

March 23, 2025

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

RE: Nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation
GM699 – Lisa Rantz

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit responses in support of my nomination to continue serving on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC). It is a privilege to contribute to the advancement of rural and community-based healthcare throughout the state. Below are my responses to your questions:

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation?

I wish to continue serving on the HHSC Board of Directors because I am committed to advancing equitable, high-quality healthcare access across Hawaii, especially for rural and underserved populations. My work has centered on improving healthcare infrastructure, workforce development, and system-wide collaboration, and I believe HHSC is critical to addressing these statewide challenges.

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation?

A board member is responsible for strategic governance and fiduciary oversight of HHSC, ensuring operational excellence, financial sustainability, and equitable access to care. The role includes setting long-term goals, collaborating with regional leadership, and aligning policies and resources to strengthen Hawaii's public hospital system.

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?

With over a decade of experience in healthcare policy, nonprofit leadership, and workforce development, I bring skills in strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and coalition building. As Executive Director of the Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation and AHEC Director for Hawaii County, I have secured critical funding for provider training and recruitment. My leadership roles with the Hawaii State Rural Health Association, Access to Care Initiative, and the Hawaii Medical Education Council further demonstrate my commitment and preparedness for this role.

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

I aim to enhance regional collaboration within HHSC, support innovative solutions for healthcare workforce shortages, and strengthen financial and operational sustainability. I also intend to advance strategic initiatives that position Hawaii as a national leader in rural healthcare innovation.

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

- *Collaborative:* I excel at building strong partnerships and aligning multi-sector stakeholders toward shared goals.
- *Strategic:* I bring a systems-thinking approach and long-term vision to complex healthcare challenges.
- *Persistent:* I am results-oriented and committed to driving sustainable change through perseverance and adaptability.

These qualities allow me to contribute effectively to the board's mission of improving health outcomes statewide.

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

As President of the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association, I led the development of provider subsidy programs, secured Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations, and successfully advocated for state and federal funding. This experience directly supports the goals of HHSC and its rural-serving facilities.

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?

While I do not foresee any direct conflicts at this time, I understand that potential conflicts may arise through partnerships or affiliations. I would address such situations with transparency, disclose any potential conflicts promptly, and recuse myself from related decisions in accordance with HHSC's ethical standards.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of public healthcare in Hawaii. I would be honored to continue serving and advancing the mission of HHSC.

With gratitude,

Lisa Rantz



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, M.D.
ADMINISTRATOR

April 3, 2025

To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair and
Honorable Members

From: Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA

Regarding: GM 699 - Nomination of Lisa Rantz to the Hawai`i Health Service
Corporation Corporate Board

Hearing: Monday, April 7, 2025 @ 1:00 pm; Conference Room 225

Position: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports this Gubernatorial nomination of Lisa Rantz, MPH, to the Hawai`i Health Services Corporation (HHSC) Board of Directors. Ms. Rantz is President of the Hawai`i State Rural Health Association, and Executive Director of the Hilo-Benioff Medical Center Foundation. She is also a Fellow of the National Rural Health Association.

SHPDA works closely with Ms. Rantz on various healthcare policy issues and considers her to be an influential and knowledgeable member of the Hawai`i Island healthcare community. Given that the Hilo-Benioff Medical Center is a prominent and important acute care facility in the HHSC public hospital system, she is fully acquainted with the issues HHSC faces as well as its organizational goals.

For all these reasons, she will make an excellent member of the HHSC Board of Directors. We support this nomination without reservation and with great enthusiasm.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 11:22:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Mochida-Meek	Testifying for Hawaii State Rural Health Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Summer Mochida-Meek, and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Governor Green’s nomination of Lisa Rantz to the Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), as outlined in GM699.

Lisa Rantz is an outstanding health leader whose deep commitment to improving healthcare access across Hawai‘i is matched by her record of service and collaboration. I have had the privilege of working closely with Lisa through the Hawai‘i State Rural Health Association (HSRHA), where she served as our Board President. In this role, she provided visionary leadership, championed rural health equity, and helped build strategic partnerships to strengthen healthcare systems across our state.

