



To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

From: Paula Arcena, Vice President, External Affairs

Hearing: Friday, February 18, 2022

RE: **GM533 Health Planning Council, West Oahu Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mae Patricia La Chica**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to submit strong support for GM533, which puts forth the gubernatorial nomination of Mae Patricia La Chica for the Health Planning Councils to fulfill a seat on the West Oahu Subarea with a term to expire June 30, 2023.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. We are the only health plan in Hawaii that exclusively serves Medicaid beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care.

Trish La Chica has spent most her professional life serving the public in a variety of capacities from investigative reporting to advancing policies that positively impact the public health of her community. She is dedicated to contributing to making Hawai'i strong, healthy and resilient by uplifting all the voices in the community. She envisions a Hawai'i where everyone has access to healthcare, safe transportation, housing and access to food. She believes in working for her community and making a Hawai'i the best place for families and children.

We hope that you will recommend her name to the full Senate for confirmation to the Health Planning Council, where she will surely continue her work to uplift healthcare in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide strong support for the confirmation of Mae Patricia La Chica.

1357 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1250, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Call: 973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • [www.AlohaCare.org](http://www.AlohaCare.org)



**American  
Heart  
Association.**

**American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of  
GM533, Mae Patricia La Chica's nomination to serve on the  
West Oahu Health Planning Council**

The American Heart Association supports Governor Ige's appointment of Trish LaChica to serve on the West Oahu Health Planning Council.

**Chairman of the Board**

Jason Fujita

**President**

Michael Lui, MD

**Board Members**

Rick Bruno, MD, FACEP

Greg Christian

Jackie De Luz

Brandt Farias

Mimi Harris

Glen Kaneshige

Zia Khan, MD

Brandon Kurisu

Michael Rembis, FACHE

Andrew S. Rosen

Timothy Slottow

David Underriner

Jennifer Walker

Ms. LaChica has served as a volunteer advocate for the American Heart Association and has a long record of service to her community's health. She has served on the West Oahu Health Planning Council since August 2021, was elected its co-chair in December 2021.

She holds a master's degree in Public Administration and has over 15 years of experience in public policy and community engagement work in state and county government and non-profit organizations in the areas of public health, Medicaid, housing, and homelessness. In January she was named the new executive director for the City and County of Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi's Office of Housing (and Homelessness).

We urge your support of her re-appointment to the West Oahu Health Planning Council so that she can continue her invaluable volunteer service to our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Weisman

Government Relations/Communications and Marketing Director

*Serving Hawaii since 1948*

**Our Mission:**

"To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives."

For more information on the AHA's educational or research programs, visit [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org) or contact your nearest AHA office.



Hawaii  
**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Senate Committee on Health

Re: **GM 533 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Health Planning Council, West Oahu Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAE PATRICIA LA CHICA**  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Via Videoconference  
February 18, 2022, 1:00 PM

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing to support the **gubernatorial nomination of MAE PATRICIA LA CHICA to the Health Planning Council, West Oahu Subarea.**

Many of my colleagues and I have had the pleasure to work with Ms. La Chica in her leadership roles at the Hawai'i Public Health Institute and AlohaCare, where she advocated for public policies that would improve the health of children and families in our state.

Ms. La Chica is a strong advocate for public health. We are pleased to see that Governor Ige has re-nominated her to the Health Planning Council, West Oahu Subarea, and we are certain that she will continue to be an asset to the council, should her nomination be confirmed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please confirm Ms. La Chica's nomination.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo  
Director of Research and Economic Policy



**HIPHI Board**

Kilikina Mahi, MBA  
Chair  
KM Consulting LLC

JoAnn Tsark, MPH  
Secretary  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
Native Hawaiian Research Office

Debbie Erskine  
Treasurer

Keshia Adolpho, LCSW  
Molokai Community Health Center

Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD  
University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu

Carissa Holley, MEd  
Hale Makua Health Services

May Okihiro, MD, MS  
John A. Burns School of Medicine,  
Department of Pediatrics

Misty Pacheco, DrPH  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Michael Robinson, MBA, MA  
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP  
Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD  
Medical-Legal Partnership  
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai

