

GM559

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Physical Therapy, gubernatorial nominee, DEBRA KUBOTA, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

Report Title: Board of Physical Therapy

Description:

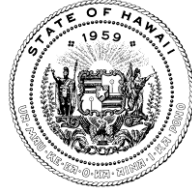
Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPN

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
4/1/2015	S	Received.
4/1/2015	S	Referred to CPN.
4/2/2015	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 04-17-15 8:30AM in conference room 229.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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P.O. Box 541
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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2015

Friday, April 17, 2015
8:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 559.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Alan Taniguchi and I am the Executive Officer for the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). The Department thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 559, regarding the **reappointment** of Debra Kubota to the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Ms. Kubota's reappointment to the Board.

Ms. Kubota has served on the Board since July 1, 2012. Ms. Kubota has been a physical therapist for over 35 years. She has experience in both the public and private sectors.

Ms. Kubota has attended 13 out of 17 Board meetings. She has volunteered to take the lead in developing a jurisprudence course which will be required of all physical therapists when they renew their licenses at the end of next year. The Board's mission to effectively oversee physical therapy in Hawaii will continue with her reappointment.

The Department supports the confirmation of Ms. Kubota to the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy, and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

April 5, 2015

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 6
Hawaii State Capital
415 S Beretania, Street Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Vice-Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senatorial District 11
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing Date: Friday, April 17, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Debra T. Kubota-Nominee for Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy, Nomination Number
GM 559

Testimony for Advise and Consent

Honorable Rosalyn Baker and Brian Taniguchi:

I am gratified to learn that Debra Kubota is seeking reappointment to the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy. Considering her extensive clinical and administrative experience and skill, I cannot think of a more qualified individual for this position. I first met Debra Kubota in 1994 and have always found her to demonstrate astute judgment. She develops excellent rapport with all individuals and is well respected and admired by her colleagues and peers. She is an asset to any team and is adept at analyzing a problem from varying perspectives and developing an innovative and effective solution. Her intelligence and tremendous work ethic have made her a gifted clinician and administrator. On a personal note, she possesses a pleasant and friendly demeanor and is of impeccable moral character. I am fortunate to be associated with her as both a professional colleague and friend. Debra Kubota is deserving of reappointment to the Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy and will continue to be an outstanding contributor to its endeavors.

Respectfully,

Anna M. Lescak, MPT, OCS

Testimony Written for Debbie T. Kubota,
Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy,
GM559, Testimony for Advise and Consent
Hearing Date April 17, 2015

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Customer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 6
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

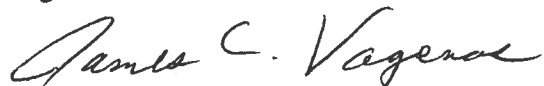
Vice Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senatorial District 11
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators Baker and Taniguchi,

I am writing to you as a personal friend and business associate of Mrs. Debbie T. Kubota who I am nominating for a physical therapist position on the Hawaii State Board of Physical Therapy. I have known Mrs. Kubota for over 10 years and fully support her nomination for the position. Over the years, she has displayed nothing but the highest integrity and moral character. Professionally, she has assisted me in analyzing numerous complex issues that we face in the healthcare industry on a daily basis. In my opinion, her ability to objectively see all sides of an issue makes her the perfect person to serve on the Board.

I feel that the State of Hawaii would sincerely benefit from an appointment of Mrs. Kubota to this position.

Regards,



James C. Vagenas
Director, Compliance Operations
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc.

From: [Julie Lund](#)
To: [CPN Testimony](#)
Subject: Debra T. Kubota - Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy, GM 559
Date: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 1:41:50 PM

April 7, 2015

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senatorial District 6
Hawaii State Capital
415 S Beretania, Street Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Vice Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi
Senatorial District 11
Hawaii State Capital
415 S Beretania, Street Room 219
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing Date: Friday, April 17, 2015 at 8:30 am
Debra T. Kubota - Nominee for Board of Physical Therapy, **GM 559**
Testimony for Advise and Consent

As a Registered Occupational Therapist and business owner who has been in practice for over 25 years, I feel excited and confident to submit my testimony on behalf of my personal friend and valued therapy peer, Debbie Kubota. I humbly feel that I am solidly qualified to testify in support of her nomination for the Board of Physical Therapy. I have had the opportunity to work along side Ms. Kubota as a work peer and as her subordinate in 2 different out-patient therapy settings. During this time, I was able to observe her behavior and expertise as she oversaw the execution of therapy services. Her commitment to excellence in everything she does is an over-riding characteristic of her professional approach. Ms. Kubota is invested in "doing things right" such that patient, therapist, physician and payor are all considered in the proper execution of services. I have always found her to be fair, very committed to her profession and a champion for providing quality therapy services.

