

Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Monday, April 7, 2025

1:00 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

RE: GM700

Aloha nui,

I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to respond regarding my confirmation for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC). I appreciate the chance to share my experiences and background that support my candidacy.

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.

I have been a member of the HHSC board since 2021. Since then, there has been transitions within leadership and board members alike. I believe it is important to continue to serve on the board, post transitions, for continuity and to ensure progress on initiatives launched – strategic direction planning, and strengthening of roles and relationships with HHSC and the four Regions (East Hawaii, West Hawaii, Oahu and Kauai).

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.

The Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) is dedicated to delivering high-quality and cost-effective health care services tailored to the unique needs of Hawai'i's island communities. HHSC focuses on making health care services accessible to all residents, particularly in remote and underserved areas. The corporation prioritizes high-quality medical services by implementing best practices, training staff, and continually evaluating patient outcomes. This commitment ensures residents receive the best possible care.

Key roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of HHSC includes:

- Governance and Oversight: Board members are responsible for providing strategic governance and oversight of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation. This includes setting the organization's vision, mission, and strategic priorities.

- **Fiduciary Duty:** Board members have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the corporation and its stakeholders. This includes ensuring the financial sustainability and accountability of the organization.
 - **Policy Development:** The board is responsible for developing and approving key policies that guide the operations and decision-making of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.
 - **Leadership and Guidance:** Board members provide leadership, expertise, and guidance to the executive team in managing the day-to-day operations of the healthcare system.
 - **Community Representation:** As representatives of the community, board members serve as a link between the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation and the various stakeholders, including employees, patients and the community.
 - **Compliance and Risk Management:** The board ensures the organization is in compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and industry standards. By maintaining oversight, the board helps safeguard not only the organization but also the health and safety of the community we serve.
 - **Performance Oversight:** An essential responsibility of the board is to monitor and evaluate the performance of the CEO and executive leadership team. This oversight is crucial for ensuring that the organization remains aligned with its goals and objectives.
3. Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the board.

My involvement in East Hawai'i, along with my experiences in other rural areas, has deepened my understanding of the significant challenges we face regarding both access to and the quality of healthcare available to our communities. For six years, I served on the board of Community First, a non-profit organization dedicated to uniting medical and social service providers in a concerted effort to enhance community health outcomes.

My experience of working within a state system in a leadership role has given me a deep understanding of the diverse challenges and opportunities that our state health system faces. From union relations, collective bargaining, CIP, general funds, to the legislative process, all are a part of the work I do. My experience working among our business community through the various chamber organizations allow me the understanding of the private sector that supports our health system through taxes and health insurance premiums for the private workforce. This role has equipped me with the insights needed to navigate the complexities of healthcare delivery, policy implementation, and community engagement.

I also bring a cultural understanding and perspective to how health and healthcare is understood or perceived in many native Hawaiian communities and perhaps how we can

bring more health literacy and equity through our statewide organizations in serving those most at need.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

During my term of service at the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), my primary goal is to complete a revised strategic plan that clearly defines the role of HHSC both internally and within the regions it serves. This plan will focus on establishing a cohesive direction that aligns our operations with the evolving needs of our communities.

I aim to ensure that our strategies are relevant, viable, and sustainable, enabling us to effectively carry out our directives and deliver high-quality healthcare services. By engaging with stakeholders and incorporating their insights, I hope to create a framework that not only strengthens our operational effectiveness but also enhances our responsiveness to the unique challenges faced by the populations we serve. Ultimately, my objective is to position HHSC as a leader in healthcare delivery that is well-equipped to meet the present and future needs of our communities throughout Hawai'i.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.

