

GM-789

Submitted on: 4/20/2022 3:02:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Murray	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

To: Senator Karl Rhoads

From: Susan Murray, retired SVP/COO, The Queen's Medical Center, West O'ahu

Subject: Support letter for Marisa Adaro

I am proud to submit a recommendation in support of Marisa Adaro's appointment to the Commission on the Status of Women.

In her role as Director of Administrative Services, Marisa's division developed and implemented community outreach, special events, began a volunteer program, created an ongoing health education calendar for the community, and led the initial and ongoing work surrounding the designation of Queen's West as a Certified Blue Zone Employer. There are only two other medical centers nationwide with that designation.

Through internships with University of Hawaii West O'ahu, relationships with High School Health Academies, health education, and 'lunch and learn' collaborations with the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce, to name a few examples, young women are given opportunities to gain knowledge and experience in all aspects of a healthcare organization. The opportunities are open to young men and women alike, but most participants are young women.

As a professional and as a mother of two young women, Marisa is a role model that values inclusion and advocates for developing herself and others. Marisa is a catalyst for positive change and would be a valuable addition for the Commission on the Status of Women.

Should you have any questions, please let me know. I can be reached at 808-271-5603, or by e-mail, srmurray1517@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Susan R. Murray

GM-789

Submitted on: 4/21/2022 2:48:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohoalole, Vice chair
and honorary members of this Judiciary Committee

"The Hawaii State Commission on Status of Women (HSCSW) is a statewide feminist government agency the works toward equality for women and girls in the State by acting as a catalyst for positive change through advocacy, education, collaboration and program development." As we look at the current Maternal health crisis and the intersections that cause this crisis we must see the power of State Commissions that make choices for our health and wellbeing. WE must hold accountable a clear focus of collaborative work for the amplification of physiological safety of people that may or do give birth and the children being born. We know the medical institution is biased, racist, and patriarchal; this is no longer a debate. Medical professionals appointed as members to the Commission of the Status of Women as a feminist government agency must amplify solutions to the current Maternal Health crisis. The State CSW is a feminist organization which should encompass people working and providing unbiased care and systematic change for the wellbeing of all woman.

Marisa Adaro has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in organizing within the medical system. She holds key wisdom in the potential to help transform what is happening in this Maternal Health crisis we are experiencing. I have hopes that with Marisa and her choice to join forces with CSW has great potential to shift the current disparities and negligence within women's health and the hospital narrative. As we see with organizations such as Commonsense Childbirth and the perinatal safe spot framework along with the Maternal Community Health work we have models that can be implemented and work in collaboration with. If Marisa is appointed I would hope that the commitment as defined by the CSW, she will work to bring true accountable collaborative organizing from within equitable feminist strategies.

As the director of Queens hospital, Marisa can see the systemic barriers to women in accessing unbiased medical care and wondering what is her experience to create solutions for true equity? What is being implementing to address racism in medical care, specifically in Maternal health and what projects and plans are in place to move forward out of a white supremacist medical system? In the extensive work Mrs. Adaro has done, she can be part of active solutions to increasing Midwifery care, of all forms in the Maternal health workforce. Making safe maternal health accessible in Hawai'i benefits all of us and all generations forward. As America is

increasingly in danger for childbearing people, and is currently the most dangerous industrialized nation to give birth, what are some ways that Marisa Adaro sees CSW and Queen's Hospital can align to shift these areas of morbidity and mortality. As a feminist health issue what can be done to bring more support and respect to Breastfeeding and its promotion by encouraging and evidence based education? Breastfeeding is a choice and the greatest healthy start for a new parent and the child. There are many ways I think Marisa Adaro can be of great gift in this current Medical Health crisis that can be solution oriented and community based. In the spirit of Hope and generational cooperation, I hope Marisa can be accountable to the focus of true health. Committed to ending disparities and creating true collaborative care outside of White supremacist models as currently are running the medical and education systems. As a community member I am full support of collaborative care systems that are truly anti-racist and accountable, we will work to make this a reality.

Thank you for your time and commitment to health, Pannelopi McKenzie

Aloha,

I am writing today as a concerned citizen. I have sat on the Committee on the Status of Women, Maui County for the past for years, and have termed out unfortunately. During these past four years I have witnessed how important it is to have good, fair, representation on the commission and I am gravely concerned with two of the nominees, and in adoration quite honestly if one of them. Both Marissa and Tamara come very amazing professional background and I commend them on their awesome work. I do however question that they are appropriate for the commission, and can't help but pray they are not being nominated to influence the commission in ways of what background they come from, which is very western trained individuals who are going to be completely pro-medical. While we love and appreciate western interventions and medicine when needed, I feel the lack of relationships and deeper understanding of the cultural, economic, and lack of health care options are issues women face often in Hawaii and feel like someone who had a better pulse on community in general in Hawai'i would serve us most. Deja is the best possible candidate as she is in the ground working for years within the realm of 'women's issues in Hawai'i' and has been known to be unbiased and accepting of the traditions of women in Hawai'i and so is more sensitive to our mission.

Please deeply consider that with the United States in a current health care crisis, what happens in the commission is crucial for healing the past, present, and future. We need w'hine that are strong, smart, and compassionate, embracing what is best for the good of all w'hine, and not just the elite, or authoritative voice.

Please support Deja when you vote this Friday, and do not just settle for the current nominees, but look deeply into wether they are w'hine that will serve the mission of the state's commission.

Me ka Ha'aha'a,
Ki'inaniokalani Kaho'ohanohano

GM-789

Submitted on: 4/20/2022 2:37:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Barsatan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 20, 2022

Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

It is with great pleasure that I write this testimony in the highest support for the appointment of Marisa Adaro to the Commission on the Status of Women.

