



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM761**  
**Consideration and Confirmation to the Radiologic Technology Board Gubernatorial**  
**Nominee, JARIS KUNIYUKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2026**

SENATOR JARRET KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR  
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 4/8/2022

Room Number: Conference Room  
225 and  
Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Governor's Message requests confirmation of Jaris Kuniyuki for
- 3 appointment to the Radiologic Technology Board.
- 4 Mr. Kuniyuki will be a positive resource for the Radiologic Technology Board. He received his
- 5 Associate of Science in Radiologic Technology from Kapiolani Community College in 2010 and
- 6 a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration with Specialization in Leadership from
- 7 Capella University in 2020. Mr. Kuniyuki is registered with the American Registry of
- 8 Radiologic Technologists and has many years of experience as a radiologic technologist at
- 9 Straub Medical Center. He obtained his radiographer license from the Hawaii Department of
- 10 Health in 2010. His experience, educational background, and radiologic technology credentials
- 11 are valuable and her appointment will make a positive impact on the board.
- 12 **Offered Amendments:** None.
- 13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

April 6, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this testimony in support of nominee, Jaris Kuniyuki, for the Radiologic Technology Board.

I first met Jaris at Straub Medical Center in 2013 when he was a radiologic technologist (rad-tech) and a clinical instructor (CI) for KCC rad-tech students. As a KCC Rad-Tech student then, I sensed that he would one day become one of the pillars of Straub Radiology Department. Almost a decade later, I can attest that this has come to fruition.

Over the past nine years of working closely with Jaris, I have been able to witness him grow in his profession and accomplish many things while at Straub. In this testimony, I would like to highlight just some of the things he has achieved thus far:

Jaris is one of the most decorated rad-techs there is: he is certified in Radiography (R), Computed Tomography (CT), and Vascular-Interventional Radiography (VI). (But wait, there's more!)

In 2018, Jaris took on the role of being department supervisor in which, among other things, he manages all tech-related activities (e.g. scheduling, hiring) and works alongside our Radiology Director in implementing departmental procedures and policies.

In 2019, he was nominated and selected as Straub's Employee of the Year for Exemplary Mentor.

In 2020, while working as a full-time technologist, clinical instructor, department supervisor, full-time dad, Jaris went on to get his BS degree in Healthcare Administration.

Currently, he is one of the select participants in Hawai'i Pacific Health's Bridge to Leadership Program.

Jaris is a great colleague and friend. He has great rapport with other technologists, radiologists, department managers, patients – everyone. He takes initiative, strives for excellence, and always tries to better himself professionally. He never ceases to amaze.

I believe that the Radiologic Technology Board would benefit immensely in having Jaris as a member; his years of gained knowledge and extensive experience in both radiology and healthcare industries would make him an asset to the board. He is passionate and enthusiastic about promoting and advancing the Rad-Tech community in Hawai'i. As I have tried to impress upon you, Jaris has the willingness and the drive to get things done. He takes great pride in all that he does – as an employee of Straub (HPH), as a member of our Radiology Department, and as an alum of the KCC Rad-Tech Program. These are the many reasons that make him highly qualified for the position. Today, I see Jaris paving his way to becoming one of the pillars of Hawai'i's Rad-Tech Community. I cannot think of any other individual more suited for this role.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Higa, R.T.(R)(M)

**GM-761**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 8:54:08 AM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele Hayase-Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Michele Hayase-Fong would like to give written testimony for nominee Jaris Kuniyuki for Department of Health Radiology Board. I have worked with Jaris Kuniyuki at Straub Medical Center and he is a very dependable, hard working and knowledgeable person working in the radiology industry. He has multiple certifications by ARRT in Radiology, CT, DSA and is now working as our lead floor coordinator/supervisor/manager and recently received his Bachelor Degree. Jaris will be a great addition to the Radiology Board and he is a great source of knowledge to make our radiology industry better. Please accept him as board member.