I can be best described by the following three qualities, each of which will significantly benefit the board of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC):

1. **Cultural Advocate:** My strong commitment to preserving and promoting Hawaiian culture allows me to bring a unique perspective to the board. My understanding of cultural practices and values ensures that healthcare delivery is sensitive to the needs of Indigenous populations, fostering inclusivity and respect for diverse traditions within the healthcare system.
2. **Visionary Leader:** As a forward-thinking leader, I have the ability to identify innovative solutions to complex challenges. My experience in uniting various stakeholders around common goals will help the board navigate the evolving landscape of healthcare, driving initiatives that improve access and quality of services for communities across Hawai'i.
3. **Community-Oriented:** My dedication to community service positions me as a strong advocate for the needs of the people served by HHSC. My extensive involvement in local organizations equips me with insights into the specific health concerns and priorities of residents, enabling me to effectively represent their interests and promote collaborative efforts to enhance overall well-being.

Together, these qualities will empower me to contribute meaningfully to the board, ensuring that HHSC remains responsive to the cultural, social, and health needs of the communities it serves.

6. Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a member.

A previous experience that will be beneficial as a member is my role as an inaugural board of director for Community First, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In this capacity, I had the opportunity to learn about the unique challenges facing rural communities in terms of healthcare access and affordability. Through discussions and collaborative efforts, I gained valuable insights into breaking down silos and barriers to improve decision-making and outcomes for underserved populations. This experience has equipped me with a deep understanding of community-driven solutions and the importance of bringing together diverse perspectives to address complex healthcare issues, a skillset directly applicable to this role on the HHSC board.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation. How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I have not encountered, nor do I foresee any conflicts of interest arising during my tenure in this role should I be allowed to continue to serve on the HHSC board.

Na'u me ka 'oia'i'o,
Ka'iu Kimura

GM-700

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 8:38:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/7/2025 1:00:00 PM

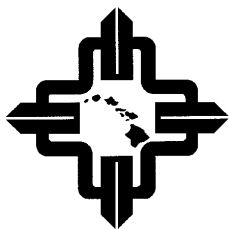
| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Elena Cabatu | Testifying for East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please accept the East Hawaii Region of HHSC's full support for Gubernatorial Nominee Leslie Kimura's consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.

The East Hawaii Region, consisting of Hilo Benioff Medical Center, Honoka`a Hospital, Ka`u Hospital, the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home and our network of primary and specialty rural health clinics under the umbrella of the East Hawaii Health Clinics, greatly benefit from Ms. Kimura's contributions, expertise and guidance. She has represented the East Hawaii community with the utmost aloha in advocating for improved access to healthcare and expanded range in services.

We ask that you confirm Ms. Kimura under GM700 so that she may continue serving our community as a member of the East Hawaii Regional Board of HHSC. Mahalo!



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS

C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-Chair

April 7, 2025

1:00 PM

Hawaii State Capitol

Room 225 & Via Videoconference

Testimony in Strong Support of Governor's Message 700

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Leslie Ka'iu Kimura, for a term to expire 06-30-2029

Edward N. Chu

President & Chief Executive Officer

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Governor's Message 699, in consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, Leslie Ka'iu Kimura, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

As the Chairperson of HHSC's Board of Directors, Ms. Kimura has infused HHSC's Board with a Native Hawaiian perspective, integrating cultural priorities for Native Hawaiian health into HHSC's strategic planning and initiatives. An accomplished leader and advocate for both cultural preservation and community well-being, Ms. Kimura has demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise that align perfectly with HHSC. Ms. Kimura's tenure as Executive Director of the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center highlights her ability to bridge traditional Hawaiian culture with modern scientific advancements. This lends a special unique quality to her understanding of the importance of quality healthcare for Hawaii's rural communities.

Ms. Kimura's professional achievements and experience on numerous boards reflects her governance capabilities and her ability to inspire meaningful connections between communities and large entities, like HHSC. This expertise is invaluable in advancing HHSC's goals of providing equitable, accessible, high quality healthcare across Hawaii.

Ms. Kimura's leadership, cultural insight, and collaborative spirit will continue to make a profound impact on the HHSC Board of Directors. Ms. Kimura's commitment to serving the people of Hawaii is unwavering, and she is uniquely positioned to help guide the organization toward a healthier future.