Titiiamae Ta'ase, JD  
State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender

**HIPHI Initiatives**

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community Health  
Worker Initiative

COVID-19 Response

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol Free  
Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Hui

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Food Security Coalition

Date: February 16, 2022

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Health

Re: Support for GM533, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Health Planning Council, West O'ahu Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAE PATRICIA LA CHICA, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Hrg: February 18, 2022 at 1:00 PM via videoconference

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the health and wellness of the people and islands of Hawai'i. HIPHI strives to be a bridge between community and partners from government and healthcare so that all relevant stakeholders throughout the Hawai'i are involved in decisions related to public health policy, programs, and investments. We believe we can play a significant role in the shift of public health from being primarily about treating disease to the promotion of preventing it. Our work includes food and agriculture, transportation and public safety, oral health, healthy eating + active living (HEAL), drug and alcohol prevention, tobacco prevention and control, COVID-19 response efforts and workforce development.

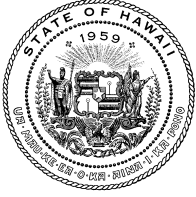
HIPHI appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of Mae Patricia "Trish" La Chica's appointment to the West O'ahu Health Planning Council. Trish served as HIPHI's Policy and Advocacy Director from January 2016 to February 2021. HIPHI oversees and convenes many coalitions, and in her role as Policy and Advocacy Director, Trish listened and worked directly with community members and other partners to develop and advocate successfully for policies that advance public health in Hawai'i. Trish's leadership around health equity and strong community engagement would make her a valuable asset to the West O'ahu Health Planning Council.

Mahalo for the opportunity to strongly support Trish's gubernatorial nomination.

Mahalo,

Jessica Yamauchi, MA  
CEO

Jaylen Murakami  
Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator



# STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

SERAFIN COLMENARES, JR., Ph.D., M.P.H.  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea St., #402, Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

## Senate Committee on Health

### GM 533, Gubernatorial Nominee to the West Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council

#### Testimony of Darryl Shutter Acting SHPDA Administrator

Friday, February 18, 2022  
1:00 p.m.

1 **Agency's Position:** The State Health Planning and Development Agency supports the  
2 nomination and confirmation of Mae Patricia La Chica to the West Oahu Subarea Health  
3 Planning Council.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the  
6 West Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mae Patricia La Chica.

7 Ms. La Chica has served as an interim member on the West Oahu Subarea Health  
8 Planning Council since August 2021.

9 Ms. La Chica has 13+ years of experience in public policy and public health. Currently  
10 at AlohaCare, a community-led, non-profit health plan founded in 1994, she is the Manager of  
11 Community and Government Relations; and prior, the Policy & Advocacy Director. Previous to  
12 AlohaCare, Ms. La Chica worked in the State Government as the Policy Analyst with the Office  
13 of the Governor. There she authored key sections of the Hawaii State Health Care Innovation  
14 Plan, a multi-million-dollar initiative from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

15 Ms. La Chica also has numerous years of experience in community engagement with  
16 county, state, and federal government as an independent consultant for Choose Praxis and as

1 the Community Engagement Specialist with the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health  
2 Forum.

3 Ms. La Chica has a Master in Public Administration from the University of San  
4 Francisco, California and a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Communications and a minor in  
5 English.

6 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Mae Patricia La Chica, enabling her to  
7 continue to serve on the West Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 10:15:15 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Karen Loomis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is to support the nomination of Trish La Chica to serve on the West Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council for a term to end June 30, 2023. Ms. La Chica is well qualified to serve on the Council. She has extensive public health and community service experience and degrees in Communications and Public Administration. I have worked with Ms. La Chica in various Mililani community organizations and find her to be thoughtful and conscientious. Accordingly I ask that the Senate vote to confirm her appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Loomis

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 3:58:16 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Marion and Richard Poirier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 16, 2022

FROM: Marion and Richard Poirier

TO: SENATE CHAIR KEOHOKALOE, VICE CHAIR BAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH:

SUPPORT GM 533

We are Marion and Richard Poirier, community advocates and long-time residents of Central Oahu. We submit this testimony in SUPPORT of "TRISH LA CHICA" for your consideration and confirmation of her Gubernatorial Nomination to the Health Planning Council, West Oahu Subarea.

