



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

Quality Healthcare For All

Senate Committee on Health

April 14, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony in Strong Support

Governor's Message 813

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Leslie Ka'iu Kimura**, 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 813**, in consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Leslie Ka'iu Kimura**, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Ms. Kimura is a skilled, highly educated leader who has dedicated her life's work to bring together science, technology, education, and business with the Native Hawaiian community. As the Executive Director of the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, Ms. Kimura has prioritized bringing the history, cultural values, and the important perspective of Kānaka Maoli into the forefront of innovation in astronomy education and space exploration. Ms. Kimura's success in cultivating partnerships with local community organizations and national and international entities can positively influence the system-wide community engagement efforts of HHSC.

HHSC looks forward to the contributions Ms. Kimura will make. The business leadership skills and knowledge she possesses will advance HHSC's priority goals. We thank Ms. Kimura for her willingness to bring her long-standing commitment to service to the HHSC Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee in strong support of this nominee.

3675 KILAUEA AVENUE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816 • PHONE: (808) 733-4020 • FAX: (808) 733-4028

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11 ‘Apelila 2021

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 1:00pm
GM 813: Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation

E ka luna ho‘omalua ‘o Mr. Keohokālole a me nā ‘elele hanohano o ke komike olakino o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo o Hawai‘i, aloha nui,

‘O au nō ‘o Ka‘iu Kimura a ke noi ha‘aha‘a nei e ‘āpono ‘ia ka‘u noi e lilo he ‘elele ma ka papa alaka‘i o ka Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation. My name is Leslie Ka‘iu Kimura and I humbly request your approval of my nomination to the board of the Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC).

After having a child, seeing my parents progress in age, and experiencing the devastating impacts brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic I have realized that our healthcare system - and its importance to the health and wellness of our community - means more to me now than ever before.

Our communities, especially our rural communities, need and deserve the best care possible. I served on the founding board of Community First, a local non-profit whose mission is to bring together providers and policy makers around initiatives to improve the health of our community. Community First was founded by a dear friend, mentor, business and community leader, the late Barry Taniguchi. I served on the board from 2014 to 2020. My involvement on the board - and in other sectors including the Hawaiian community, education and business - has deepened my understanding of how fragile our collective health systems are – especially in rural communities around the state.

The role of the Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation is to help ensure that our regions are being served well by the operations and facilities in those regions we oversee. In many instances, these regional facilities are the only and main source of acute healthcare. How these regions operate to fulfill their missions in serving all, but especially those that may not be able to afford healthcare, is critical to the overall health and vitality of the communities they serve.

My experience of working within a state system in a leadership role provides me an understanding of the diverse challenges and opportunities this brings to our state health system. From union relations, collective bargaining, CIP, general funds, to the legislative process, all are a part of the work I do. My experience working among our business community through the various chamber organizations allow me the understanding of the private sector that supports our health system through taxes and health insurance premiums for the private workforce.

I also bring a cultural understanding and perspective to how health and healthcare is understood or perceived in many native Hawaiian communities and perhaps how we can bring more health literacy and equity through our statewide organizations in serving those most at need.

What also inspires me to serve is to help fulfill Barry’s legacy in healthcare. He served on both the HHSC and HHSC East Hawaii Regional boards to advocate for improvements to our

healthcare system. I see much progress has been made and would like to be an advocate to ensure continued progress so that our communities get the best healthcare possible.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of my nomination.

Na‘u me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

na Ka‘iu Kimura

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 14, 2021
TIME: 1:00PM
PLACE: Via Videoconference

NOTICE OF HEARING

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 813

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

Dan Brinkman, East Hawaii Regional CEO, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of GM 813** for gubernatorial nominee, Leslie Ka`iu Kimura, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Ms. Kimura will be an excellent representative of the East Hawaii Region to the statewide HHSC Corporate Board. Her appointment is supported by her lifelong commitment to the people of Hawaii in education, language, culture, and exploration. As the Executive Director of the `Imiloa Astronomy Center for the last 11 years, she has brought world class learning opportunities to Hawaii Island.