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



Dodo Mortuary, Inc.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
GM700**

Relating to Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LESLIE KIMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Monday, April 7, 2025 at 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Submitted by MITCHELL DODO
DODO MORTUARY, INC. & CREMATORY

Dear Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-Chair, committee members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the reappointment of Ms. Leslie Ka'iu Kimura to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Board of Directors. Having worked closely with Ms. Kimura on the Board of Directors of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawai'i (JCCIH), where she currently serves as President (2024-2025) and I as 1st Vice-President, I have seen firsthand her exceptional leadership skills, commitment to improving the organization, and her passion for serving the community. I feel she demonstrates this same commitment to all organizations she is involved with.

Ms. Kimura has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the mission of the Chamber, bringing both strategic vision and an in-depth understanding of the unique needs of our members and community. Her ability to navigate complex challenges while maintaining a deep respect for Hawai'i's cultural values has made her an invaluable asset to the JCCIH.

Beyond her professional qualifications, Ms. Kimura is a person of integrity and dedication, who has earned the trust and respect of colleagues and community leaders alike. I am confident that her continued service on the HHSC Board will contribute significantly to Hawai'i's healthcare system, especially as we face the ongoing challenges of healthcare access and delivery on the Big Island.

For these reasons, I strongly endorse Ms. Leslie Ka'iu Kimura's reappointment to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Board. I am certain that her leadership will continue to be a tremendous asset to the organization and to the people of Hawai'i. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mitchell M. Dodo
Vice-President / Operations Manager

199 Wainaku Street – Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Phone: (808) 935-5751 – Fax: (808) 935-1074
www.dodomortuary.com



96 Pu‘uhonu Place
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 935-4304
(808) 969-7512
ahapunanaleo.org

Ka Papa Alaka‘i
Board of Directors

Kauanoē Kamanā
Pelekikena

Larry Kimura

William H. Wilson

Ki‘ope Raymond

Huilau Wilson

Keawe Lopes

Ka Luna Ho‘okele
Chief Executive Officer

Ka‘iulani J.K.N. Laehā

Ka Luna Ho‘okō
Chief Operating Officer

K. Sean Kekina

Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo

Pūnana Leo Programs

Aukukui

Ne‘epapa

Kula Kamali‘i

Pūnana Leo o Hilo

Pūnana Leo o Kaua‘i

Pūnana Leo o Maui

Pūnana Leo o Moloka‘i

Pūnana Leo o Wai‘anae

Pūnana Leo o Kona

Pūnana Leo o Waimea

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko‘olau Poko

Pūnana Leo o Lahaina

Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Pūnana Leo o Nu‘uanu

Pūnana Leo o Wai‘alua

Testimony of the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
April 7, 2025
1:00PM
State Capitol, Room 225 & Videoconference

RE: SUPPORT _GM 700 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LESLIE KIMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Aquino and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

‘O wau ‘o Ka‘iulani Laeha, ka Luna Ho‘okele o ka ‘Aha Pūnana Leo.

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I write on behalf of ‘Aha Pūnana Leo to express our unwavering support for Leslie Ka‘iu Kimura’s nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation.

As Hawai‘i’s only statewide early learning provider conducted exclusively in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo has been at the forefront of Hawaiian language revitalization for over 40 years, guided by our vision, E Ola Ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i—the Hawaiian language shall live. This grassroots movement has thrived due to the commitment of families and communities who share our mission to ensure a living ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. Ms. Kimura has been a vital contributor to this effort since the early stages of her career.

In 1996, Ms. Kimura began volunteering at Pūnana Leo in Waimea, demonstrating exceptional fluency in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i as an advanced learner from Kamehameha Schools. Her dedication quickly led her to join our preschool operations team before embarking on the ambitious project of establishing Hawai‘i’s first bilingual science center at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. Recognizing her leadership and innovative spirit, she was invited to serve on the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo Board of Directors, where she excelled in fostering connections between traditional knowledge and modern advancements. Her contributions were marked by professionalism, creativity, and an unwavering commitment to community service.

