



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

Senate Committee on Health

March 31, 2021
1:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony in Strong Support Governor's Message 754

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Donna McCleary, M.D.**, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

As CEO for the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) and on behalf of the HHSC Corporate Board of Directors, I am pleased to offer our **strong support for G.M. 754**, nominating Dr. Donna McCleary to serve another term on the HHSC Board of Directors.

Dr. McCleary has brought a wealth of experience in healthcare in Maui County and across the state to the challenges that HHSC faces. As a valued, seasoned physician on our board, Dr. McCleary provides insight into clinical planning during board strategic discussions from those who actually deliver care, a familiarity with the quality and safety, first hand knowledge of front-line hospital operations, and an understanding of the difficulties in practitioner recruitment and retention.

Dr. McCleary is a Pediatrician who had been on the medical staff of Maui Memorial Medical Center since 1975. In addition to her clinical practice, she has been responsible for numerous system initiatives for Hawaii Permanente Medical Group (HPMG) that built access and capacity across the state. These include managing the Maui Kaiser Medical Delivery system, as well as planning and opening Kaiser Clinics in Kona, Hilo, and Kauai. She has held numerous leadership positions with HPMG and was medical director for the Kaiser Quest program from 1994-2006. Dr. McCleary's history of volunteer service to improve healthcare in Maui County is impressive. She has served previously on the Maui Region Board of HHSC and was also Chair of the HHSC Policy Committee in the past. She also served on the Maui Hospice Board of Directors and was a recent past-Chair of the Hale Makua Board.

In summary, we are truly fortunate to have Dr. McCleary as a member on the HHSC Board of Directors and appreciate her willingness to continue to serve. We ask for your favorable consideration of Dr. McCleary's nomination.

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I am interested in serving a second term as a Board member of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Board. I am currently Secretary of the HHSC Board and serve on 2 committees.

In 1975, after Residency, I joined Hawaii Permanente Medical Group and moved to Maui to provide Pediatric services at the Wailuku Kaiser Clinic and Maui Memorial Hospital. During the next 37 years until I retired, I was given many opportunities to serve the community of Hawaii. In addition to clinical practice, I became involved in management and leadership within and outside of HPMG. Over the years, I moved from Clinic chief of Wailuku clinic to ultimately one of 4 Vice -Presidents (Associate Medical Director) of HPMG and a member of the HPMG Board of Directors. During those years, I expanded the Maui Kaiser Delivery System with addition of specialists, Home Health Agency, ASC, and new clinics. Regionally, I was instrumental in the creation of the Physician component of the Kaiser Delivery System in Kona, Hilo and Waimea and updating the Kauai network. When Medquest began in 1994, I became the Kaiser Medquest Medical director and managed the program, integrating with DHS, for the next 15 years. I was responsible for contracted services, predominately but not exclusively for the Neighbor islands for HPMG for many years. Other responsibilities as HPMG liaison to Kaiser Health Plan included Claims and Appeals, Utilization management, Medicare, Complementary Alternative Medicine, Benefit creation and interpretation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation, and Compliance/Legal.

After retirement, I continued as a member of the Board of Directors of Hospice Maui and Hale Makua, serving as chairperson on occasion. I provided hospital and/or office practice coverage for Kaiser, Maui Medical Group, Community Clinic of Maui (Malama I Ke Ola) until the Hospitalist program began at MMMC , and several private Pediatric practices-until COVID . I have volunteered for the Maui Medical Response Team but have yet to be deployed. I am active in my church, Makawao Union Church, where I have served in many leadership/service positions and currently volunteer approx. 18 hours per week in the church's Thrift Shop.

I was a member of the Maui Advisory Committee for the State Hospital System before HHSC. I collaborated with Queens and the State Hospital System to update and manage the Hana Clinic for approximately 2 years between the retirement of their provider and the establishment of the FQHC that now manages the facility. I was appointed to the original Maui Regional Systems Board by the Governor/Legislature upon recommendation of the Maui Memorial Medical Center Medical staff. I represented MSRB at the Policy Committee which I chaired for several years, until I reached state mandated term limits. The MRSC then supported by interest in being a member of the HHSC Board.

I have been involved in one way or another in the Medical Community of Hawaii, predominately but not exclusively regarding the Neighbor Islands, for nearly 50 years. I believe that all people deserve high quality, accessible, affordable health care irrespective of who they are, their socioeconomic status, ethnicity or island of residence. But I am realistic as well and understand that many challenges exist to accomplishing this vision. I have spent my career trying to find solutions to the challenges as they presented. I believe that one of the major roles of HHSC is to make Medical/Health care available to those not served fully by the private sector, primarily on the Neighbor Islands. I hope to continue to bring my unique perspectives and experience to the people of Hawaii via my involvement with HHSC. Please allow me that opportunity.

Respectfully,

Donna L McCleary, MD