Not only can I speak to her professional integrity, I am fortunate to testify on behalf of her personal integrity. My friendship with Ms. Kubota has spanned over 20 years, during which I have seen her in a variety of social situations including family events, church events and social functions. In each setting, I have experienced Ms. Kubota to be **one of the most** consistently honest, fair and loving people I have known in my lifetime. I feel fortunate to know her. There are very few people in life who you know will always do the "right thing", whether it is in her business or personal life. I strongly support Ms. Kubota's Nomination for the Board of Physical Therapy. It is a wise choice!

Sincerely,

Julie Lund, OTR/L HFS
Injury Prevention Services
3009 Kiele Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815
808.931.0024

or

161 SW 7th Street
Chehalis, WA 98532
360.269.7384

TESTIMONY
OF
DEBRA T. KUBOTA
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ON
April 17, 2015
G.M. 559

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the **Board of Physical Therapy**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **DEBRA T. KUBOTA**, for a term to expire on 6/30/2019.

Chair Baker and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I want to thank Governor David Ige for nominating me for reappointment as a Physical Therapist on the Board of Physical Therapy (PT). This is truly an honor and a privilege.

I want to also extend a warm mahalo to everyone that submitted letters of support on my behalf and to those in attendance lending me their support and aloha.

I have been a physical therapist for 35 years. I was born and raised in Pasadena, California. After graduating from the Physical Therapy Program at the University of Southern California, I relocated to Oahu to work as a physical therapist in the public school setting. I have spent my adult life in Hawaii and my entire physical therapy career as a clinician and administrator based on Oahu. In recent years, my work involved oversight for therapists on the Neighbor Islands. I look forward to continuing to give back to the community and the island people, since I have been given so many incredible opportunities here in Hawaii.

Professionally, I have worked across all settings of the health continuum as well as in the public school system. My professional career began as a physical therapist servicing disabled

children in the public schools. To gain experience in a clinical setting, I worked at the Rehabilitation (Rehab) Hospital of the Pacific, where I became certified in the Neurodevelopmental Technique for stroke patients, and worked with the geriatric population. Experiences at Rehab Hospital included acute rehabilitation and outpatient clinics, as well as positions as a contract therapist with the Kuakini-at-Home (home health) and a joint outpatient business venture with the Queens' Medical Center (Mid-Pacific Rehabilitation). During my tenure at Rehab Hospital and Mid-Pacific Rehabilitation Centers, I was promoted from clinical to administrative/managerial positions. During the past 21 years, I worked for Kaiser Permanente, transitioning from direct patient care in the hospital, skilled nursing facility and outpatient clinics to a managerial position, providing oversight to Kaiser Hawaii's outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapy services on Oahu and the Neighbor Islands.

My community involvement includes church leadership roles including the presidency for the Honolulu Hongwanji Dharma School Teacher's Association, and serving on the Board of Directors for Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as well as the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin.

Professionally, I have served on the Hawaii State PT Board since 2012. Prior to my service on the board, I attended the PT Board meetings on a regular basis for seven (7) years as Chair of the Hawaii Physical Therapy Association's Board of Physical Therapy (PT) Liaison Committee. I am proud to say that I have been involved in the last three (3) Board initiatives - direct access (providing therapy services without referral), physical therapist assistant licensure and required continuing competency for physical therapists. During my tenure on the Hawaii Board, I have been fortunate to represent Hawaii at annual meetings of the Federation of the State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). Earlier this year, I also participated as a member of

the FSBPT Membership Survey Task Force, as well as represented Hawaii at the FSBPT Jurisprudence Law Exam Item Writing session.

My track record of service on the Board, attendance at national FSBPT meetings, previous participation at Board meetings, my professional experiences working with all age ranges from pediatrics to geriatrics, as well as administrative and managerial roles in the fee-for-service as well as Health Maintenance Organization arenas lend itself well to being a highly-informed, responsible PT Board member.

If I am fortunate to be reappointed to the PT Board, my continued vision is to assure public protection by upholding and updating a strong foundation of laws and standards which ensure that safe, competent and effective care is delivered by all physical therapy professionals. The Board must also assure that the physical therapy profession in Hawaii is in alignment with national trends and developments.

In closing, I would like to thank this committee for all that you do for the State of Hawaii and for giving me the opportunity to be here today. Thank you for considering my nomination for re-appointment. If selected, you have my commitment that I will continue to keep the public's best interest in mind while responsibly representing the physical therapy profession in the state. Again, thank you to everyone who submitted testimony on my behalf and to those who are here supporting me today.

At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.