In addition, Lisa’s leadership of the Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation and her statewide and national engagement on health policy and innovation make her an exceptional candidate for the HHSC Board.

Lisa’s nomination reflects a deep understanding of what our health systems need to thrive—especially in communities that have long faced disparities. I am confident that her voice on the HHSC Board will be both thoughtful and transformative.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Lisa Rantz.

Mahalo,

Summer Mochida-Meek
Executive Director, Hawai‘i State Rural Health Association

summer@hsrha.org

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 9:24:30 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juliette Tulang	Testifying for Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lisa Rantz has done a remarkable job supporting the health needs on Hawaii Island, such as providing Hands-Only CPR, securing AEDs for all police cars and public locations that offer services for groups of citizens, conducting the "Diabetes Care" community gathering to build better awareness for creating better policies, securing HPSA physician shortage designation for Hawaii Island, and securing the AHEC fund to build awareness about healthcare-related careers.

Lisa has served as an exceptional representative on the HHSC Board on rural health care and needs issues.

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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM699

Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LISA RANTZ, for a term to expire 06-30-2029

Hearing: Monday, April 7, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

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

I am writing to express my **strong support** for the reappointment of Lisa Rantz to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) for a term ending on June 30, 2029. Having collaborated closely with Lisa for several years, I am confident that her extensive experience, unwavering dedication, and exemplary leadership make her an exceptional candidate.

Lisa is actively involved in Hawaii's healthcare landscape and shares her knowledge and resources as a member of various service organizations and boards. As co-chairs of the HHSC Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS) Committee, Lisa and I have partnered to elevate the standards of care, enhance patient safety, and enrich patient experiences across our communities. Her collaborative approach and articulate communication skills have fostered numerous critical initiatives statewide. As a member of Hawai'i Care Choices Board of Directors and Chair of the Advancement and Engagement Committee, she contributes to developing policies that uphold regulatory, legal, and ethical integrity.

Additionally, Lisa is committed to improving rural healthcare and addressing physician shortages through her advocacy with national and state leaders. Lisa's steadfast passion for healthcare improvement and her proven leadership will strengthen the efforts of the HHSC board.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of her appointment. I wholeheartedly endorse Lisa Rantz and believe she will bring valuable insight and resolute commitment to our collective mission.

Sincerely,



Brenda S. Ho, MS, RN
Chief Executive Officer



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 699**

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

Since joining the HHSC Corporate Board of Directors in 2024, Ms. Lisa Rantz has quickly stepped into her role with unparalleled expertise, bringing a wealth of knowledge and dedication to the Board. Thus far, exceptional leadership and a deep commitment towards advancing healthcare initiatives have marked her tenure as a board member. With her extensive background in rural health, Ms. Rantz has served the board with distinction, providing invaluable insights that are enhancing HHSC's strategic direction. Her contributions are a testament to her ability to drive meaningful change and foster collaborative relationships.

HHSC is deeply grateful to Ms. Rantz for her professional commitment to rural health in Hawaii and for her willingness to continue to serve on HHSC's Corporate Board of Directors.

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

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 8:55:06 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 Hawai'i Region of HHSC's full support for Gubernatorial Nominee Lisa Rantz's consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation.

All of HHSC, especially the East Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i Health Clinics, greatly benefit from Ms. Rantz's contributions, expertise and guidance to improve rural healthcare.

We ask that you confirm Ms. Rantz through GM699 so that she may continue serving in the best interests of healthcare for our state and our East Hawaii Region as a member of the Corporate Board of Directors for Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Mahalo!