Ms. Kimura’s impact extends beyond her work with ‘Aha Pūnana Leo. Her efforts have played a pivotal role in advancing Hawaiian language education pathways in Hawai‘i, which now serves as a model for indigenous language revitalization nationally and internationally. Her ability to bridge cultural heritage with contemporary initiatives has earned her respect across local, state, national, and global platforms.

Having collaborated closely with Ms. Kimura on numerous projects, I can attest to her exceptional qualities as a leader and team member. She embodies effective communication, financial stewardship, and a deep sense of humility. Ms. Kimura’s intelligence and willingness to work tirelessly make her an invaluable asset to any organization she serves.

We wholeheartedly support Leslie Ka‘iu Kimura’s appointment to the Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation and are confident that her expertise will greatly benefit this esteemed institution.

Mahalo nui,


Ka‘iulani Laeha

E O I a K a ‘Ō l e l o H a w a i ‘ i



Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii

April 4, 2025

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM700 – Support for the Reappointment of Ka'iu Kimura to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Board of Directors

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawaii (JCCIH), I write to express our strong support for Ms. Ka'iu Kimura's reappointment to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC).

I have had the privilege of knowing Ka'iu for many years, but only recently have I had the opportunity to work closely with her in my role as Executive Director of JCCIH. It has truly been an honor. Ka'iu brings to every space a rare combination of integrity, knowledge, and skill that sets her apart. I deeply value our working relationship and her thoughtful leadership.

Since her appointment to the HHSC board in 2021, Ka'iu has played a critical role in guiding the organization through leadership transitions, serving on key committees, and now as Chair of the Board. She brings a wealth of experience, cultural insight, and strategic acumen through her role at HHSC and her broader community engagement and leadership with organizations like Community First and JCCIH. Her ability to bridge the public, private, and nonprofit sectors makes her invaluable in addressing the complex healthcare challenges facing rural and underserved communities.

The Chamber recognizes that our healthcare system is only as strong as the leadership behind it. Ka'iu Kimura exemplifies the leader we need: visionary, community-oriented, and deeply committed to improving healthcare access and outcomes across Hawai'i.

We respectfully urge your favorable consideration of her reappointment for a second term.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With Aloha,

Leelen Park
Executive Director

GM-700

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 10:16:55 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/7/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Randy Kurohara | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha

I am writing in support of Leslie Ka'iu Kimura for reappointment to the HHSC Corporate Board. In her first term, Ka'iu has served on various committees and most recently serving as board chair. She has a lot of experience in board leadership serving as President / Board Chair for the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce as well as the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawaii. She has the subject matter understanding of the healthcare industry serving on the board of Community First Hawaii, a non-profit serving as a neutral convener to the health care system on Hawaii Island, working alongside many healthcare leaders. She also brings to the board a keen sense of the Hawaiian culture and the Hawaiian community from her career in leadership with the Hawaiian language revitalization movement, and her role as director of 'Imiloa Science Center and the College of Hawaiian Language at UH Hilo.

Most importantly, she brings a high level of emotional intelligence that fosters a more collaborative culture to any board or organization she serves.

Mahalo again for your consideration of Leslie Ka'iu Kimura's reappointment to the HHSC Corporate Board.

Warm Regards

Randy Kurohara

GM-700

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 6:30:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/7/2025 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| David Kurohara | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I'm writing in support of Leslie Kimura's reappointment to the HHSC Board. She has served on the HHSC Board since 2021 as the Governor's appointee for East Hawaii and she continues to provide valuable input and guidance that assist the State's public hospitals and healthcare systems. HHSC plays a critical role in the State's healthcare system for rural and underserved areas. Leslie's other board affiliations, her work ethic and strong family values are strong attributes towards the support of her reappointment. Mahalo nui!