

**Testimony of the Hawaii Medical Board**

**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. 705, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ANDREW FONG,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2027**

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 Hawaii Medical Board (Board). The Board supports Andrew Fong, M.D.'s reappointment to the Board as a licensee member.

Dr. Fong has been licensed since March 2, 1998, and his license is current, active, and in good standing. Dr. Fong has served on the Board since July 1, 2019.

Dr. Fong has been a reliable member who regularly attends meetings. As a resident and practicing physician of Hawaii Island, Dr. Fong volunteers to take significant amounts of time out of his busy schedule as a pediatrician to attend Board meetings in Honolulu. Dr. Fong is well prepared for meetings and is not afraid to ask questions when issues are unclear. It is evident that Dr. Fong will continue to be a great asset to the Board and the community.

The Board believes that Dr. Fong'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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Hearing: March 21, 2025, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole  
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813

**LATE**

RE: In **SUPPORT** of GM 705 – For consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Medical Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANDREW FONG, MD, for a term to expire 6-30-2027

Aloha e Senator Keohokole,

It is with pleasure that I recommend Dr. Andrew “Rick” Fong for reappointment to the Hawai'i Medical Board. Until 2024, Dr. Fong was a pediatrician with Hawai'i Permanente Medical Group and served as Kaiser Permanente's physician-in-charge of Hawai'i Island.

In his role as physician-in-charge of Hawai'i Island, Dr. Fong oversaw clinical operations at Kaiser Permanente's Hilo, Waimea, Kona clinics. In this role, he has helped to create patient-centered care experiences for our approximately 31,300 members on Hawai'i Island.

Prior to joining Kaiser Permanente in 1998, Dr. Fong served as a staff pediatrician at Coastal Pediatrics in Ventura and Oxnard, California. He is a proud graduate of the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i and completed his residency with Kaiser Permanente's Oakland Medical Center. Born and raised on Oahu, Dr. Fong now resides with his 'ohana on Hawai'i Island.

Dr. Fong's experience in a variety of healthcare settings, including those in rural areas, will help to inform his decisions and recommendations as a member of the Hawai'i Medical Board. He is incredibly knowledgeable and capable of understanding the larger issues facing the medical practice. Dr. Fong is a well-liked and trusted colleague who is frequently sought out for his advice. Therefore, we believe he will continue to be an asset to the Hawai'i Medical Board, which he has served on since 2019.

Accordingly, on behalf of Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i, I urge the committee and the Senate to confirm the appointment of Dr. Andrew R. Fong to the Hawai'i Medical Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