Thank you for your time,

Michele Hayase-Fong

**GM-761**

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 3:48:50 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Matsuura-Albarado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kristen Matsuura-Albarado and I am submitting testimony in support of Jaris Kuniyuki for a seat on the Radiologic Technology Board. I have known and worked with Jaris for over 15 years. He is a great communicator and leader. He has earned the respect of many of his peers. He often inspires enthusiasm and is an active contributor to the community. Jaris has my full support for this position and I have no doubt that he will represent the radiologic community with excellence.

Francesca Crouch  
4964 Kilauea Ave. #3  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
FrancescaCrouch@gmail.com

April 4, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regard to Jaris Kuniyuki (GM761) and his application to the Radiologic Technology Board.

I met Jaris five years ago, while completing my internship at Straub Medical Center as a student radiologic technologist. During this time, Jaris served as the Radiologic Technologist Clinical Instructor, a volunteer position which he still proudly holds. During my time under Jaris' guidance, I witnessed his natural born leadership skills, extreme drive and work ethic, and an unparalleled passion for the field of radiologic technology. Since then, I have been lucky enough to watch him transition from the position of colleague to the highly deserved role as supervisor of the Radiology Department at Straub Medical Center.

Jaris is a natural born leader, and has always gone above and beyond his duties to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Despite navigating the numerous changes that the COVID-19 pandemic presented us with over the last two years, we have been faced with numerous changes within our department as well. Jaris facilitated with the opening of four new clinics, including an outpatient respiratory evaluation center which catered to individuals affected by COVID-19. Between streamlining and enforcing new protocols and ensuring that these new clinical sites had the appropriate equipment and operating systems, Jaris has been instrumental to the success of these facilities. Jaris has consistently remained the anchor of our department; the calm within the storm.

Not only is Jaris one of the most knowledgeable and skilled radiologic technologists I have had the pleasure of working with, but the most passionate individual I have ever met in the field of radiologic technologists. Since stepping into his role as supervisor, Jaris now has more tasks and responsibility than ever, but that doesn't stop him from leaving his office to assist us with completing examinations when a rush of patients comes in. In fact, I recall a Sunday morning last year when an emergency surgery unexpectedly needed radiologic guidance, and we did not have the extra staff on hand to attend to this case. Jaris, understanding that this case was time sensitive, rushed in to the operating room to complete the procedure himself, instead of calling another staff member to come in for the procedure. That Sunday morning should have been spent with his wife and two young sons, but Jaris happily sacrificed his time for the sake of this patient, as well as for the joy his career as a radiologic technologist brings him.

Jaris will be an extremely valuable asset to the Radiologic Technology Board. He is an exemplary individual with the knowledge and charisma to help pave the way for the future of Radiologic Technology in the State of Hawaii.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mahalo,  
Francesca Crouch

Reiko Nakamoto  
1433 Kewalo Street APT 208  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808)386-9880  
reikoanddayne@icloud.com

April 6, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with a strong sense of pride to recommend Jaris Kuniyuki to be part of the Radiologic Technology Board. I have known Jaris for about eleven years, starting from when I was a student in the KCC Rad Tech Program. He was my Clinical Instructor/Mentor and has always been an advocate for patient care, safety, and performing the best radiologic procedures/exams. After graduating, I was proud to call him a coworker and now my Supervisor at Straub Medical Center. He continues to stress the same values of patient care, safety, and excellence.

As a supervisor, Jaris has many qualities that make him the best person for the job. He is fair and treats everyone as equals which helps to create a happy workplace. I can describe him as a kind, honest, and natural born leader with a unique motivational style of management. He is always inspiring people around him to be the best they can be. He is dependable and is always available to help solve problems within the department. I look forward to work because I know we are in a safe environment. He is knowledgeable and brings many years of experience from several different modalities and positions within the radiology realm. The Radiologic Technology Board of Hawaii will benefit greatly from his many unique qualities and expertise.

