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Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

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

On the following measure:
G.M. 683, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, STEVEN R. TAKETA,
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 Steven R. Taketa, PSY. D., as a licensed member for the Board of Psychology (Board).

Dr. Taketa's academic credentials provide a strong foundation for his work in the field of psychology. He earned a Doctor of Clinical Psychology from Argosy University, Hawaii, an APA-accredited program, and a master's degree in clinical psychology from the same institution. His Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Hawaii-West Oahu further complements his deep understanding of the discipline.

Professionally, Dr. Taketa has demonstrated a remarkable breadth of experience. He is the owner and operator of Steven R. Taketa, Psy.D., LLC, where he

provides clinical and forensic psychological services, including court-appointed examinations. His expertise in forensic psychology, paired with his ability to manage complex cases, underscores his qualifications.

In addition to his private practice, Dr. Taketa has served as a tenured Clinical Psychologist and faculty member at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu. In this capacity, he contributed to policy development, supervised mental health staff, and played an active role in crisis intervention as a member of the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT). This experience highlights his leadership and commitment to mental health within the academic community.

Dr. Taketa has also mentored the next generation of psychologists, serving as an Intervention and Diagnostic Practicum Supervisor and as Internship Training Director at Hawaii Pacific Internship. His dedication to fostering the development of ethical and competent professionals is evident in these roles.

Dr. Taketa's academic background, combined with his extensive clinical and educational experience, makes him well-qualified to serve on the Board of Psychology.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testimony of the Board of Psychology

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, March 21, 2025
9:30 a.m.
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G.M. 683, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, STEVEN R. TAKETA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2029**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Steven Taketa's appointment to the Board as a licensed member.

Dr. Taketa has nearly 20 years of experience in psychology obtaining Hawaii licensure in 2012. His experience in the field of psychology is diverse, including but not limited to: (1) providing therapy, training, clinical support in forensic and private practice settings; (2) facilitating evaluations and assessments of acutely mentally ill patients contributing to their treatment plans; (3) educating and training students of psychology, including implementing training programs; and (4) in his current position as University of Hawaii, West Oahu Campus's, first full-time Clinical Psychologist, directing the university's counseling and wellness program. Dr. Taketa's knowledge of the education standards of training, the practice of psychology in private, and forensic settings, and the breadth of his experience contribute to a well-rounded perspective for the Board.

The Board strongly feels that Dr. Taketa will provide crucial insights to Board dealings, including but not limited to the review of complex applications for licensure, support developing administrative rule amendments and legislative testimony, and addressing disciplinary actions of licensees. In addition, his desire to serve on the Board and commitment to actively participate in board meetings enhances the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 10:00:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miri Yi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Committee Chairs and Members,

I would like to submit testimony in **strong support** of Dr. Taketa's nomination.

Our community greatly benefits from dedicated, compassionate, and professional providers like Dr. Taketa. His commitment to quality care and service makes him an invaluable asset to Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Dr. Steven Taketa.

Mahalo nui loa,

Miri Yi