Our professional and community backgrounds have given us first-hand knowledge of Ms. LaChica's suitability and leadership attributes. She has 13+ years of public policy, public health, and community engagement work with county, state, and federal government agencies. She has excelled. Her consummate skills as Vice Chair of Mililani's Neighborhood Board #25 are but one recent example of her continuing leadership strength and abilities.

Confirming Trish will make those of us residing in Central Oahu proud. Please vote "yes".

Thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT this nomination.



**GM-533**

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 6:49:43 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

Please confirm Trish La Chica as a member of the Health Planning Council, West Oahu Subarea. Trish is dedicated to serving the community and public, has over a decade of proven experience in public health and advocacy, and is a natural leader.

Thank you for your consideration.

February 17, 2022  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health



Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee on Health,

I would like to ask for your support in confirming my nomination to serve as a member of the Health Planning Council, West Oahu Subarea.

I believe that my work in public health, health care, and social services has given me the relevant experience necessary to serve effectively in this role and advocate for the health needs of Central and West Oahu. I have been serving in this role since August 2021, and was most recently elected Co-Chair in December 2021.

The Health Planning Council serves a vital role in directing much needed services to access health care and I am committed to ensuring that the communities of Central and West Oahu, as well as the most underserved members of our community receive the affordable and quality health care they deserve.

Please find attached my most updated CV. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Trish La Chica

**15 years of public policy, public health, and community engagement work with county, state, and federal government. Track record in program strategy development and implementation working across teams in fast-paced, high-intensity environments. Strong familiarity with state and county legislative and executive branches. Demonstrated success in coalition-building to find common ground and advance priorities.**

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(2/2022- Present)

*Office of Housing, City and County of Honolulu*

Honolulu, HI

- Oversee, coordinate, and direct the development, preparation, and implementation of plans and programs relating to affordable housing, senior housing, special needs housing, and homelessness, for the benefit of the people of the city.
- Oversee, coordinate, and direct the activities and functions of the city relating to affordable housing, senior housing, homelessness, and special needs housing.
- Coordinate city activities and programs relating to affordable housing, senior housing, homelessness, and special needs housing with those of the state and federal governments and those of public or private housing organizations within the state.

### COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER

(2/2021- 1/2022)

*AlohaCare*

Honolulu, HI

- Managed AlohaCare's legislative agenda to increase access to care, promote whole-person health, and strengthen the state's Medicaid program. Communicates with a wide range of audiences including government, legislators, community leaders, and the media.
- Facilitated a \$1M community reinvestment program to help Hawaii's most underserved communities. Manages grantees to ensure completion and reporting of funded proposals.

### POLICY & ADVOCACY DIRECTOR

(1/2016- 1/2021)

*Hawaii Public Health Institute*

Honolulu, HI

- Worked closely with legislators and community stakeholders on the strategy and passage of HIPHI's annual legislative agenda on issues affecting tobacco control, food security, health equity, oral health, and other issues. Co-managed 20+ staff and directly supervised HIPHI's policy and advocacy team.
- Directed the research and creation of bills, talking points, policy briefs, memos, position papers and reports.
- Works with state and national partners to build alliances and seek funding and support for statewide and local public health campaigns; leads the management of the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii's Policy Workgroup, the Obesity Prevention Task Force, and the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition.

### POLICY ANALYST

(4/2015 - 12/2015)

*State of Hawai'i, Office of the Governor, Health Care Innovation*

Honolulu, HI

- Authored key sections of the Hawaii State Health Care Innovation Plan, a multi-million dollar initiative from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
- Regularly convened and advised the Executive Office, including a variety of stakeholders and Hawaii Cabinet members to identify challenges and develop strategies to address issues in behavioral health, payment reform and reimbursement, data sharing, oral health, and population health.

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**INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT**

(9/2014 – 8/2015)

*Choose Praxis*

Pacifica, CA

- Provided program evaluation, data analysis, and program management consultation services to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community-based organizations.

