and underserved in our state. I highly recommend Dr. Apoliona and we would be well-served by having her on the Council.