Edward Gutteling, MD, FAAOS

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Hilo, Hawai'i 96721
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3 April, 2025

- **ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY**
- **SPORTS MEDICINE**

RE: Liza Rantz, re-appointment to HHSC Corporate Board

- Team Orthopedic Surgeon
University of Hawaii – Hilo
Vulcan Athletics

Vulcan Athletic Hall of Fame 2015

- (Fmr) Asst. Clin. Prof. of Surgery
University of Hawaii, John A. Burns
School of Medicine

- (Fmr) Community Faculty
Hawaii Island Family Medicine
Residency

- Fellow, American Academy of
Orthopedic Surgery

- Board Certified, American Board
of Orthopedic Surgery

- Orthopedic Research Fellowship,
UMDNJ

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and committee members

Ms. Liza Rantz has served with great efficacy and professionalism on the board of HHSC, as well as in other roles such as the Executive Director of the Hilo (Benioff) Medical Center Foundation, and as Hawaii State Association Council Chair of the National Rural Health Association.

She is an asset to our community, providing energetic leadership and initiative in the increasingly difficult role of preventing the further decades-long decline in our East Hawaii healthcare resources and manpower.

She has helped us all in a variety of ways, through her dedicated focus and skills.

She enjoys wide respect by all, very well earned.

I strongly recommend her reappointment, as we would be hurting if she was not there.

Yours sincerely

Warmest aloha

Edward Gutteling, MD, FAAOS



Hawaii Medical Association

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Date: April 7, 2025

From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)

Jerald Garcia MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD, HMA President

RE GM 699 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), Gubernatorial Nominee, LISA RANTZ - Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Position: Strong Support

The Hawaii Medical Association (HMA) submits this letter in strong support for the nomination of Ms Lisa Rantz to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Ms Rantz is a conscientious and purposeful community advocate who has worked many years to increase healthcare access for patients, particularly in the rural and underserved areas of Hawaii.

HMA has had the pleasure of working directly with Ms Rantz on Hawaii healthcare education and outreach projects over the years. She is knowledgeable, proactive and tirelessly committed to the health and well-being of all Hawaii patients. As her strong record reflects, Ms Rantz has been a positive force for Hawaii, bringing together health stakeholders and interest groups to affect significant change for the county of Big Island as well as statewide. In addition to her important service for the Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation, Ms Rantz' creative and collaborative efforts for the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) for Hawaii Island as well as the Hawaii State Rural Health Association (HSRHA) are wonderful examples of her ongoing focused endeavors and impactful success.

It is clear that Ms Rantz will be an outstanding addition to the HHSC Board of Directors, and Hawaii Medical Association is pleased to offer this letter in strong support without reservation.

2025 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, President • Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President Elect • Angela Pratt, MD, Immediate Past President
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2025 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

Jerald Garcia, MD, Chair
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 9:34:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Marquette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the Chief Medial Officer at Hamaka Kohala Health I support Lisa Ranz's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation. She is well qualified to contribute effectively to the work of the Board. She has proven herself to be an effective leader and board member.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 7:28:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerry Glass	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lisa Rantz is a dedicated Executive Director of our Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation. She is trusted by the hospital and community.

She will make an excellent HHSC Corporate Board member.

Kerry Glass

April 2, 2025

To whom it may concern,

As a member of the HBMC Foundation, I've had the opportunity to work with Lisa Rantz. She is a dedicated professional with an exemplary work ethic. She has guided the HBMC Foundation with skill and expertise, making the organization a high performing and effective asset to Hilo Benioff Medical Center.

Thank you for considering this testimony on her behalf.

Sincerely,

Richard Robbins, M.D.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 2:44:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JD Domizio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator San Buenaventura,

As someone who has worked closely with Lisa Rantz for the past eight years, I am honored to submit this testimony in strong support of her re-appointment to the to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation. Lisa has remained a dedicated advocate for community well-being, public health, healthcare advancement in Hawai'i, and access to critical healthcare, Lisa has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, expertise, and a deep commitment to serving our communities.

