

## **Testimony of the Board of Nursing**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Friday, March 1, 2024  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 511, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TERRENCE ARATANI,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alexander Pang, and I am an Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing (Board). The Board supports the appointment of Mr. Terrence Aratani to the Board.

Mr. Aratani is one (1) of two (2) public members currently serving on the Board. His work experience in healthcare and the State Legislature makes him a valuable contributing member.

Mr. Aratani is the current Chief Executive Officer at Ko`olauloa Health Center, where he oversees operations, functions, and compliance for a forty-five-employee health center. At the State Legislature, he served as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Senate President and staff attorney/committee clerk/aide to Senator Brian Taniguchi, who chaired the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for six (6) years. He also worked as a staff attorney for the Hawaii Insurance Division, where he acquired a deep knowledge of the healthcare system and insurance laws.

Mr. Aratani has served on boards for numerous community programs, including chairing the Honolulu Community Action Program and Liahona Youth Empowerment, and serving as Board Treasurer for the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii.

Since his interim appointment to the Board in August 2023, Mr. Aratani has attended all meetings. His knowledge and experience in healthcare and the Legislature, as well as his history of public service, make him a strong choice for reappointment to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Governor's Message.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Friday, March 1, 2024; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 0511, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TERRENCE ARATANI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2024.**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Hirokawa and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association, a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** the confirmation of TERRENCE ARATANI to the State Board of Nursing, for a term to expire on June 30, 2024.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The HPCA has long held that the social determinants of health – more than any other factor – contribute to the overall wellbeing of our people. Persons who experience homelessness, language barriers, and poverty are more likely to suffer persistent, chronic health issues, and have shorter life expectancies than those who do not.

We believe that Mr. Aratani's impeccable credentials, steadfast dedication and tireless commitment to furthering the health and wellbeing for all of Hawaii's communities make him uniquely qualified for the position on the State Board of Nursing. As demonstrated throughout his career, Mr. Aratani fully understands the importance of socio-economic equity in the pursuit of optimal health outcomes for all our citizens.

For these reasons, the HPCA urges your confirmation of the nomination of TERRENCE ARATANI for the State Board of Nursing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 791-7830 or [rhirokawa@hawaii pca.net](mailto:rhirokawa@hawaii pca.net).

**GM-511**

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 12:35:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Lynn Bernal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mr. Aratani would be an exceptional member of the State Board of Nursing. His extensive professional experience and years of service in the public sector would be an asset and provide invaluable and unique insight for the board.

**GM-511**

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 1:30:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zachary Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support GM511. Terrence is deeply qualified and holds a vast expertise garnered through years of dedicated service in the state legislature and governance within the medical field, which uniquely position him to offer exceptional leadership and guidance on the State Board of Nursing. Terrence's extensive background not only reflects a deep understanding of legislative processes but also a nuanced comprehension of the intricacies of healthcare administration. With his proven track record of effective governance, I am confident that Terrence will bring invaluable insights and skillful direction to the State Board of Nursing, contributing significantly to its continued success and the enhancement of healthcare standards within the state.

**GM-511**

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 8:55:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 3/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Kurisu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Terrence is a respected community and organizational leader. His experience as a leader in health care, state government, and on many community boards, makes him well-suited to serve on the State Board of Nursing. He has a heart to serve and is committed to strengthening the health and well-being of Hawaii.