

Testimony of the Board of Acupuncture

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Friday, March 21, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 535, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DEBORAH MCMENEMY,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2026**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsea Fukunaga, and I am the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Executive Officer of the Board of Acupuncture (Board). The Board supports the reappointment of Ms. Deborah McMenemy to the Board as a licensed member.

Ms. McMenemy is the current Chairperson for the Board, has been licensed since April 19, 2010. Ms. McMenemy's license is current, active, and in good standing. Ms. McMenemy has served on the Board since February 7, 2019 and has attended 31 out of 32 meetings.

Ms. McMenemy, a resident and practicing acupuncturist on Maui, is a reliable member who takes significant time out her busy schedule to regularly attend Board meetings on Oahu. As the Chairperson, Ms. McMenemy effectively facilitates Board meetings and provides valuable insight and perspective to Board discussions. Not one to shy away from demanding situations, Ms. McMenemy readily volunteers to testify on behalf of the Board at legislative hearings and researches matters to ensure that the Board and its staff are able to make informed decisions. These actions are a testament to Ms. McMenemy's dedication to serve as an efficient and well-informed member.

The Board believes that Ms. McMenemy's interest in serving on the Board, experience in the profession, and desire to contribute to the community will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

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G.M. 538 and G.M. 539
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Dr. Joni Kroll, DAc.
702 Pahumele Way
Kailua, HI. 96734
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808-282-4907

March 11, 2025

Subject: Reference Letter for Dr. Debbie McMenemy for Board of Acupuncture

Dear Chair Keohokalole,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Dr. McMenemy and to provide a strong recommendation for her qualifications, skills, and work ethic. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. McMenemy while serving together as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Acupuncture from July 2020 to 2023, during which time I have been consistently impressed by her professionalism, dedication, and contributions.

One of the most remarkable qualities of Dr. McMenemy is her attention to detail and strong integrity. For instance, when working our way through the arduous process of Rules & Regulations updates, Dr. McMenemy would deeply think through and articulate the near and far possible impacts of changes. Her commitment to excellence and ability to navigate challenges with a solutions-oriented mindset make her an asset to the DCCA.

I highly recommend her for continued service as a member of the Board of Acupuncture.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joni Kroll, D.Ac.

Former Chair Board of Acupuncture

Board of Acupuncture Member 2015-2023

Dr. Jayne Tsuchiyama
Board Certified, Licensed Acupuncturist

Hawaii | New York
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808.515.9383

March 14, 2025

Subject: Support for Dr. Kepi McMenemy's reappointment to the Board of Acupuncture

Dear Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly support the reappointment of Dr. Kepi McMenemy to the Board of Acupuncture. Her leadership, expertise, and commitment to high standards have greatly benefited Hawaii's acupuncture community and public health.

Dr. McMenemy has fostered collaboration among practitioners, upheld regulatory integrity, and advocated for policies that enhance patient access to safe and effective acupuncture care. Her ability to engage stakeholders and maintain high professional standards has strengthened the field's credibility.

Her continued leadership will be invaluable in maintaining the integrity and progress of acupuncture practice in Hawaii. I respectfully urge her reappointment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Tsuchiyama". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Jayne Tsuchiyama
D.Ac., Dipl. OM, DAOM

Current Board Commissioner, NCCAOM
Former Chair, Hawaii State Board of Acupuncture

GM-535

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 2:02:51 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARTA REBELLA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of Dr. McMenemy remaining on the Board of Acupuncture since she provides a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the Board.

I have served on the Board of Acupuncture with Dr, McMenemy for almost 3 years. During this time, Dr. McMenemy has assisted Board members in making wise decisions relating to Acupuncture. The Board has been able to propose revisions to existing regulations that reflect current pactices in the field of Acupuncture.

Dr. McMenemy is a great Chairperson and solicits input from the entire Board. The meetings are well run and productive.

Dr. McMenemy is wonderful asset and I enjoy working with her.

GM-535

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 4:29:34 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael McMenemy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Deborah McMenemy for 35 years, and she is a person of the highest caliber and an excellent acupuncturist. She serves our community tirelessly, and wishes to serve the public and her profession always.

GM-535

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 4:38:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wai H. Low	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I FULLY SUPPORT DEBORAH TO THE BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE.

Thank you

GM-535

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 5:11:11 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry L Mizumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit support for GM535 which is for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Acupuncture for Deborah McMenemy.

GM-535

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 12:40:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/21/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kali Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Our 4-person family has been receiving treatment from Dr. MCMENEMY for several years. Not only has she significantly improved the quality of our day-to-day lives, but she also provides a great service to the community by offering affordable acupuncture. It is with great love, support, and admiration we submit a testimony on behalf of Dr. Mcmenemy. Her pride in her work, the outstanding ethical practices surrounding her treatments, and her care for clients are unparalleled in all of my time experiencing acupuncture in the State of Hawaii and beyond. Mahalo for consideration for her final extension on the Board of Hawaii.

Kali Thomas