Ms. Kimura is also a proven and well-respected community leader. She has held Executive positions on the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce, Big Island Visitors Bureau, Hawaii Island Workforce and Economic Development `Ohana, University of Hawaii at Hilo Alumni Relations, and `Aha Pūnana Leo. Most recently, she completed her Omidyar Leadership Fellowship and Pacific Century Fellowship.

She has the pulse on educational, economic, and cultural affairs on Hawaii Island. Her diverse slate of capabilities and accomplishments will be of great asset to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express my **support of GM 813** for Gubernatorial Nominee, Leslie Ka`iu Kimura, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, April 14, 2021
TIME: 1:00PM
PLACE: Via Videoconference

NOTICE OF HEARING

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 813

Supporting Gubernatorial Nominee, LESLIE KA`IU KIMURA, for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Julie Tulang, HHSC Board Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 813 for gubernatorial nominee, Leslie Ka`iu Kimura, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Ms. Kimura will be an excellent representative of the East Hawaii Region to the statewide HHSC Corporate Board. She is a Big Island girl with rural roots who has a commitment to the people of Hawaii in education, language, culture, and exploration. As the Executive Director of the `Imiloa Astronomy Center for the last 11 years, she has brought world-class learning opportunities to Hawaii Island.

Ms. Kimura is also a proven and well-respected community leader. She has held Executive positions on the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce, Big Island Visitors Bureau, Hawaii Island Workforce and Economic Development `Ohana, University of Hawaii at Hilo Alumni Relations, and `Aha Pūnana Leo. Most recently, she completed her Omidyar Leadership Fellowship and Pacific Century Fellowship.

She has the pulse on educational, economic, and cultural affairs on Hawaii Island. Her diverse slate of capabilities and accomplishments will be of great asset to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express my support of GM 813 for Gubernatorial Nominee, Leslie Ka`iu Kimura, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 1:00 pm
By
Bonnie Irwin
Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

GM 813 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LESLIE KIMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on GM 813 in support of the confirmation of Leslie Kimura to the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.

Ms. Kimura has served as the Executive Director of the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for over ten years. In this capacity she has provided excellent leadership in growing 'Imiloa to become a world renowned astronomy center, sharing traditional Hawaiian knowledge and modern astronomy. Ms. Kimura conducts extensive work with the community in her professional and personal capacity, volunteering time on many community boards and committees.

Ms. Kimura will be a tremendous asset in this role and we strongly support the confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.

GM-813

Submitted on: 4/11/2021 6:24:00 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Kurohara	Testifying for Community First	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

This testimony is in support of Leslie Ka'iu Kimura for the HHSC Board.

Ka'iu brings relationships, experience, and perspectives that make her a valuable addition to the board. She has healthcare understanding as one of the founding board members of Community First whose work involves convening of both medical and social service providers as well as policy makers around initiatives that improve the health of the community. She understands the vision of having our people accept personal kuleana for their own health and for a health system that works together with other service providers to put the health of the people first.

Ka'iu has extensive experience in the business community as well as in the Hawaiian Language and cultural space in addition to her leadership role as Executive Director of 'Imiloa Astronomy Center. Such perspectives are valuable when addressing rural communities and those populations with the most need and how HHSC can play a more integral role in the rural communities they serve. Her understanding of both the state system, legislative process, and business perspectives would help with the complex decisions that HHSC may be facing presently and in the future.

Mahalo for your consideration

Randy Kurohara

Executive Director, Community First



April 12, 2021

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chairman Senate Committee on Health
and Members
Thirty-First State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

E ke kenekoa hanohano `o Keohokalole:

Please accept this letter in **strong support** of Ms. Leslie (Ka`iu) Kimura's candidacy for The Hawaii Health Systems Corporate Board.

