

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony or Lorrin Kim, Chief, Office of Planning and Policy
in SUPPORT of GM507**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of
Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire 12-3-2018**

**SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A

2 **Department Testimony:** On behalf of the Hawaii Department of Health, Office of Planning
3 and Policy, I strongly support the nomination of Ms. Virginia Pressler, MD for Director of
4 Health. Dr. Pressler's appointment in early January was greeted with unanimous and instant
5 support from department management and staff, particularly as her accomplishments and
6 reputation as a former Deputy Director of Health and private sector executive leadership and
7 community health advocacy preceded her.

8 My experiences with Dr. Pressler include the Hawaii Healthcare Project, which set out an
9 ambitious healthcare reform path for the State of Hawaii, and the Community Health Needs
10 Assessment Initiative in coordination with the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, which
11 established and updated critical baselines for our state's health status.

12 As Director of Health for the past four months, Dr. Pressler has inspired the confidence
13 of department staff with her insightful problem-solving, trust in the abilities of her colleagues
14 and staff, and a willingness to listen and learn from others – qualities that no doubt explain her
15 storied resume and numerous community awards throughout her career.

16 I respectfully urge his swift confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong
17 support.

18 **Offered Amendments:** N/A



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 1, 15

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **GM 507 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire 12-31-2018.**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 1, 2015; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol

I am writing **in strong support** of the confirmation of Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH). Dr. Pressler is a well respected, experienced and successful leader in our community and her experience as a bank manager, surgeon, health plan administrator, DOH deputy, and healthcare executive has prepared her to take on this challenging and critical executive leadership position at the DOH. Ginny has earned a BA degree from Cornell University; and she also earned an MBA, MS in physiology, and MD degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Dr. Pressler brings to the DOH a distinguished academic perspective and wealth of experiences and knowledge gained from working with healthcare organizations, community

action agencies, healthcare professionals, public organizations, and other stakeholders across our islands to improve the delivery of healthcare.

Over the last three months I have the distinct pleasure and honor of working with Ginny and her team at the DOH on health and human services matters that impact the DHS' low-income and vulnerable families and individuals, including our *keiki* and *kupuna*. I found Ginny to be a person of tremendous integrity, character, morals, ethics and who is willing to work collaboratively to engage community stakeholders to improve the community's health. The DHS is pleased and lucky of have Ginny as a partner and we are looking forward to working with her and her outstanding team to expand the capacity of our families for self-sufficiency, self-determination, independence, healthy choices, quality of life, and personal dignity.

Thank you for your consideration of Dr. Ginny Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health.



April 1, 2015

To: Senator Green, Chair, Senator Wakai, Vice-Chair, and Senate Health Committee

From: Nancy Partika, President, Hawaii Public Health Association

Subject: Strong Support for GM 507, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Virginia Pressler, MD.

Aloha Senator Green, Senator Wakai and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA), Board and our 600+ membership statewide, I wish to express our strong support for the confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler as our new Director of Health. As the oldest and most respected public health professional association in the state, HPHA requested that Governor Ige appoint a public health experienced professional to lead the DOH, and we were pleased to see such a highly-qualified individual selected.

Previously Dr. Pressler was Executive Vice President & Chief Strategic Officer for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH), a non-profit healthcare network that includes Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children, Straub Clinic & Hospital, Pali Momi Medical Center, & Wilcox Hospital & Kauai Medical Clinic. Prior to joining Hawaii Pacific Health, Dr. Pressler's career included: Deputy Director of the Hawaii State Dept. of Health, President & CEO of the Queen's/HMSA Premier Plan, Vice President at The Queen's Health Systems, Director of Surgical Education at The Queen's Medical Center, Associate Professor of surgery at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and private practice in general surgery. As a former Deputy Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health, Dr. Pressler initiated the Tobacco Trust Fund, the Healthy Hawaii Initiative, the Hawai'i Outcomes Institute, the Hawaii Uninsured Project and helped initiate the Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, serving as chair from 2003 to 2005.

