

## **GM506: James Spira**

**(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Psychology?**

After a long career in community service in University and Federal settings, I am now in private practice, and no longer directly involved in the public health (other than through supporting individual patients). I find great value in community service, supporting the institutions that have and continue to support my profession and those we serve. I have found that serving on the Board of Psychology this past year to be personally rewarding and educational, and hopefully of value to the DCCA and those we serve.

**(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Psychology?**

At a minimum, the roles and responsibilities of a member of the DCCA-BOP is to help insure adherence to the State of Hawaii Rules and Statutes for the Practice of Psychology in order to insure the safety of the community by attending meetings, preparing for meetings by reviewing applications, offering opinions to the Board during discussions as well as to the Board's Executive Director between meetings, and to aid in reviewing and formulating an opinion on legislative issues that affect the practice of psychology's impact on the health and safety of the community.

**(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Psychology 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.**

I believe that I am qualified to serve on the HI DCCA BOP since I have a range of experience in psychology, having served as faculty of Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology at several Universities (Including the University of Hawaii), worked in prison and other forensic settings, worked in Federal service (DOD and VA), and have been in private practice. I have been a licensed psychologist since 1994, licensed in the State of Hawaii since 2012, served as President of the Hawaii Psychological Association in 2017, where I continue to help coordinate monthly grand rounds and a separate monthly clinical case conference. In addition, I have served on the HI DCCA BOP since June of 2021 and look forward to continued service on the Board.

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

In addition to the duties and responsibilities inherent in the position of a Board of Psychology member, I hope to help review and update the Rules for the Practice of Psychology, which were last modified more than 25 years ago - rendering much of the rules out of step with the current practice of psychology as it is recommended by the American Psychological Association and most State Board of Psychology throughout the US and Canada. I also plan to serve on the Legislative Committee of the BOP in order to review and help draft opinions regarding legislation related to the Practice of Psychology.

- (5) **Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board of Psychology.**

Committed, Experienced, Collaborative

- (6) **Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board of Psychology member.**

I have served as a member or President of several psychological organizations, including the HI DCCA Board of Psychology.

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

I have recused myself from the legislative committee of the Hawaii Psychological Association and have refrained from offering opinions on legislative matters that may require an opinion from the BOP. Nor will I engage in lobbying efforts on behalf of any psychological association or organization that may require a BOP opinion. I know of no other formal conflict of interest, and will do my best to not let my decision on teh BOP be influenced by my being a licensed psychologist that may or may not personally benefit from the Board's decision.

## **Testimony of the Board of Psychology**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Friday, February 18, 2022  
9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 506, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JAMES SPIRA,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of James Spira, Ph.D.'s reappointment to the Board as a licensed member.

Dr. Spira has almost 40 years of experience within the field of psychology in varying capacities that have and would continue to benefit the Board. He has been a licensed psychologist for 25 years, in three States. He has held the American Board of Professional Psychology's certification in Clinical Health Psychology since 1998 and has served in both academic and clinical positions in universities, federal and state government roles, and in private practice unity. Since arriving in Hawaii, Dr. Spira has spent time serving in the following roles: Professor, Department of Psychiatry in the John A. Burns School of Medicine; President for the Hawaii Psychological Association; and Director of the Pacific Island Division of the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Center for PTSD. In his role as the Director of the Pacific Island Division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Spira conducts clinical research on veterans and their families in the Pacific region. Dr. Spira also served as a subject matter expert for the Hawaii Office of the Attorney General, Public Defender's Office, and District Attorney's Office. Currently, he is the director for Pacific Behavioral Health.

Since being appointed to the Board, Dr. Spira has been an experienced and essential voice in the protection of the public and consumers, continuously demonstrated his willingness to collaborate with peers in executing the Board's duties and powers, and displaying an appreciation for and understanding of the commitment necessary to prepare for and attend the Board's monthly meetings.

Testimony of the Board of Psychology

G.M. 506

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The Board believes that Dr. Spira will continue to bring the experience and skills needed to maintain and improve the effectiveness of the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony of the [Board name]  
G.M. [####]  
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**GM-506**

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 10:19:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nozanin Yusufbekova	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am very pleased to write this testimony on behalf of Dr. James Spira for continued service on the Board of Psychology (GM506). Dr. Spira is an intelligent, ethical, and self-reflective professional whom I have known for several years now. He is a licensed psychologist, Board Certified in Clinical Health Psychology, who has served as President of the Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) and President of the American Board of Clinical Health Psychology. He has served on the faculties of Duke University, the University of California, and the University of Hawai'i, was Head of the Division of Health Psychology at Naval Medical Center San Diego, and Director, Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD, Pacific Island Division.

