

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

I wish to advocate for policies and programs that improve the quality of life for our kūpuna, especially policies and programs that allow kūpuna to age at home.

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

The principal role of a member of PABEA is to advise and provide wise and timely counsel to the Director of the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) and to assist the staff of EOA.

3. Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities as a member of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the board.

I am committed to the goals and priorities of EOA. In my career and volunteer experience, I have exercised strategic thinking and planning, leadership and team building, engagement with diverse populations, and constructive interpersonal skills. I understand group dynamics and can facilitate groups towards common goals. I have worked in aging and healthcare for over 35 years.

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

I will contribute to the enhancement of supports to the unpaid family caregivers in our State.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

I am honest, patient, and persevering. Often times, the road to improvements in our community can be long and filled with obstacles. I will keep my eyes on the goals.

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

I am in my sixth and final year serving as AARP Hawai'i State President. The State President is the top volunteer position in Hawai'i, provides strategic advice to the AARP Hawai'i staff, oversees the AARP Hawai'i Executive Council, and advocates on behalf of people ages 50 and older. The State President represents AARP at public events, with the media, and at the State Legislature.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest. I will recuse myself from any discussions or any decision-making on any issue which is a conflict of interest for me or for my immediate family.

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

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



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM538
Consideration and Confirmation for the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs,
Gubernatorial Nominee Gary Simon, for a term to expire 06-30-2028**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR HENRY J.C. AQUINO, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Monday, February 24, 2025, 1:05 P.M., Conference Room 225

EOA's Position: EOA supports the nomination of Mr. Gary Simon to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

Comments: HRS 349-4 established PABEA to advise the Director on issues, approaches to solutions, development of position statements, advocacy, legislative actions, program development and operations. Mr. Simon is committed to public service and has shown dedication to improve the quality of life for our kūpuna throughout his professional career and in retirement. He worked for St. Francis for thirty years directing programs for older adults, including hospice, emergency response services, and health services.

Currently, he is an active and committed member of the PABEA, Kupuna Caucus, AARP, and Family Caregiver Coalition. EOA has benefitted greatly from his involvement in PABEA. He has served twice as the PABEA Board Chair and Vice Chair and currently, serves on the PABEA

Legislative Committee where he often provides helpful information and insight on legislative bills and issues related to aging and disabilities.

Mr. Simon provides extensive knowledge and experience to PABEA and is a valued asset in providing guidance to the EOA. For these reasons, EOA strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Simon.



1001 Bishop Street | Suite 625 | Honolulu, HI 96813-2830
1-866-295-7282 | Fax: 808-536-2882
aarp.org/hi | aarphi@aarp.org | twitter.com/AARPHawaii
facebook.com/AARPHawaii

The State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Governor's Message (GM) 538- Gary Simon
Monday, February 24, 2025
Conference Room 225
1:05 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice-Chair
FROM: Keali'i S. López, State Director, AARP Hawai'i
RE: Strong Support for GM 538 – Gary Simon

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

My name is Keali'i Lopez and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social impact organization that advocates for individuals aged 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawai'i. We advocate at the state and federal level for issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

AARP Hawaii is in strong support for the appointment of Gary Simon to Hawaii's Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. With a distinguished professional history in the health and gerontology field, Gary has consistently demonstrated his dedication and passion for advocating on behalf of older adults in our community.

Gary's extensive experience as a health care executive has equipped him with a deep understanding of the complexities and challenges faced by our aging population. His ability to analyze and develop effective policies has been instrumental in driving positive change and improving the quality of life for many kupuna in Hawaii.

Throughout his career, Gary has been a fierce advocate for older adults, tirelessly working to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met. His efforts have not only benefited individual kupuna but have also strengthened our community as a whole.

AARP wholeheartedly endorses Gary Simon's appointment to Hawaii's Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs. I am confident that he will continue to be a valuable asset to our community and a strong advocate for our older population. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gary Simon.

GM-538

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:56:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/24/2025 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelene Tenno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support GM 538

For consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, GARY SIMON.

Gary Simon is a great asset to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs and I support his confirmation. We need his expertise as Hawaii's aging population is only getting larger.

Thank you for allowing the submission of this testimony in Support of GM 538, Gary Simon.

Beverly Ann Gotelli
6286 Opaekaa Road
Kapaa, HI, 96746

Senate Committee on Health and Human Resources
Monday, February 24, 2025
1:05 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

GM 538

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair and members of the Committee:

I'm Beverly Gotelli writing in strong support of GM 538 the appointment of Gary Simon to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

I've known Gary since my appointment to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs in 2020. Gary has a strong background in Kupuna matters and his willingness to share this with members. He is an active member of the community and yet never forgets that Kupuna needs to be respected and cared for. Gary is a very proactive individual who brings much to our meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 538

Beverly Ann Gotelli