Hawaii faces many challenges to its public health system, including threats to our health and environment, a large public health workforce to manage and departmental accreditation, among many other issues. We believe that Dr. Pressler will serve as a strong and capable administrator for public health, capably addressing the challenges the Department faces, collaborating well with staff and community, and providing vision for the largest public health workforce body in the state. We look forward to collaborating with Dr. Pressler and her staff on continuing to build a public health system that addresses Hawaii's changing needs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important leadership issue..

Attachment: HPHA Factsheet

Wendy K. Nihoa
Honolulu, Hawaii 96707
wknihoa@yahoo.com
April 1, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Walker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee:

RE: Governor's Message 507 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire December 3, 2018

I am pleased to offer written testimony in my own accord to express my strong support of the confirmation of Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health.

I am currently employed as the Treatment and Recovery Branch Chief of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD). ADAD is the primary and often sole source of public funds for substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Agency efforts are designed to promote a statewide system of care inclusive of culturally appropriate treatment approaches and clinical best practices. As the lead public health officer for the state Dr. Pressler has the responsibility of for planning, administering statewide activities designed to protect, preserve and improve the physical and mental well-being of the people in the State of Hawaii.

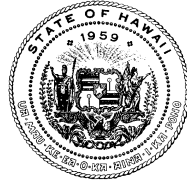
In the past, I served as the Coordinator of the State's Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (HCCCP) where Dr. Pressler served as Chair of the HCCCP Advisory Committee. Highly respected by the members of the Committee, Dr. Pressler demonstrated the leadership needed to create a state plan "No More Cancer," which addressed the issues faced by those individuals and families living with cancer.

As a highly respected member within the state's medical, business and public health communities, Dr. Pressler has demonstrated the knowledge, experience and expertise needed to lead the Department into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Dr. Virginia Pressler.

Respectfully,

Wendy K. Nihoa



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony of SUPPORT on GM507
From: Lola H. Irvin, M.Ed.
Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee,
VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire 12-3-2018

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Hearing Date/Time: April 1, 2015/1:15PM
Room Number: 414

I support the confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health. Dr. Pressler provides visionary leadership, pragmatic guidance, and the supportive environment for open discussion to find solutions. She has my utmost respect and it is a privilege to work with her to serve the people of Hawaii.

In my work managing the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division we rely on population-based data to set goals and objectives, review research and national recommendations, rely on multi-sectorial partnerships, and evaluate efforts to direct our strategies. Over the years we have turned to Dr. Pressler because of her knowledge and stature in the arena of the prevention, management, and treatment of chronic disease. She has helped ground and connect our work with opportunities like changes to the healthcare sector through the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. Until recently, Dr. Pressler served as the Chair of the Obesity Prevention Task Force. Through these experiences our team has come to know Dr. Pressler as someone who empowers others, speaks plainly and fairly, and works towards consensus. On behalf of the Division we are very supportive of the confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler for Director of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: lho@hawaiipublicpolicy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM507 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 6:54:27 PM

GM507

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa Pavlicek	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Melissa Pavlicek. I am an attorney and small business owner. In connection with my work for several organizations, I have had the opportunity to personally observe Dr. Pressler's leadership in the business community. I believe she will be an excellent director for the Department of Health and support her appointment.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, VIRGINIA PRESSLER**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **strongly supports** the confirmation of Ms. Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Ms. Pressler boasts an impressive background with her extensive experience in various high-level executive positions with Hawaii Pacific Health, the State Department of Health, the Queen's/HMSA Premier Plan, The Queen's Health Systems, The Queen's Medical Center, John A. Burns School of Medicine and in her own private practice. Her years of devotion in this field will be a great asset to her as the Director of the State Department of Health.

In addition to her detailed work experience, Ms. Pressler is active in the community with organization such as the YMCA, Hawaii Public Health Association, Hawaii Society of Clinical Oncology, Hawaii Health Connector, Hawaii Health System Corporation, and was a past Chair of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, to name a few. She has extensive experience serving on state commissions and task forces, including a U.S. Congressional Commerce Committee on health information technology and Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality. Ms. Pressler has also chaired the Chamber's Workplace Environment & Competitiveness Committee and has always committed herself to make a difference in health reform.

Ms. Pressler's wealth of experience and dedication to the community make her an ideal candidate for the position of Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.