Lisa Rantz has a proven track record significant, impactful contributions to healthcare in Hawai'i, particularly on Big Island. Lisa's has worked tirelessly to improve access to quality healthcare, address health disparities, and support initiatives that uplift the health and wellness of our diverse populations. Her diligence has also helped bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars to support multiple medical education institutions, providing everything from funds for upgraded equipment to acquiring housing for medical students and Residents on rural rotations to help recruit and retain providers. Additionally, her contributions to the designation of the entire Big Island a Health professional Shortage Area (HPSA) have changed the entire landscape of rural healthcare on our Island, helping to establish more clinics and allow existing care providers' practices increased sustainability

Lisa's impressive ability to collaborate with stakeholders, engage with community members, and develop innovative solutions makes them an invaluable asset to the Board. Lisa Rantz possesses the vision, integrity, and passion necessary to drive impactful change, often selflessly sacrificing her evenings and weekends to support everyone in the HBMC Foundation network. Lisa's re-appointment will undoubtedly strengthen the Board's efforts to create healthier and more equitable communities with access to sustainable, quality healthcare across Hawai'i.

I wholeheartedly support Lisa Rantz re-appointment to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation and encourage your favorable consideration of her nomination.

Mahalo nui loa for your time & consideration,

JD Domizio

Associate Director- AHEC

Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 11:27:00 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clayton McGhan	Testifying for HHSC- West Hawaii Region	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Lisa Rantz's appointment to the HHSC Corporate Board.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 11:00:43 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CANDACE D MOORE	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I cannot think of a more capable or worthy person to fill this position than Lisa Rantz. I support her appointment without reservation.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 10:25:44 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 the reappointment of Lisa Rantz to the HHSC Corporate Board.

Lisa brings extensive knowledge of our healthcare system from her years serving and leading the Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation, the Hawaii State Rural Health Association, AHEC of Hawaii, and her fellowship with the National Rural Health Association. I have personally worked alongside Lisa on many impactful initiatives to improve healthcare infrastructure and access in rural Hawaii. She will bring important understanding, knowledge and insights to the corporate board where much of its resources serve the rural areas of our state.

Mahalo again for your consideration of Lisa and her reappointment to the HHSC Corporate Board.

Warm Regards

Randy Kurohara

LATE

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of GM 699

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Lisa Rantz to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation. Lisa is a proven leader whose commitment to healthcare access, particularly in rural communities, makes her an ideal choice to continue serving in this important role. Her ability to bring people together, navigate complex issues, and advocate for meaningful improvements in our healthcare system is truly exceptional.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Lisa on a project focused on improving community health outcomes. Through that experience, I witnessed her deep dedication, collaborative spirit, and tireless work ethic. Lisa approaches every conversation with purpose, listens thoughtfully, and consistently keeps the needs of our communities at the forefront of her efforts.

Her love for the people of Hawai'i and her commitment to rural health are clear in everything she does. Lisa's continued service on the HHSC Board will ensure that our healthcare system benefits from a leader who is both visionary and grounded in community values. I strongly support her appointment and know she will serve with distinction.

Sincerely,

Lynn Finnegan

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/5/2025 12:22:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Frank H. Sayre, D.D.S.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I currently serve on the HHSC corporate board with Ms. Rantz. I have found her to be very informed, engaged and purposeful. Her commitment to the healthcare of our residents and visitors is beyond question. Her background, dedication and education have been assets to the HHSC Board. I strongly support her re-appointment. Mahalo nui.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/6/2025 8:59:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Rantz	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

699 GM Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, Gubernatorial Nominee, LISA RANTZ, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Response to written questions submitted via email to Chair San Buenaventura's Office.

GM-699

Submitted on: 4/6/2025 11:41:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John K. Uohara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it may concern:

I wholeheartedly support the renomination of Lisa Rantz. Prior to retiring I had practiced in Hilo as an Ob/Gyn for 39 years and have also served on the East Hawaii Regional Board. Lisa Rantz has been one of the strongest advocates of Rural Health Care in our community. She is engaging, thoughtful, knowledgeable on all levels in our community. I have worked with her on many projects and give my unequivocally support to her renomination. John K. Uohara MD, FACOG.