I've worked with Marisa for over 8 years at The Queen's Medical Center-West O'ahu. Marisa is someone who carries herself with the utmost integrity, dedication and professionalism in everything that she does.

In recent years, she obtained her Master of Health Administration, and FACHE (American College of Healthcare Executives) credential. With great work ethics, significant results and contributions to the Queen's Health Systems, she's been promoted to key leadership positions with the latest as the Director of Administrative Services. It has been admirable to see her grow professionally and which she is so well-deserved.

Marisa would be an ideal member of the Commission because she cares, she's fair, and has a very thorough decision making process. She looks at every angle and every point of view before making a decision. She's a team player that fosters open communication and discussions. She's also a strong advocate and champion for the minorities to make sure their voices are heard, and their concerns are addressed timely and appropriately. It's always about doing the right thing, all the time. She's very hands on and not afraid to do hard work to get the best results.

Therefore, it is with great honor that I am in strong support of Marisa's appointment. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

GM-789

Submitted on: 4/20/2022 4:05:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina A Awakuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and Committee Members Acasio, Gabbard, Mercado Kim, Lee, and Fevella:

I write in support of Marisa Adaro to serve on the Commission on the Status of Women.

Marisa is committed to serve others, as demonstrated by her work in the healthcare industry at three Hawaii health systems. She is collaborative, inclusive, smart, and a team contributor who lifts others. Marisa is an excellent role model for the next generation of healthcare leaders, and she has the ability to extend her contribution beyond her role by her service on the Commission seeking positive change as an advocate for girls and women in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Tina Awakuni

GM-789

Submitted on: 4/19/2022 6:32:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

Please do not confirm GM 789 for Marisa Adaro. This candidate does not demonstrate long term commitment to women's advocacy and rights. They are currently obligated to protect the interests of a hospital whereas the Commission must fight for the patients rights.

Thank you,

Alani Bagcal

96815

GM-789

Submitted on: 4/21/2022 10:47:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I respectfully request that you oppose the appointment GM 789 Marisa Adaro. This candidate should not be appointed to the Commission on the Status of Women. She has not demonstrated longterm commitment to women's advocacy and women's rights. Further, she currently is obligated to protect the interests of a hospital whereas the Commission must fight for its patients rights. This is a direct conflict of interest and untenable. The women's community strongly opposes this candidate.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to uphold the mission and principles of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Sincerely,

Mykie E. Menor Ozoa-Aglugub, J.D.

April 22, 2022

Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair



Working together for Kapolei

LATE

Friday, April 22, 2022,
4:30 p.m. CR 225 and via Videoconference

RE: GM 789, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARISA ADARO, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the Committee:

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. I respectfully submit to you this letter of support of **GM789 Gubernatorial Nominee Marisa Adaro** nominated to serve on the Commission on the Status of Women. I have known Marisa since 2015 when I stepped in as the Executive Director, as she is a long-time member of the Kapolei Chamber, and we have worked on numerous projects together. Not only is Marisa dedicated to her work at The Queen's Medical Center – West Oahu, but she also has a heart to serve our west side community. Marisa is exemplary of an emerging leader dedicated and committed the community she serves. I believe she will well represent our mothers, daughters and sisters on this Commission.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Polk".

Kiran Polk
Executive Director

LATE

GM-789

Submitted on: 4/21/2022 4:30:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/22/2022 4:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Galacgac	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Roads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to the confirmation of Marisa Adaro. As a women's rights advocate deeply concerned about the well-being, quality of life, and material conditions of women here in Hawai'i, I believe this candidate should not be appointed to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Further, she currently is obligated to protect the interests of a hospital whereas the Commission must fight for its patients' rights. This is a direct conflict of interest.

I respectfully urge the committee to not confirm GM 789 for Marisa Adaro.

GM 789 Marisa Adaro Response

The following is the information requested and attached is my resume.

1. Please describe your understanding of the role and jurisdiction of the Commission on the Status of Women (Commission).

To represent and advocate for those who have a voice that often go unheard.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission?

Members have a duty to care for and protect minority groups.

3. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Commission? Please note if you initially applied to be nominated to the Commission or if you were invited to apply.

I initially applied to be nominated in my personal quest for additional opportunities to serve my community.

4. Please describe why you believe that you are qualified to be a member of the Commission. Please discuss any skills, expertise, knowledge, or volunteer involvement that would aid in your decision-making ability.

I believe that my experience as an Asian American woman and healthcare professional of 20+ years, who has worked hard to advance to a leadership role in a field in which women represent 65% of the workforce, but only represent approximately 31% of the executive leadership, qualifies me as a valuable resource to help in the Commission's work toward equality for women and girls in the state and beyond.

5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term as a member of the Commission?

I hope to contribute by helping to advance initiatives that create positive, long-lasting impact for generations to come.

6. What issues do you believe that the Commission has handled well in the past? What issues do you believe that the Commission should address in the future?

I am inspired by how the Commission approached their Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19. Instead of remaining complicit with rebuilding an economy of the past, the commission aims to address the inequalities and unsustainable aspects. It allows healthcare, social, and ecological policies to go beyond pre-Covid and grow into something more accessible to all, especially minority groups.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

No conflict of interest anticipated but if it ever were to arise, I would immediately take the necessary steps to disclose and address.

8. Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered for your nomination?

As a mother raising three teenagers during a time of great social change, I feel that the most important thing that I can do to make this world a better place is to start with myself and be an example for them –

GM 789 Marisa Adaro Response

involvement and participation in this committee would be another way to role model leadership and positive change for my own children.

9. Please provide a current copy of your resume, to be shared with Senate members and their staff.