

## **Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Friday, April 5, 2024  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 739, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DANNY TAKANISHI,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2027**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Randy Ho, and I am an Executive Officer of the Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board supports the reappointment of Danny Takanishi, M.D., to the Board as a licensed-Honolulu County member.

Dr. Takanishi had previously served on the Board from 2006 to 2014, was most recently appointed to the Board in July 2019, and is the current Chairperson of the Board. He has held a current, active, and unencumbered allopathic medical license in the State of Hawaii since March 1989. Dr. Takanishi is a proud graduate of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) at the University of Hawaii (UH) (MD, 1987). He completed his graduate medical education training through a general surgery internship and residency with UH, a surgical critical care fellowship with UH, and a surgical oncology fellowship with The University of Chicago. He has been board certified with The American Board of Surgery since 1993.

Dr. Takanishi has concurrently been an attending surgeon at Queen's Medical Center and a professor at UH since 2002 and is currently the Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at JABSOM. His professional, academic, and community service experience is extensive and includes serving in various capacities with the University of Hawaii, American College of Surgeons, American Medical Association, American Cancer Society, and the Federation of State Medical Boards., Dr. Takanishi is committed to ensuring the effective and safe practice of medicine, and the development of the next generation of health care professionals in Hawaii.

Since serving on the Board from 2006 to 2014, and from 2019 to present, Dr. Takanishi is always well prepared for meetings, is a skilled facilitator of Board discussions, and accurately applies Board statutes, administrative rules, and policies to all agenda matters. The Board believes that Dr. Takanishi's interest in serving on the Board, professional and academic expertise, and desire to contribute to the community significantly enhances the effectiveness of the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## Hawaii Medical Association

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Date: Friday, April 5, 2024  
From: Hawaii Medical Association  
Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, HMA President

Re: GM 739: Hawai'i Medical Board

### **Position: Strong Support**

The Hawaii Medical Association is writing in **strong support** of the **nomination of Dr Daniel Takanishi MD, to the Hawaii Medical Board.**

Dr. Takanishi is an incredible physician, educator and leader with 30+ years of sustained dedicated medical practice. He is a tenured professor at the University of Hawaii John A Burns School of Medicine, with an extensive list of accolades and honors for teaching as well as medical research. Dr Takanishi has previously served as Program Director and Chair for the Department of Surgery, and he is presently the Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Dr Takanishi has worked tirelessly for many professional organizations, as well as numerous boards and committees including the American College of Surgeons- Hawaii Chapter – President, the American Cancer Society- Hawaii Chapter - Board of Directors, and the Hawaii Medical Association – Executive Council. As the Chair of the state Hawaii Medical Board, Dr Takanishi has provided prudent counsel and insight on issues of medical licensure. His commitment and efficacy are indisputable, and he serves with the highest integrity for the health and protection of Hawaii citizens.

A physician champion for patient care with an impeccable record of duty and service to Hawaii, Dr Takanishi is an ideal nominee for the Hawaii Medical Board, and HMA is excited to offer this letter of strong support without reservation.

#### **2024 Hawaii Medical Association Officers**

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President  
Jerris Hedges, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

#### **2024 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team**

Beth England, MD, Chair  
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



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To: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

From: Dr. G. Rick Bruno, Executive Vice President, The Queen's Health System

Date: April 5, 2024

Re: Support for GM 739 Gubernatorial Nominee Danny Takanishi to the Hawaii Medical Board

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The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Dr. Danny Takanishi to the Hawai'i Medical Board. Dr. Takanishi is an attending surgeon at the Queen's Medical Center with over 30 years of medical experience and a highly respected member in the medical community. He also serves as the Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at U.H. JABSOM.

We strongly support his nomination and respectfully urge the Committee to recommend him for confirmation. Mahalo.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

Regular Session of 2024

Friday, April 5, 2024

9:30 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 739.**

TO THE HONORABLE JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Governor's Message No. 739, regarding the reappointment of Danny M. Takanishi, Jr., M.D., FACS, to the Hawaii Medical Board. I am submitting this testimony in strong **SUPPORT** as a former Hawaii Medical Board member (2013-2021), colleague, and friend of Dr. Takanishi. I am submitting this testimony as an individual citizen and not on behalf of any organization.