Presently, Dr. Spira serves as Clinical Representative for the Hawai'i Psychological Association Board of Directors. He demonstrates a strong foundation in leadership and organizational skills. He consistently goes beyond the call, providing excellent peer consultation and supervision. He is able to adapt and work very effectively individually and in a group setting. His empathy, professionalism, and deep respect for others allows him to navigate complex situations and difficult interpersonal interactions. I highly recommend/support Dr. James Spira without reservation. He is highly skilled, disciplined, and committed to excellence and service. He is professional and ethical, reliable, personable, and adaptable to the demands of his environment. He is tolerant, able to remain grounded and work collaboratively under pressure.

Sincerely,

Nozanin Yusufbekova, Psy.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Past-President – Hawai'i Psychological Association





**GM-506**

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 7:58:46 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Diane Logan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. James Spira's nomination to the Board of Psychology. As a practicing clinical psychologist, I have served the state organization (Hawaii Psychological Association) over the past six years in various roles, including a volunteer, a board member, and currently as President. Dr. Spira has also served as a board member during this time (and long before my service), and has been a tremendous asset to the organization and to our profession. His collegiality, ethics, and clinical practice knowledge are phenomenal. He continues to balance service to the profession with his own clinical practice, making him approachable and reliable as a resource to our community.

Sincerely,

Diane Logan, PhD, CSAC, ICSAC  
Clinical Psychologist, Private Practice

President, Hawai'i Psychological Association

President, Hawaii Island Psychological Association  
PO Box 5488 Kailua-Kona, HI 96745  
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**GM-506**

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 8:04:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Rosemary C Adam-Terem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Dr. Spira who is currently a member of the Board of Psychology and wishes to remain for a second term.

I have known Dr. Spira for many years as an esteemed colleague in the Hawaii Psychological Association. He is the consummate professional psychologist, having worked in public service as the director of the VA Trauma center, in private practice, and in academia. He is a past-president of the Hawaii Psychological Association where he has been an innovative leader.

He has my strongest support as a continuing Board of Psychology member.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Adam-Terem, Ph.D.

**Raymond A. Folen, Ph.D., ABPP**  
*Diplomate in Clinical Psychology*  
*American Board of Professional Psychology*  
3577 Pinao Street #16, Honolulu, HI 96822  
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**LATE**

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Date of Hearing: February 18, 2022 at 9:30AM

**RE: Testimony in Strong Support of GM506 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Psychology, Gubernatorial Nominee, JAMES SPIRA, for a term to expire 06-30-2026**

Senator Baker, Senator Chang and members of the Committee,

It is my great pleasure to recommend Dr. James Spira for appointment to the Board of Psychology. I have known Dr. Spira since 2010 when he started in the position of Director at the National Center for PTSD, Pacific Islands Division. Over the last 20 years, I have had the opportunity to observe his work in a variety of settings as well as assess his interpersonal skills and the quality of his character.

Dr. Spira received his doctorate in psychology from the University of California at Berkeley and went on to complete post-doctoral fellowships at the Stanford University School of Medicine and the highly-regarded Scripps Clinic in La Jolla. He has an extraordinary breadth of expertise in treating mental health conditions. He is board certified in both Clinical Health Psychology and Forensic Psychology, one of the very few psychologists in the State to have dual board certification.

Dr. Spira is one of the most accomplished psychologists in the State and his clinical knowledge is second to none. He is a prolific writer and researcher with over 90 peer-reviewed publications. He has received over \$2.8M in research grant funding and has presented at over 100 international, national and local conferences. In Hawaii, Dr. Spira is one of our psychology community's top experts. Mental health colleagues rely on him for wisdom, guidance and assistance with the most difficult and complex cases.

At a national level, Dr. Spira has served as the President of the American Academy of Clinical Health Psychology, Chair of a NATO panel on military transitions and in over a dozen other leadership positions. Here in Hawaii, he has recently served as President of the Hawai'i Psychological Association and as a member of the State of Hawai'i Board of Psychology. In those roles I have found him to be a very dedicated, wise and highly effective leader.

I can think of no finer psychologists than the two currently being considered for appointment to the Board of Psychology. Dr. Spira has my highest recommendation. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions about this excellent nominee.

Sincerely,  
Raymond A. Folen, Ph.D., ABPP  
Hawai'i Licensed Psychologist (PSY-178)