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**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST**

(6/2011-10/2014)

*Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)*

San Francisco, CA

- Led partnerships with federal agencies (CDC, DHHS-CMS, OMH, WHIAAPI) to obtain funding and implement public health programs on issues related to: health disparities, health care reform, & health equity.
- Managed the Asian & Pacific Islander National Cancer Survivors Network (APINCSN) and the Racial Equity Initiative and worked closely with funded partners in more than 20 states to implement program-funded activities.
- Led the partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) national initiative "From Coverage to Care" (C2C).

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**DEVELOPMENT FELLOW**

(8/2010 – 3/2011)

*United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA)*

San Francisco, CA

- Cultivated a fund portfolio of Bay Area accounts in the finance and retail sector valued at over \$3.5M annually.
- Successfully planned and launched a new program called, Adopt-A-Nonprofit for the holidays, fostering partnerships between 40 community-based organizations and SF Bay Area corporations such that underserved children and families may celebrate and open gifts during the holidays.

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**ASSISTANT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (INTERN)**

(2/2010 – 5/2010)

*United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

Manila, Philippines

- Worked across the agency to facilitate and launch promotional campaigns for UNDP's initiatives on biodiversity, health, and microfinance. Researched and wrote articles and press releases highlighting UNDP's diverse program portfolio.

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**INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST and FIELD PRODUCER**

(5/2007 – 8/2009)

*ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation, News and Current Affairs*

Manila, Philippines

- Produced and wrote for three award-winning programs for television. Supervised a three-person production team, traveling each week to different locations across the country documenting stories that highlight critical issues and promote social and policy change.

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**EDUCATION**

- **MASTER IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (8/2014)**, University of San Francisco, CA | Academic Scholarship
- **BACHELOR OF ARTS, MAJOR IN COMMUNICATIONS (JOURNALISM), MINOR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE (3/2007)**, Ateneo de Manila University, Manila, Philippines | Dean's List
- **Certificate in Healthcare Analytics**, University of California Davis, CA (*In Progress*)

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**PUBLICATIONS**

- McGurk, M.; Takeda, C.; Murakami, J.; **La Chica, Trish**; et al., (2021) " Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Fee: A Model to Address Health Disparities in Hawai'i," *Hawaii Journal of Health and Social Welfare*: Vol. 80 : No. 10 , Supplement 2.
- Hawaii Public Health Institute (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020). Legislative Recap. Honolulu: HIPHI

- Jih J, **La Chica T**, et.al.. Application of Photovoice with Focus Groups to Explore Dietary Behaviors of Older Filipino Adults with Cardiovascular Disease. *J Health Dispar Res Pract*. 2018; 11(2).
- Morey, Brittany N.; Gee, Gilbert C.; **Quema La Chica, Trish**; et.al., (2018) "Nativity Differences in Stress among Asian and Pacific Islander American Women," *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice*: Vol. 11 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.
- Filipina Women's Network (2016). *Disrupt 2.0 Filipina Women: Daring to Lead*, San Francisco: FWN.
- Celeste K Wong, K., Horn-Ross, P., **La Chica, P.**, et.al. (2016) Strategies for recruiting representative samples of Asian Americans for a population-based case-control study. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 2016;70:974-982.
- APIAHF (2013). *21 state-specific health briefs on Cancer and Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders*. San Francisco: APIAHF.

**GM-533**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 12:14:29 AM  
Testimony for HTH on 2/18/2022 1:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker and members,

I have know Trish La Chica for over five years, she is one of the most hard-working, knowledgeable, diligent people that I have the privilege to know. I have served with her on the Mililani Neighborhood Board, where she has been an advocate for health issues, most notable for keiki who are targeted by the tobacco vape industry to get them addicted at an early age.

She has been an advocate for women and women's health issues in our communities as well, and I have found her to be collaborative, positive and a team builder.

She is articulate, dedicated to justice, of the highest integrity, and well qualified to serve on the Health Planning Council. I have the highest praise for Ms. La Chica.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed, Life-time Feminist in Mililani