Sincerely,

Reiko Nakamoto, R.T.(R)(M)(BS)(ARRT)  
Straub Medical Center  
Mammography Tech II, Breast Ultrasound

**GM-761**

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 10:17:30 AM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessel Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Jaris for nearly 15 years. We first met at Kapiolani Community College with the same goal; to be accepted into K.C.C.'s nationally recognized Radiologic Technology Program. Several years later I eventually became a RADTECH student, and during my clinical rotation at Straub Medical Center I reconnected with Jaris. He was in his 2nd year as a professional radiographer and had already possessed the leadership skills to command an imaging department. During my time there, Jaris guided me with the necessary tools and knowledge to improve my skills in becoming a radiographer myself. Firm but fair, he straight shooted the reality of the profession, and how demanding it can get when dealing with patients, staff and peers. His passion and encouragement kept me focused to say the least. It was then time to move on from Straub to my next clinical rotation, and eventually I successfully completed the RADTECH Program. I then went on to work for Straub. Now officially co-workers for the past 10 years I've watched Jaris grow into a fine quality leader of our department. A figure that troubleshoots quickly and obtains results in a timely manner, and someone who communicates at the highest level to keep those involved informed; Jaris Kuniyuki has given me the best work environment and experience I've ever had during my near 30 years in the job force.

Best wishes, and aloha.

Jessel Horne (RT)

**GM-733**

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 2:39:24 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steven Louie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jaris Kuniyuki will be a very valuable asset to the State of Hawaii Radiologic Technology board if he was allowed to serve in it. He has been employed at Straub Medical Center for many years. Jaris has been fully trained to work in several modalities including General X-ray, CT, and Interventional Radiology. In addition, he oversees the Radiologic Technology students that rotate thru our hospital. Jaris has also been carrying the role of Radiology Supervisor for the past few years and have been doing an excellent job. His experience and leadership skills would be well utilized if he could serve on the board. If you have any questions and concerns, please feel free to contact me and I would be delighted to provide you folks any information needed. Mahalo.

Steven Louie, Lead Special Procedures Technologist @ Straub Medical Center



**GM-761**

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 10:57:35 AM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amanda Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing my testimony in support of Jaris Kuniyuki for consideration to the Radiologic Technology Board. I have known Jaris for 5 years now, first as my Clinical Instructor, then as a co-worker at Straub Medical Center. He is currently the Lead Radiology Technologist and a Clinical Instructor for Straub's Imaging Department.

As a Clinical Instructor, Jaris communicates with the Kapi'olani Community College Radiologic Technology Program to coordinate the students' rotation through Straub Hospital. He arranges the schedule for each student so they can have the most fulfilling and fruitful clinical experience possible. Jaris takes the time to mentor students individually and give honest feedback to help them improve. When I was a student, Jaris taught me invaluable knowledge and motivated me to be the best technologist I could be.

Additionally, as Lead Radiology Technologist for the past 3 years, Jaris exemplifies leadership in everything he does. He stepped up to take over as Lead Tech when the previous one left abruptly and has made many positive changes to our Department. He leads by example and, despite his many responsibilities, maintains a positive, can-do attitude and sense of humor. When issues arise, he tackles them head-on and is adept at problem-solving. Jaris works hard to ensure the Department runs smoothly and is always looking for ways to improve such as in patient care, image quality, equipment upgrades, protocols, and staff scheduling. He was one of only a handful of employees selected to participate in Hawai'i Pacific Health's Bridge to Leadership program last year and was awarded Straub Employee of the Year a few years ago. I enjoy working with Jaris, and our Department is very grateful and blessed to have him.

I believe Jaris' extensive knowledge and experience in multiple radiographic modalities (including General Radiography, Interventional Radiography, and Computed Tomography) combined with his solid leadership skills will make him a vital asset to the Radiologic Technology Board.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amanda Yee

Mammography/Radiography Technologist

Straub Medical Center