



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310

P.O. BOX 541

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Phone Number: 586-2850

Fax Number: 586-2856

cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 546, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BENJAMIN RAMOS,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the confirmation of Mr. Benjamin Ramos' appointment to the State Board of Nursing (Board) as an advanced practice registered nurse/registered nurse member.

Mr. Ramos has been a health care professional since 2001 and a licensed registered nurse in Hawaii since 2012. He is currently the regional director of wound care operations for Avalon Care Group – Hawaii Region. Previously, he was a certified nursing assistant and a charge nurse for Ann Pearl Rehabilitation and Healthcare, as well as a CPR instructor.

Mr. Ramos desires to serve on the Board “to better serve the community, nurses, and patients” and “to facilitate positive change and empower my fellow nurses.” In the

past, he submitted professional questions for board discussion and is consequently familiar with board functions.

The Department believes that Mr. Ramos' professional experience, interest in serving on the Board, and commitment to actively participate in board meetings will greatly enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**GM-546**

Submitted on: 2/29/2020 11:39:34 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bernadette Ben | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

## Comments:

Benjamin Ramos would be a exceptional addition to the Hawaii State Board of Nursing.

He is passionate in what he does and strives to always provide the best care for his patients. I have had the pleasure of working along side of him as a fellow nurse, and these are just some of the things that I have come to know about Ben:

- Ben is serious about wound care.
  - He keeps himself up to date with the latest wound care information he can get his hands on
  - He is definitely qualified; these are just some of the certifications he has gone through: CWON, CWS, CLT-LANA, WCC, DWC
- He does not accept mediocre work when it comes to providing care for his patients.
  - He is the Director of Wound Care Operations for the company he works for
  - He oversees wound care for their facilities and provides consolation and continuous education for his team
- Ben is dedicated and is not afraid of hard work.
  - When we worked together he would not hesitate to take calls to answer questions I had, or come in during his non-work hours to assess a patient and recommend treatment.
  - He would teach me through repeated demonstration and test my knowledge time and time again to ensure proper care was provided at all times.
- He knows how to get his point across. He is stern when he needs to be, but is a funny down-to-earth guy when the work is done.

I have not doubt in my mind that Ben has what it takes and what is needed to be a member on the Hawaii State Board of Nursing.

**From:** [Nainoa Heaston](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Benjamin jr. Ramos](#)  
**Subject:** GM 546  
**Date:** Friday, February 28, 2020 4:43:28 PM

---

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of GM 546. I'd recommend Benjamin Ramos to be a member of the Board of Nursing because of his expertise, compassion for his patients and his commitment to quality health care.

I have had the opportunity to work alongside Ben in a skilled nursing and long term care capacity. Ben has been a RN, was recently promoted to the Director of Wound Care and has been working in the healthcare industry for over 10 years. He is hard working, efficient in his work and has the ability to easily connect with his patients. In my opinion, Ben is one of the best in the wound care field, as he carries a case load of over 400 patients ranging from simple to complex. His expertise would be invaluable to the Hawaii Board of Nursing.

I strongly support GM546. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Mahalo,  
Nainoa Heaston, LSW

March 02, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is with much enthusiasm that I recommend Benjamin Ramos to be part of Hawaii State Board of Nursing.

I am currently his assistant for wound care program for the companies that we work for and he is very dedicated to his job. He is the first one to establish or build this wound care program. He solves the problem right away before it gets worse. He communicated well to his colleagues and always there to help. He answers your calls or emails any time of the day.

He never stops learning as evidenced of his certificates, CWON, CWS, CLT-LANA, WCC and DWC. He is up to date with the latest wound care information and he shares it to us. He also encourages me to pursue continuing education and always reminding me not to stop learning.

Being part of his wound care program made me feel a confident nurse since he teaches us good to the work we are doing. He is there to assist us whenever we need help. He is truly a helping hand especially when it comes to skin issues.

I am happy to give him my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Kathrina Mae D. Manuel

March 02, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is with much enthusiasm that I recommend Benjamin Ramos to be part of Hawaii State Board of Nursing.

I am currently his assistant for wound care program for the companies that we work for and he is very dedicated to his job. He is the first one to establish or build this wound care program. He solves the problem right away before it gets worse. He communicated well to his colleagues and always there to help. He answers your calls or emails any time of the day.

He never stops learning as evidenced of his certificates, CWON, CWS, CLT-LANA, WCC and DWC. He is up to date with the latest wound care information and he shares it to us. He also encourages me to pursue continuing education and always reminding me not to stop learning.

Being part of his wound care program made me feel a confident nurse since he teaches us good to the work we are doing. He is there to assist us whenever we need help. He is truly a helping hand especially when it comes to skin issues.

I am happy to give him my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Kathrina Mae D. Manuel