Dr. Takanishi is eminently qualified to continue to serve on the Hawaii Medical Board. His professional background and experience at multiple levels allow him to serve both competently and comprehensively. On the local level and most relevant is his over a decade of service on the Hawaii Medical Board from 2006-2014 and 2019-present, during which he served as Chair from 2009-2014 and is currently serving as Chair since 2022. Nationally, to complement his service on the board, he has served for almost two decades (from 2006-present) on the Federation of State Medical Boards in various capacities on various committees (House of Delegates, Hawaii Delegate (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2022, 2023); Reference Committee A (2011, 2012, 2014), Chair (2014); Awards Committee (2013-2014); Interstate Compact Task Force (2013); SPEX (Special Purpose Examination) Oversight Committee (2018-present); Workgroup on Physician Impairment, Chair (2019-2021); Special Committee on Strategic Planning (2022-2023); Nominating Committee (2023-present). In addition, he also has served on numerous other national committees that are critical to both medical and graduate medical education, such as the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

When I first started working for the Department of Surgery in the John A. Burns School of Medicine in 2006 as the Associate Chair, Administration and Finance, Dr. Takanishi was the Chair of Surgery. Over the close to twenty years that I have worked for and with him, he has been asked to serve in numerous important capacities. For example, he has been in charge of ensuring that the medical school maintains its accreditation. Most recently, he has been asked to serve as the Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Dr. Takanishi also remains clinically active as an Attending Surgeon at The Queen's Medical Center.

Based on this and during the times our service on the Hawaii Medical Board overlapped, I was able to observe not only his strong leadership skills but also his ability to work well with both the board members and the board staff. Dr. Takanishi always "does his homework" and makes sure he thoroughly understands an issue before making a decision. Most importantly, he is committed to ensuring that the public, who entrust their health and well-being to those licensed by the board, are protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Maria B.J. Chun, Ph.D.



Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Friday, April 5, 2024 at 9:30 am

By

Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, Interim Dean

GM 739 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DANNY TAKANISHI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2027.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Fukunaga and members of the committee:

My name is Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, and I am the Interim Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) of the University of Hawai'i.

I am writing in **support** of the nomination of Dr. Danny Takanishi to serve on the Hawai'i Medical Board (Board or HMB) for a term expiring on June 30, 2027.

Dr. Takanishi has been licensed as a physician in the state for 35 years. He is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i and of JABSOM. He has competently held a number of critical positions at JABSOM, notably as the Department Chair of Surgery, and Associate Chair of Surgery for Academic Affairs. Currently, Dr. Takanishi is the Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at JABSOM in which he oversees our programs' quality and works with our teams to ensure all of our programs remain fully accredited. He serves on a number of national committees that are considered standard setters for physician knowledge, competencies, behaviors, and professional practice.

Dr. Takanishi has devoted his life to teaching and training physicians for Hawai'i. He has previously served on the Medical Board and, in his current tenure with the HMB, serves as its Chair. He is knowledgeable of the processes and procedures governing the Board's activities and, through this role, has played a role in improving or changing to meet the changed context in which physicians practice.

I strongly support Dr. Takanishi's nomination to the Medical Board and urge your committee to confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

April 4, 2024

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

My name is Gary Belcher, public member and Vice Chair of the Hawaii Medical Board.

I write in **strong support** of Dr. Danny Takanishi's nomination to serve on the Hawaii Medical Board for a second term.

I believe that Dr. Takanishi is highly qualified to serve in this role. He is currently completing an initial 4-year term on the Hawaii Medical Board, and serves as our elected Chair. He had previously served for two, 4-year terms from 2006-2014, and he was also the elected Chair for five of those eight years. At the national level, he has represented the Hawaii Medical Board in the House of Delegates of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) from 2011-2014, and again during the national meeting in April of last year. Dr. Takanishi has also served in a number of other roles with the FSMB, which includes the editorial board of the Journal of Medical Regulation (2008-2013), the Interstate Medical Compact Task Force (2013), chair of the Physician Workgroup on Physician Impairment (2019-2021), the Special Committee on Strategic Planning (2022), and most recently, he was appointed to serve as a member of the inaugural, national Advisory Commission on Alternate Licensing Models. The goal of this Commission is to guide alternate pathways for state licensure of international medical graduates and graduates of medical schools who have not completed US-accredited residency training programs, as a potential mechanism to responsibly address physician shortages while protecting the safety of the public.

As a result of his involvement with the Hawaii Medical Board and the FSMB over many years, I believe that Dr. Takanishi exhibits all of the core competencies expected of an individual who strives to protect the public through medical regulation and licensure. He also brings a broad, national perspective to medical regulatory and licensure issues and he has consistently demonstrated the professionalism, personal integrity, and the ability necessary to work effectively with others.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of Dr. Takanishi's nomination for a second term on the Hawaii Medical Board, and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely yours,



Gary F. Belcher, M.Ed.  
Hawaii Medical Board, Vice-Chair and Public Member