I have known Ms. Kimura both personally and professionally for over 25 years, and have every confidence in her ability to perform the duties upon which will be asked of her as a sitting Director on this important assembly.

Your favorable consideration upon Ms. Kimura's nomination would be greatly appreciated!

Me ka `oia `i`o,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby B. Taniguchi", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Toby B. Taniguchi
President



TAKAMINE CONSTRUCTION, INC.

April 13, 2021

Re: GM 813 Nomination of Leslie Ka'iu Kimura to the Board of Directors of the The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President
And Members of the Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

My name is Audrey Takamine. I am the Vice President of Takamine Construction a local general contracting firm that my husband Craig and I founded in 2003.

I would like to write a letter of support for Gubernatorial Nominee Leslie Ka'iu Kimura for the Board of Director seat for The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. I have personally known Ka'iu for 13 years. She is well respected in our community and a natural born leader. I have served with Ka'iu on various business and community boards throughout the years, and she is someone that I can absolutely count on. She is dependable, trustworthy, honest, level-headed, extremely intelligent, and overall an amazing person. Ka'iu truly cares about our community and Hilo is lucky to have someone like her advocating for our community. Ka'iu would be a great asset to the Hawaii Health Systems board. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Audrey N. Takamine
Vice President
Takamine Construction, Inc.

GM-813

Submitted on: 4/11/2021 3:31:57 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Matsuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

April 11, 2021

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair and Members of the Committee on Health

Aloha, Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members:

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of Leslie Ka'iu Kimura's confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Ka'iu's commitment to the people of Hawai'i, broad and deep community network on Hawai'i Island and across the state, strategic mindset, and ability to listen to different perspectives and find solutions will be a tremendous asset to the HHSC board.

As Executive Director of the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i, Ka'iu's work at the nexus of Hawaiian language revitalization, honoring Hawaiian culture and understanding of the universe in a way that nurtures mutual respect has been innovative and inspiring.

Her commitment to our community can also be seen in her many leadership roles served, such as on the boards of 'Aha PÅ«nana Leo, chambers of commerce, Hawai'i Island Workfrce and Economic Development 'Ohana and more.

I can personally attest to Ka'iu's solid values and aloha for a healthy community. Thank you for considering Ka'iu's appointment to the HHSC board.

Mahalo,

Rich Matsuda
Hawai'i Island Community Member

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 813

I, Wayne Kanemoto, recommend confirmation of LESLIE KIMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation as the governor's appointee.

As the vice chair and outgoing member of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation from East Hawaii Region I am confident and assured that the board has another member that will do the work to improve healthcare in the neighbor islands.

Ms. Kimura is an excellent representative of the East Hawaii Region. She has the knowledge and experience in leadership, management, innovation, and networking, that the board needs. A member of Community First, a non-profit focused on healthcare on Hawaii Island, she has insights on significant challenges faced. I believe as an independent director, she contributes to Hawaii Health Systems Corporation problem solving and decision making needed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express my **support of GM 813** for Gubernatorial Nominee, Leslie Ka`iu Kimura, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

GM-813

Submitted on: 4/11/2021 7:48:52 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donalyn Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony in Support of GM 813

Relating to the confirmation of Leslie Kimura to the BOD of HHSC

Before the Senate Health Committee

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 1:00 p.m.; State Capitol

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

Aloha. I respectfully request your favorable consideration and confirmation of Leslie Ka'iu Kimura to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC). As a friend of Ms. Kimura for many years and as a collaborator on a number of projects, I strongly support her nomination.

In her role as the Director of 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, Ms. Kimura has brought greater awareness of the importance of Hawaiian knowledge and community engagement in advancing educational opportunities. Ms. Kimura leads with aloha and a strong sense of kuleana in all she participates in. Her leadership is often sought after, and rightly so. She does not shy away from challenges and takes the time to listen to all sides before making a decision or offering her opinion on a particular issue.

