

Testimony of the State Board of Nursing

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 11, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 729, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TERRENCE ARATANI,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alexander Pang and I am an Executive Officer of the State Board of Nursing (“Board”). The Board supports the reappointment of Terrence Aratani to the Board.

Mr. Aratani is one 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`olaupia 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 for the Honolulu Community Action Program and Liahona Youth Empowerment, and is serving as Board Treasurer for the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii.

Mr. Aratani’s knowledge and experience in healthcare and the Legislature, as well as a 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, April 11, 2025; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Via Videoconference**

RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 0729, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF NURSING, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TERRENCE ARATANI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2028.

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, 2028.

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.

Terrence Aratani has played an integral role in the establishment of HPCA as an advocate for FQHCs and their patients. Having served as the Chair of HPCA's Board of Directors in his capacity as the Executive Director of Koolauloa Health Center, Mr. Aratani has been our leader building consensus among the membership to ensure that every position taken by the HPCA are based on unanimous support. This approach has strengthened the resolve of our members to speak in one voice on matters affecting the health of our patients.

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 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@hawaiipca.net.

GM-729

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 3:37:47 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Kurisu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Terrance Aratani's nomination to serve on the Board of Nursing. His experience as a healthcare executive, leader, and committed community member makes him an ideal candidate for this appointment. He is grounded in strong values, leads with vision and compassion, remains future-focused, cares deeply about bringing out the best in people and community, and his character is second to none.

GM-729

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:40:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Lynn Bernal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Terrence is well-qualified to be on the State Board of Nursing

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

From: Francoise Culley-Trotman, CEO
Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Director of Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Friday, April 11, 2025, 9:30 AM, Conference Room 229

RE: **GM729 Consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Nursing, Gubernatorial Nominee, TERRENCE ARATANI, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of the confirmation of Terrence Aratani to the State Board of Nursing.**

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 37 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare deeply values our strong partnership with Ko'olauloa Health Center. As CEO of Ko'olauloa Health Center, Mr. Aratani has proven himself to be a dedicated leader, ensuring that residents receive care regardless of their financial situation or insurance coverage. His unique position as an employer of nurses and other healthcare professionals, as the head of a federally qualified health center, in a rural O'ahu community combined with his current service on the State Board of Nursing make him a vital stakeholder to address the state's workforce challenges. More broadly, Mr. Aratani has an extensive professional and community-focused resume demonstrating his commitment to the people of Hawai'i. We are confident that Mr. Aratani will continue to advance the health and well-being of Hawai'i residents. For these reasons and more, we think Mr. Aratani is exceptionally qualified serve on the State Board of Nursing.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of the confirmation of Terrence Aratani to the State Board of Nursing.**

GM-729

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 8:53:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Abe	Testifying for Hawaii Primary Care Association	Support	In Person

Comments:

I will appear in person to support the confirmation of Terrence Aratani for the Board of Nursing.

LATE**LATE****GM-729**

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:26:12 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/11/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Reed	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nurses need advanced clinical skills on domestic violence and sexual assault, and boards have a responsibility to oversee their education.

Do nursing schools offer classes on domestic violence and sexual assault? How many hours does the board require for an initial license and renewal? Are there quality continuing education courses, such as the one facilitated by Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Ellen Kennedy "Identifying and Providing Care for Victims of Strangulation" (SCCADVASA)? If nurses aren't screening for strangling, then how will women have evidence for court?

My last two nurse practitioners didn't screen for domestic violence and my ultrasound technician didn't know that there is an increased risk during pregnancy. There weren't even any pamphlets with common book titles (e.g. *Why Does He Do That?* or *When Love Hurts*) or agencies in private changing rooms for mammograms and ultrasounds.

Because of the overlap between medicine and law and because Mr. Aratani has a law degree, I encourage him to review the educational requirements for a law license. Are law schools requiring introductory and advanced courses on domestic violence? Are there mandatory continuing education courses, such as "Advocating for Survivors of Domestic Abuse in Parenting Issues (Shalva)," and "Why Family Courts Fail Protective Mothers (Domestic Shelters)."

I also encourage him to read the 1978 Commission on Civil Rights "Battered Women: Issues of Public Policy," The 1982 United States Commission on Civil Rights "The Federal Response to Domestic Violence," The 1984 Attorney General's Task Force on Family Violence," and the 1985 senate hearing 99-448 featuring the surgeon general. (There were also health and judiciary hearings during the Clinton administration.) Why haven't professional boards implemented the recommendations?

If appointed to the board, will Mr. Aratani review this matter?

Sincerely,

Erica Reed

Concerned Citizen & Advocate

