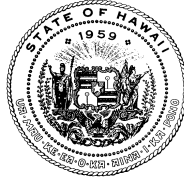


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Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0740
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder
Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, BARBARA YAMASHITA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATOR STANLEY CHANG, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: May 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.

Room Number: 229

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) is in strong support of the nomination
- 2 of Ms. Barbara Yamashita to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).
- 3 **Comments:** Ms. Barbara Yamashita brings a wealth of knowledge to her role on PABEA.
- 4 Throughout her professional experience, Barbara has provided leadership through community
- 5 initiatives to build partnerships and raise awareness to promote family wellness. She worked as a
- 6 hospital administrator and has years of experience working in public health with a focus on
- 7 community health, chronic disease management and prevention, nursing services, and
- 8 emergency response.
- 9 She has previously served as the Deputy Director of the Department of Community Services of
- 10 the City and County of Honolulu, which houses the Elderly Affairs Division (EAD); Deputy
- 11 Director of the Department of Human Services; and has held various positions with the

1 Department of Health. Her work at Department of Human Services included Adult Protective
2 Services and the Senior Grandparent and Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs.
3 Barbara also has served as a Board Member of the National Association of Chronic Disease
4 Directors and was one of the founders of the National Health Equity Committee. In addition, she
5 has served on the State Health Planning and Development Agency Area Council, Early
6 Childhood Council and the Board of the Hawaii Housing Authority. Barbara is retired and
7 committed to promoting healthy and productive aging.
8 For these reasons, EOA supports the confirmation of Ms. Barbara Yamashita for PABEA.
9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-740

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 11:20:57 AM

Testimony for CPH on 5/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
GARY SIMON	Testifying for Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

I am Gary Simon, Vice Chair of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), which is an appointed board tasked with advising the Executive Office on Aging (EOA).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of PABEA.

PABEA strongly supports the nomination of Barbara Yamashita for the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

Ms. Yamashita is an expert in the fields of hospital administration and human services.

Hawaii will benefit greatly with her wise counsel on PABEA.

We urge you to support her nomination and confirmation, and we thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With warmest aloha,

Gary Simon

Vice Chair, Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

It has been an honor and humbling to serve for the past 3 years on the PABEA board. I am reapplying in hopes that I may continue to serve. The needs of older adults are continuing to change and we need to be flexible to change with the population needs. I believe that my diverse health and human service experience and my being a senior enables my ability to contribute to board success.

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board? By statute the board exists to advise the executive director of the Executive Office on Aging. We have been doing that thru a process of committees that primarily focus on planning and policy; legislation; and awards and recognition.

- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I believe that one of the roles of community engagement and involvement is accountability. The PABEA board works closely with the legislative Kupuna Caucus, which allows for more community engagement.

- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I am retired from government working in public health and human services. I've also worked as a hospital administrator. I have worked with long term care, community health and chronic diseases. At department of human services I worked with elder abuse and Medicaid and am aware of the health care and public health human services aspects of the spectrum of services available to seniors. I am also a core member of Change AGENTS which is an organization looking at older adults as a resource contributing to community issues.

- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

Now that I have some experience on the board, I hope we can continue the work on the planning committee to broaden the engagement with older adults. The next few years of post Covid economy will be challenging as well as I hope provide opportunities to change how we meet needs.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board. 1) Respectful of people and process 2) knowledge of systems of care and services 3) member of the population that the Executive Office on Aging is to serve

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

Working in community health and as a Community suicide and crisis worker help me to understand how services work. I also worked on Molokai which taught me that resources are not available on each island and there needs to be accommodations made to tailor services to community need/resources.

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I don't believe that I have any conflicts of interest.

I appreciate the opportunity of being considered for a second term on the PABEA board. I will continue to do my best to contribute to and support of the network of services statewide. Sincerely,
Barbara Yamashita