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## **Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the**  
**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**  
**Thursday, April 10, 2025**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 229, and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:**  
**G.M. 756, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION**  
**TO THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY,**  
**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LIANNE PHILHOWER,**  
**FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the appointment of Lianne Philhower, Psy.D., MPH, DBTC, as a member for the Board of Psychology (Board).

Dr. Philhower has been a licensed clinical psychologist in Hawaii since 2005. As the Director of Clinical Training and Associate Professor at the Hawaii School of Professional Psychology at Chaminade University of Honolulu, she oversees the internship process, collaborates with other clinical training directors, and chairs the Clinical Training Committee.

Dr. Philhower's clinical expertise spans evidence-based practices, including Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, and EMDR, providing

individual, couples, and family therapy. Additionally, her work in program development, such as the Primary School Adjustment Program, has directly benefited the local community, showcasing her ability to design and implement impactful initiatives.

Dr. Philhower is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Integrative Medicine and she has a Master of Public Health, combined with her certifications in various therapeutic approaches, bring a holistic and well-rounded perspective to her work. She is also the CEO and founder of the Present Mind Institute of Hawaii, where she provides essential mental health services to the community.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Philhower is an active member of the Hawaii Psychological Association, currently serving as Secretary, further demonstrating her commitment to the growth and ethical standards of the profession.

Dr. Philhower's experience and commitment to the field of psychology make her a highly qualified candidate for the Board of Psychology. Her leadership, clinical expertise, and dedication to the field will contribute to the board's continued success and the betterment of psychological services in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**LATE**

**LATE**

**GM-756**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 9:27:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2025 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Psychologists need advanced knowledge and skills on domestic violence, and boards have a responsibility to oversee their education.

Sadly, most psychology programs do not offer domestic violence courses in either their undergraduate or graduate programs.

Many psychologists cannot name the top experts (Lundy Bancroft, Elaine Weiss, Ed Gondolf, Barry Goldstein, Joan Meier) or provide a synopsis of their work. They haven't read classics like *Why Does He Do That?*, *The Batterer as Parent*, *When Dad Hurts Mom*, *Surviving Domestic Violence: Voices of Women Who Broke Free*, *The Battered Woman*, or *When Love Hurts*. They haven't watched key documentaries like *Behind Closed Doors*, *Disclosure*, *The Life and Murder of Nicole Brown Simpson*, or *O.J. Simpson: The Lost Confession*.

Because they aren't getting this foundational information in undergraduate classes or the necessary clinical skills in their graduate classes, psychologists often side with batterers in counseling sessions, divide the blame between the couple, give advice that ranges from unhelpful to dangerous, and even recommend custody for batterers and molesters.

Furthermore, many of them are not keeping abreast of current issues via continuing education courses, such as "Advocating for Survivors of Domestic Abuse in Parenting Issues (Shalva)," or "Why Family Courts Fail Protective Mothers (Domestic Shelters)."

If appointed to the board, will Dr. Philhower advocate for **mandatory** domestic violence classes and continuing education?

Sincerely,

Erica Reed

Concerned Citizen & Advocate