

GM724
Brian Chen
Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology?

As a Neurotologist I work directly with Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) on a near daily basis. My specialty directly cares for patients with communication disorders which requires a team approach. As an MD, I feel that it is my duty to provide my expertise where it is needed on the board because my voice will help guide decisions that directly affect the patients I care for and also affect the colleagues I work with every day.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology?

It will be my duty to provide insight from an Otolaryngologist's perspective on various issues as it pertains to licensing and privileges of SLP and Audiologists in HI. For underserved areas that need legislation or lobbying, I can also help provide insight from the Otolaryngologist's perspective.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology 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.

As stated above, I am an Otolaryngologist with subspecialty training and a second board certification in the field of Neurotology. As a Neurotologist, I manage patients with communication issues from poor hearing. I work with Audiologists and SLPs daily to help rehabilitate these patients. I am the medical director of Audiology at Tripler Army Medical Center so have direct insight into the professional needs of Audiologists.

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

I do not have any personal agenda in mind. I come into this position with an open mind and am ready to support any mission that the committee sees fit. I also plan to actively participate and provide insightful feedback as necessary for the board to achieve its mission.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

1. Amicable— I am well liked by everyone who interacts with me to include colleagues, superiors and subordinates. I will be new to the board so this personality trait will be well served as I interact with new team members.

2. Organized— I have led various teams in various aspects of my life. Being organized has allowed me to successfully accomplish complicated tasks without issues. This quality can help keep the board on task for any missions we decide to tackle.

3. Humble— I have never been apart of a state board and know that I have a lot to learn and am open to learn from anyone. This quality will make it easy for other board members to work with.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology member.

As a Neurotologist, I have partnered up with Audiologists in every phase of my career, from my time in training to my time setting up my practice in Texas and now in Hawaii. During my time in El Paso Texas, I established their first cochlear implant program for a very underserved population

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that has very high Audiology and SLP needs. Through these experiences, I have insight into what I look for in the Audiologists and SLPs who would best serve the community.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

No

Testimony of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9, 2021
9:20 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 724, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DR. BRIAN CHEN,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology (Board). The Board supports the reappointment of Brian Chen, M.D., to the Board as a public member.

Dr. Chen has been licensed as a physician in this state since August 13, 2018, and his license is current, valid, and in good standing. Dr. Chen is highly qualified to serve on the Board, having completed his clinical fellowship for neurotology and skull base surgery at the House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles, California, and his otolaryngology and head and neck surgery residency at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. Dr. Chen is currently a major in the Medical Corps of the United States Army and is currently stationed at the Tripler Army Medical Center (Tripler). He has undertaken several roles at Tripler, including Assistant Chief of Otolaryngology, Medical Director of Audiology Services, and Director of the Cochlear Implant Program. Previously, Dr. Chen served in various otolaryngology positions at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas.

Dr. Chen first appointed to the Board on an interim basis on May 14, 2020, and has attended the one meeting since his appointment. His education and professional experience across the country will offer a diverse and meaningful perspective to the Board. In addition, his desire to continue serving on the Board and commitment to actively participate in board meetings will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
1 JARRETT WHITE ROAD
Tripler AMC, Hawaii 96859-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF


MCHK-DSH

3 March 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR Senator Baker

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation for MAJ Brian S Chen in the role of Otolaryngology representative to the Hawaii State Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology

1. I highly recommend MAJ Brian S Chen, MD in the role of Otolaryngology representative to the Hawaii State Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology.
2. I have known Dr. Chen for two years as the Neurotologist at Tripler Army Medical Center. Upon arrival to Tripler, he was quick to accept the leadership positions of Medical Director of our Audiology Service and Director of our Cochlear Implant Program. Through these roles he has had the opportunity to not only strengthen our Audiology program to where now we are able to support Audiology services for over 400,000 beneficiaries while growing and improving the financial longevity of our Cochlear Implant Program.
3. It is no surprise Dr. Chen has successfully been able to institute so much positive change in such a short time when you look at his academic history. Dr. Chen received his educational and leadership training through obtaining his undergraduate degree at the prestigious United States Military Academy, West Point, NY immediately followed by obtaining his medical degree at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. After completing his Otolaryngology (ENT) residency at Madigan Army Medical Center, he was one of the few military ENT graduates to be selected to receive fellowship training in neurotology at the world-renown House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles, CA.
4. Dr. Chen is bright, hardworking, detail oriented, and eager to conquer new challenges. Dr. Chen is quick to earn the trust and respect of his patients, and practices professionalism in all his interactions. He is a team player and is well liked by all his peers, colleagues, and clinical staff.
5. In summary, Dr. Chen is an asset to Army Medicine that surely prove to be vital resource to the States of Hawaii. For these reasons, I fully endorse him for Otolaryngology representative to the Hawaii State Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology.
6. Please contact me if you have any questions by telephoning (808) 433-3170 or via email at eric.d.wirtz.mil@mail.mil.



Eric D. Wirtz, MD
LTC, USA
Otolaryngology Program Director
Tripler Army Medical Center



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
1 JARRETT WHITE ROAD
TRIPLER AMC, HAWAII 96859-5000

1 April 2021

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Dr. Brian Chen

To whom it may concern. I am providing a letter of support for Dr. Brian Chen for nomination to be on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Dr. Chen has served in positions of leadership at Tripler Army Medical Center for the past 2.5 years. He is the chief of neurotology and is the medical director for audiology. Dr. Chen completed a fellowship in ear surgery at an institution that is highly regarded world-wide. He is an expert in ear disorders and ear surgery.

I have known Dr. Chen for several years and have found him to be an outstanding surgeon, is highly professional and is very intelligent. He would make a great addition to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. It is without reservation that I am recommending Dr. Chen. Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Macario Camacho".

MACARIO CAMACHO | LTC, MC |
Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Service |
Chief of Otolaryngology Services |
O: (808)433-3191 | F: (808)433-9033 |
macario.camacho.mil@mail.mil



REPLY TO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MADIGAN ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
9040 JACKSON AVENUE
TACOMA, WA 98431-1100

MCHJ-DC

March 2, 2020

Dear Senator Baker,

It is a truly a privilege to recommend Dr. Brian Chen to serve as the Otolaryngology representative on Hawaii State Board of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology. I have had the pleasure to get to know Dr. Chen for the last several years in my role as the specialty leader and consultant for otolaryngology to the Army Surgeon General. I can unequivocally state that Brian is one of the finest surgeons and clinical leaders with whom I have had the opportunity to work in my 25-year medical career.

Dr. Chen has distinguished himself throughout his military career as a highly respected officer and neurotologist. He completed a premier neuro-otology fellowship at the House Ear Clinic and serves as a subject matter expert within the Army and Department of Defense for issues and policies related to hearing, speech and balance disorders. He is recognized as a leader nationally in neuro-otology and has authored numerous book chapters and articles in the peer-reviewed literature related to this complex field of medicine.

Brian is also a gifted educator who is dedicated to developing others. He serves as core faculty for the Tripler Army Medical Center otolaryngology residency training program. He is also the medical director of one of the busiest hearing clinics in the Army inventory.

In summary, it is an honor to give Dr. Chen my highest recommendation for this very important position. He is the entire package of talented surgeon, clinician, educator and leader. There is no doubt that Brian will represent otolaryngology well for the state of Hawaii and will contribute immensely toward policies and standards related to this field.

If I can provide any further information, please feel free to contact me at 253-968-1190 or scottie.b.roofe.mil@mail.mil.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott B. Roofe".

Scott B. Roofe, MD, FACS
Colonel, US Army
Otolaryngology Consultant to the
Army Surgeon General