Her thoughtful leadership approach would undoubtedly bring value to HHSC.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Leslie Ka'iu Kimura for the HHSC Board of Directors.

Respectfully,

Donalyn Dela Cruz

Honolulu Resident

D. Noelani Kalipi
1155 Waialeale Place
Hilo, HI 96720

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF LESLIE KIMURA TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION

HAWAII STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Hearing on April 14, 2021
1:00 pm

Aloha Chairman Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Baker, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Health. I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Leslie Ka'iu Kimura to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

My name is D. Noelani Kalipi, and I am a resident of Hawaii Island. I have known and worked in various capacities with Ms. Kimura for the past nine years. We have served on multiple boards and committees together, working to support Hawaii communities. She will be an excellent addition to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Ms. Kimura is well-respected throughout the State of Hawaii. Her vast network of relationships with community members, business leaders, policymakers, cultural practitioners, educators, and native speakers, provides her with the unique ability to understand and bridge the many perspectives of the people of Hawaii. She connects well with others no matter what the situation. She genuinely cares for the well-being of others and is always thinking about how to best address the challenges facing the people of Hawaii. She is a courageous leader, willing to create the space to ask the questions that need to be asked and to facilitate the difficult discussions that need to be held.

She works well with others and is an effective communicator. As a leader in the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i community, Ms. Kimura often helps native and non-native speakers better understand each others' perspectives and mindsets. She daily demonstrates the benefit of such work as the Executive Director of the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center and through her leadership at Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani, University of Hawai'i at Hilo's College of Hawaiian Language.

Ms. Kimura will be an asset to HHSC in support of its mission to provide accessible, high-quality, cost-effective services which address the healthcare needs of Hawaii's unique island communities.

April 12, 2021

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Letter of Support for Leslie Ka`iu Kimura to the Board of Directors of the Hawai`i Health Systems Corporation.

Aloha, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker and Committee Members:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of GM 813** for gubernatorial nominee, Leslie Ka`iu Kimura to the Board of Directors of the Hawai`i Health Systems Corporation. As Executive Director of 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai`i, long time resident of East Hawai`i, and a respected community leader, Ka`iu brings a wealth of knowledge and capabilities that will be of great asset to the HHSC Board and our East Hawai`i community.

I have had the opportunity and pleasure to work closely with Ka`iu on multiple community projects and am consistently impressed with her integrity, knowledge and hard work. As a member of the East Hawai`i Regional Board of the Hawai`i Health Systems Corporation I look forward to working with her in areas that will benefit the health and wellness of the citizens of Hawai`i and our local community.

Please support Leslie Ka`iu Kimura's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai`i Health Systems Corporation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Best Regards,



Clarysse Kami Nunokawa
East Hawai`i Regional Board Member

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THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021**LATE**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice ChairNOTICE OF HEARINGDATE: Wednesday, April 14, 2021
TIME: 1:00PM
PLACE: Via VideoconferenceNOTICE OF HEARING**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 813**

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

NAME/TITLE: Dr. Jerry L. Gray, M.D. Chairman HMC BOD

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of GM 813** for gubernatorial nominee, Leslie Ka'iu Kimura, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

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She has the pulse on educational, economic, and cultural affairs on Hawaii Island. Her diverse slate of capabilities and accomplishments will be of great asset to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express my **support of GM 813** for Gubernatorial Nominee, Leslie Ka'iu Kimura, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

LATE

GM-813

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 11:21:09 PM
Testimony for HTH on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglass Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I write in great support of the nomination of Leslie Ka'iu Kimura to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Ka'iu is an esteemed member of the East Hawaii community through her work as the Executive Director of the Imiloa Astronomy Center and her many forays into philanthropic efforts in service to the community. Her diligence, enthusiasm, and leadership will be welcome as the Board oversees and guides the future path of HHSC. I strongly encourage the Committee to send the nomination of Ka'iu Kimura to the Senate with a positive recommendation.

very respectfully

Douglass S Adams

Hilo