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## **Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the**  
**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**  
**Friday, April 11, 2025**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 229, and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:**  
**G.M. 731, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION**  
**TO THE BOARD OF NURSING,**  
**GOVERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DARRYN DUNBAR,**  
**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 Darryn Dunbar, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, as a licensed member for the Board of Nursing (Board).

Darryn Dunbar is a seasoned nursing leader with extensive experience in healthcare administration and operations. Currently, as Senior System Director of Nursing Administration and Operations at The Queen's Medical Center, he has led significant initiatives, including reducing clinical contract labor from over 400 to 170 FTEs, implementing staffing differentials during pandemic surges, and developing workforce strategies to enhance recruitment and retention.

Mr. Dunbar has demonstrated key leadership competencies, critical thinking and effective communication. He has successfully navigated complex healthcare environments and led multidisciplinary teams to drive improvements in operational performance and patient care outcomes.

He holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership from Johns Hopkins University, a Master of Science in Maternal-Child Nursing and Nurse-Midwifery from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Illinois Wesleyan University.

Mr. Dunbar's extensive background, combined with his extensive experience offers a welcomed perspective for the Board of Nursing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

### NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE OUTPATIENT CENTER

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Madeleine Tsamis, MSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC  
The Queen's Medical Center  
Regional Manager of Neuroscience Clinics  
[Mtsamis@queens.org](mailto:Mtsamis@queens.org)  
4/1/25

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with the utmost enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation in support of Darryn Dunbar's candidacy for a position on the Hawai'i Board of Nursing.

I had the privilege of working under Darryn's leadership at The Queen's Medical Center, where he served as my director. Darryn brings a unique blend of visionary thinking and hands-on leadership that is rarely encountered. He is a strategic thinker in the truest sense—always several steps ahead, yet deeply grounded in the values and mission of Queen's. His commitment to advancing the health and wellbeing of Hawai'i's people is not performative; it is personal and palpable in every decision he makes.

Darryn's professional journey reflects a rare breadth and depth of experience—spanning direct patient care, nursing leadership, academic teaching, and national-level advocacy. He is deeply respected by those he leads, and he invests in others with quiet confidence and purpose. Whether leading through a global pandemic or preparing for a nursing strike, Darryn centers the patient, the profession, and the people of Hawai'i.

What I have always found most compelling about Darryn is his ability to connect the dots between clinical realities and policy-level change. He doesn't just respond to challenges—he anticipates them. He views regulation not as a constraint, but as a tool to elevate the profession and protect the public. His potential contribution to the Hawai'i Board of Nursing lies not only in his impressive resume, but in his steady hand, his deep listening, and his unwavering integrity.

Darryn is also someone who knows how to build bridges. He is inclusive by nature, thoughtful in his collaborations, and has a unique ability to find common ground even amidst differences. In a space where the stakes are high and the impact far-reaching, Darryn brings both the courage and the humility needed to serve.

In short, Darryn would be an extraordinary asset to the Hawai'i Board of Nursing. He is a servant leader, a systems thinker, and a nurse in the fullest and most honorable sense of the word.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information or insight. I offer my highest and most heartfelt recommendation.

Warmest regards,

Madeleine Tsamis, MSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC



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**Jacob Porter** MSN, RN, CEN, SCR.N, NE-BC

The Queen's Medical Center

Manager of Nursing Resources

[REDACTED]

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Welina me ke aloha,

I am honored to write this letter in support of Darryn Dunbar's appointment to the Hawai'i Board of Nursing.

As the Manager of Nursing Resources at The Queen's Medical Center, I have the distinct honor and privilege of working under Darryn's leadership in his role as Senior Director of Nursing Administration and Operations. His guidance and expertise have had a significant and lasting impact not only on our organization, but also on my own growth as a leader.

Darryn is an exceptional nursing leader whose depth of experience spans both clinical specialties and operational domains. His command of nursing operations is unmatched; shaped by years of hands-on leadership and a deep understanding of the complexities of healthcare delivery. At Queen's, Darryn's leadership has been and will continue to be integral to the success of our healthcare system. He brings clarity, purpose, and strategic insight to every challenge, consistently ensuring our teams are empowered to deliver the highest standard of care.

Beyond his technical expertise, Darryn is a passionate advocate for the mission and vision of our organization. His dedication to advancing the profession of nursing and improving patient care is evident in all that he does. He is engaged, thoughtful, and deeply committed to the well-being of both patients and staff.

I believe Darryn would be an outstanding addition to the Hawai'i Board of Nursing. His blend of operational excellence, strategic leadership, and genuine care for our profession makes him uniquely suited to help shape the future of nursing in our state. In any capacity, professional or personal, Darryn has my full support, commendation, and recommendation.

Thank you for considering this letter of support. I am available at any time should additional information, clarification, or further insight be required.

‘O au iho nō me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

**Jacob Porter** MSN, RN, CEN, SCR.N, NE-BC

Dear Members of the Hawaii Board of Nursing,

It is with great pleasure that I show my support of Dr. Darryn Dunbar's appointment to the Hawaii Board of Nursing. I have known Dr. Dunbar for five years and during that time I have seen firsthand his dedication and passion for advancing the nursing profession while placing patient care at the heart of his decisions.

Dr. Dunbar has had several senior level positions during his tenure at The Queens Medical Center. Initially I knew him to be Director of Emergency Services and Critical Care where his commitment was evident. In the height of the Covid pandemic he led with the grace and resiliency needed to keep his areas moving forward in uncharted territory. With his areas exceeding expectations, it is without surprise Dr. Dunbar was recognized for his efforts by his promotion to Senior Director of Nursing Administration and later the addition of Maternal-Child Services.

It is quite evident the Dr. Dunbar's dedication and devotion to the nursing profession. He shows this in his career path and his educational commitment. Obtaining a Doctorate in Nursing is reflective in that devotion and has enabled him to share his unique understanding of quality and evidenced based practice.

It is without question I believe Dr. Dunbar would be an excellent addition to the Board of Nursing. The nursing community would benefit from his commitment to upholding exceptional standards of care by using his leadership and expertise in the field.

Please let me know if you have questions or need clarification for your consideration of Dr. Dunbar.

Dianna Motley