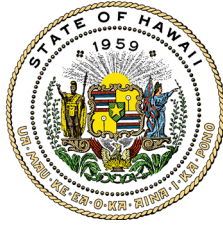


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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM712**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder**  
**Affairs,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee: Lisa Spencer, for a term to expire 6-30-2026**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOPE, CHAIR  
SENATOR ROSALYN BAKER, VICE CHAIR

**Amended** Testimony of Caroline Cadirao  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: April 8, 2022  
1:00 p.m.

Room Number: 225  
Via Video Conference

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the
- 2 Department of Health, supports the nomination of Lisa Spencer to the Policy Advisory Board
- 3 for Elder Affairs (PABEA).
- 4 **Comments:** Ms. Spencer's experience and knowledge in long-term care would be an
- 5 asset to the PABEA. She has a Doctorate in health administration, a Master's in public health,
- 6 and a Bachelor's in Sociology. With 30 years of experience working in healthcare she was
- 7 involved in program development and operations of long-term care and acute care services.
- 8 Her experience included working as an administrator for the Ito HealthCare group, which
- 9 provided services in adult nursing facilities, adult day care and home care. Currently, as a
- 10 faculty member with the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu she engages her students to
- 11 develop possible solutions and strategies to address the problems facing Hawaii's elder

- 1 population. For these reasons, EOA supports the confirmation of Ms. Spencer for the PABEA.
- 2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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*Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs*

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5 April 2022

**THE HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE**

**Chair, Senate Committee on Health**

Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 712, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, LISA SPENCER, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Dear Senator Keohokalole,

I am Gary Simon, Chair of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA). I am testifying on behalf of PABEA and as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years.

**PABEA strongly supports the nomination of Lisa Spencer to PABEA.**

I have known Ms. Spencer since 1999, when we were colleagues at St. Francis Healthcare System. She is an expert in long-term care and health administration. Her experience in these fields will be valuable to our deliberations centered on policies and programs enhancing the lives of our kupuna.

On behalf of PABEA, I respectfully and strongly urge you to recommend Ms. Spencer for confirmation to PABEA.

Thank you for seriously considering her nomination.

With warmest aloha,



Gary Simon  
Chair  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs  
No. 1 Capitol District  
250 South Hotel Street, Suite 406  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Email [gsimon@aarp.org](mailto:gsimon@aarp.org)

**Dr. Susan Young DHA, MSA, RN**  
**1549 The Hideout**  
**Lake Ariel, Pa 18436**

**[Dr.Susanyoung@gmail.com](mailto:Dr.Susanyoung@gmail.com)**  
**808-383-0185**

Re: Dr. Lisa Spencer  
Membership Applicant: Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

April 6, 2022

Dear Senator Jarrett Keohokahole,

Please accept this letter of recommendation regarding membership and confirmation for applicant Dr. Lisa Spencer for admission to the Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Spencer in my role of Quality Director for the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i while she was employed by the Ito Healthcare Group. Through the HAH association we collaborated on many quality and policy discussions centered on our aging population in Hawai'i. In her role as Corporate Trainer and Quality Assurance Auditor in Long Term Care, her expertise was very appreciated.

In 2015 Dr. Spencer and I were working as colleagues at the University of Hawai'i West Oahu as faculty in the Department of Public Administration/Health Care Administration until my retirement in 2022.

Dr. Spencer developed and has oversight of the Long Term Concentration and Certificate. She ensures all necessary curriculum for the Long Term Care concentration addresses care and safety of the elderly, policy development, administrative duties and nursing home licensing, while integrating ethics, contemporary issues and healthcare marketing. Dr. Spencer is a subject matter expert in the field of aging and remains current on public policy and standards of care for the aging population.

I enthusiastically support her application for membership in the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. I believe her dedication and continued service to the elderly will be an asset to the Advisory Board.

Sincerely,



Dr. Susan Young, DHA, MSA, RN

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
April 8, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.  
by  
Kristina Lu, PhD, MPH

GM 712 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, LISA SPENCER, for a term to expire 6-30-2026.

