



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

Senate Committee on Health

March 31, 2020
9:00 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony in Strong Support
Governor's Message 756**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KEVAN WONG**, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

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

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support of Governor's Message 825**, in consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KEVAN WONG**, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

While cut short due to statutory limitations, Mr. Wong's first term as the Oahu representative on the HHSC Corporate Board of Directors has presented an opportunity for the Board and HHSC staff to get to know Mr. Wong. Mr. Wong is an attentive professional, participating in every Board Meeting, as well as the various committees he has joined. We value Mr. Wong as he asks relevant questions and is engaged in learning about HHSC's healthcare and hospital operations.

A lifetime Diamond Head-area resident, Mr. Wong brings a welcomed community voice to the HHSC Corporate Board. As a former legislative staff member, Mr. Wong also contributes his valuable legislative experience in support of all HHSC regions. Now currently employed by the City and County of Honolulu Mayor's Office, Mr. Wong provides important county perspective to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee in strong support of this nominee and we thank Mr. Wong for his willingness to continue to serve on the HHSC Board of Directors.

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The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

Through this testimony I humbly request your consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (Board).

It has been my privilege to service on this Board for the past year. As someone who has spent almost his entire life a few blocks from Leahi Hospital, that hospital in particular has been a big part of my life from an early age. In elementary school, my class would go to Leahi Hospital at least twice a school year. As a class, we would spend our time talking with the patients who did not have regular visitors and sometimes even sing to them. This is a tradition that has continued for the school to this day.

As an attorney, advocacy has been a growing part of my life. If confirmed, I will advocate for the future of Leahi Hospital and Maluhia, as well as support the growing need for long term care services for our most vulnerable kupuna. These are topics still in need of much discussion, and I would like to continue to be a part of it.

I am one of the many members of the public caring for aging relatives. It is my hope that, I will be able to care for them for as long as possible. However, as they grow older, I have had to face the reality that there may come a time when I will not be able to.

It is a difficult task, to balance the furthering of the public interest and ensuring that the corporation will be able to continue its service. However, I am confident that my education and professional experience will continue to be an asset to the Board.

I was able to graduate from University of Concordia, Irvine, in just two years, with a degree in business management. During my time there, I honed my skill in marketing, accounting, economics, and finance, and information systems, completing project after project, while developing skills in leadership, planning, and strategy to help my team work together and efficiently achieve our goals.

I further developed these skills in the House of Representatives. Starting as a staff member during session, I quickly became the office manager and worked to build a team that could meet its goals each and every session. Each year came with new challenges and opportunities to learn about issues effecting the state, especially with regards to the higher education, finance, and judiciary committees. I did all this while attending the William S. Richardson School of Law.

After passing the bar exam, I took a job at the Managing Director's Office, for the City and County of Honolulu. While my job is primarily to aid the different departments evaluate and coordinate responses to proposed legislation, the introduction of COVID-19 expanded my role further to work on many different projects, in many different departments. Along with my coworkers, we worked together to come up with new programs and ideas to protect the community and encourage economic growth during this difficult time.

Thank you again for your consideration.



**OAHU REGION
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION**

Committee On Health
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 31, 2021
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: Via Videoconference

Derek Akiyoshi
Oahu Region Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation
Re: **Testimony in Strong Support**

GM 756 submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial nominee, **Kevan Wong**, for a term to expire 06/30/2025

Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

On behalf of the Oahu Region, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 756, in consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KEVAN WONG**, for a term to expire 06/30/2025.

Mr. Wong's extensive community service experience is an indicator of his involvement in the health and well-being of others. Mr. Wong has actively participated as a Governor's appointee to the HHSC Corporate board during the past year and supports the essential services at Leahi Hospital and Maluhia. His interest of Farm to School programs similarly assists the HHSC Oahu Region's efforts to improve our food service effort in using fresh, locally sourced food for our residents and the Hawaii Meals on Wheels recipients that we serve. Finally, his knowledge of the state and county government operations provide him with insight to best support the HHSC regions that is evident as we continue contending with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee in support of this nominee and we thank Mr. Wong for his willingness to continue serving on the HHSC Corporate Board.

Statement of

Benjamin Park

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

March 31, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.

Via Videoconference

In consideration of

G.M. 756

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
CORPORATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KEVAN WONG, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2025**

Honorable Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding Governor's Message 756, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kevan Wong, for a term to expire June 30, 2025.

I strongly support Mr. Wong to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. I have known Mr. Wong for the past 9 years and believe that he will be able to effectively fulfill his role through his life experiences and professional expertise. There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Wong's hard work ethic and integrity will be great assets to the State of Hawaii, and he will bring a fresh perspective to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation in developing sound and thoughtful Board decisions.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Health with my position regarding G.M. 756. I respectfully request the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Mr. Wong.

GM-756

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:10:57 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna Takenouchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the committee,

I am writing testimony in strong support of Kevan Wong to be re-appointed to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Board of Directors. Kevan's work with state and county initiatives through the COVID-19 pandemic provide him with a solid foundation to help HHSC make the necessary pivots to continue service to our island's most vulnerable populations. His leadership roles in the Democratic Party have focused on finding compromise in conflict and direction in dissent to create a balanced space for all voices to find their place. Additionally, I know him to be a hardworking individual who earnestly dedicates his time to any task he undertakes.

I hope that he will be able to continue to lend these strengths to HHSC for the betterment of the people of Hawaii. Mahalo for your consideration in this matter.