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

I am writing, as an individual, in strong support for Dr. Lisa Spencer to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. I have known Dr. Spencer since 2015 when I first hired her as a lecturer at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu (UHWO). For the last ten years, I have been serving as Division Chair for the Public Administration Program at UHWO where Dr. Spencer is currently an Assistant Professor of Long-Term Care. Dr. Spencer is extremely knowledgeable and has extensive experience in the fields of Health Care and specifically in Long-Term Care (LTC).

In 2017, UHWO was in the process of developing a new concentration in Long-Term Care in the Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration program, and we were allocated a tenure-track assistant professor position in LTC to create this new, much needed workforce development program. Dr. Spencer was hired and began working as a tenure-track assistant professor of LTC in 2018 where she diligently developed the Long-Term Care Concentration and Certificate. Since then, she has developed and taught numerous courses in the Long-Term Care Concentration for in-person and distance education modalities and for Early College. As of fall 2021, she has also established a new much needed Certificate in LTC. She developed all the courses for the LTC Concentration and Certificate, including PUBA 338 Cultural Competence in Health Care, PUBA 345 Foundations of Gerontology and PUBA 346 LTC Management, as well as the capstone courses for LTC: PUBA 486L WI Senior Project and PUBA 490L Administrative Practicum. Furthermore, Dr. Spencer teaches PUBA 101 Health Care Administration at Waipahu High School and Kapolei High School for Early College. I had the opportunity to evaluate her PUBA 345 course and found it to be an outstanding course, well organized and comprehensive using interactive and multiple modules and tools to actively engage students in participatory learning. In addition, students are impressed with her courses, in particular the application of classroom concepts to real world situations. Student and peer evaluations find her to be a highly effective teacher, very knowledgeable, dedicated and enthusiastic.

Dr. Spencer's primary area of research is in Long-Term Care. One of her papers on: "Infusing culture into the long-term care environment to improve public health and

quality-of-life experience” was published in the peer reviewed *European Journal of Environment and Public Health* (2022). A second peer reviewed publication has been accepted for publication by the *International Journal of Excellence in Health Care Management*. Dr. Spencer continues to conduct important research that focuses on LTC management and policy and collaborate with colleagues to produce additional scholarly works for publication and presentation.

Dr. Spencer is actively engaged in numerous service activities to promote the program, the Division of Public Administration, and UHWO. She continues to be involved in various community and professional service activities. She currently serves as Vice Chair for the UHWO Faculty Senate. She is a member of the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee, Program Review Committee, and has also been serving as liaison to represent the Public Administration Division on the Assessment Committee. Through this committee, she leads and coordinates the Division’s assessment efforts as we focus on strategies to conduct assessment and ways to make programmatic improvements. Dr. Spencer is also faculty advisor and mentor to the students in the Long-Term Care program. Dr. Spencer continues to demonstrate excellence in the number, type and amount of service activities and responsibilities that she conducts. She is also an exemplary colleague and an outstanding team player.

I strongly recommend Dr. Lisa Spencer to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. Given her expertise and experience in the Long-Term Care field, I have no doubt that she will be a valuable asset to this advisory board. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**GM 712: Testimony in Support of the Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, LISA SPENCER, to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs**

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

I am pleased to express my strong support, as an individual, for the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Dr. Lisa Spencer, to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. As the executive who oversees Dr. Spencer's work at UH West O'ahu for almost six years, now, I am intimately aware of the special knowledge, skills, and experience she possesses that would serve the Board well in advising the Executive Office on Aging Director.

Dr. Spencer's service at the University of Hawai'i has spanned the last seven years. In her career, she has distinguished herself as an expert in the area of long-term care. She has used her rich knowledge and experience in the areas of health care administration and long-term care to develop valuable academic programs and curriculum on our campus. Specifically, she developed our courses of study intended to address the needs of our growing elderly population who need access to long-term care services.

In our interactions, I have found Dr. Spencer to be highly competent and very collegial—traits that would be assets to the Board. For example, she has stepped up and served as vice chair on our faculty senate. I have witnessed, firsthand, her effective leadership in this challenging capacity. We are very fortunate to have her as an exceptional faculty member who has excelled in her responsibilities of teaching, research, and service. We have also benefitted from her noteworthy leadership.

Based on Dr. Spencer's knowledge, skills, experience, and collegiality, I strongly support your consideration and confirmation of her nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my testimony.

Jeffrey A.S. Moniz, PhD  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UH West O'ahu