

## GM763: Robert LaReaux

**(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Board of Acupuncture?**

After teaching western medicine to acupuncture students for 5 years, I feel a strong connection to this field. After retiring from my field of podiatry, I feel it is important to stay active in my community.

**(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Acupuncture?**

*I believe that the primary role of the board is concerning legislative issues.*

**(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board of Acupuncture 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.**

*Interestingly, I've had extensive experience regarding legislative issues in my field of podiatry. I wrote the scope of practice laws twice (1988 and 2018) and had them successfully passed. This was done in spite of heavy opposition from the orthopedic surgeons. I reached across the aisle and won the support of the Hawaii Medical Association.*

**(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?**

*No specific goals*

**(5) Name three qualities that best describe you?**

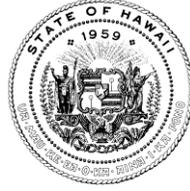
1) I have experience. I have been a board member of the Windward Senior Day Care Center and Hawaii Podiatric Medical Association for 30 years on each. 2) Leadership. I have served as president on each Board. 3) Successful in making changes. I was the first podiatrist to gain surgical privileges in Hawaii. Getting the scope of practice laws changed was a huge success.

**(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board of Acupuncture member.**

*Elevating the stature of podiatry in the state, to the point where all hospitals allow podiatrists on the Medical staff with surgical privileges.*

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

I do not foresee any conflicts. If any arose, I would reclude myself



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

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

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CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
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**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Friday, April 8, 2022  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 763, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ROBERT LAREAUX,  
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 appointment of Dr. Robert LaReaux to the Board of Acupuncture (Board) as a public member.

Dr. LaReaux graduated from the Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine and has 32 years of experience in the field of podiatric medicine. Dr. LaReaux was the president and owner of Aloha Foot Centers, Inc. from 1987 to 2017. He has also worked at the Windward Surgical Center and SurgiCare Hawaii.

Dr. LaReaux has participated in many professional and community organizations in the state of Hawaii. He has served on many medical committees, and he was a clinical associate professor at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Testimony of DCCA

G.M. 763

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Dr. LaReaux understands the responsibility to attend and prepare for the Board's meetings. With Dr. LaReaux's professional background and his dedication to helping others, the Department believes that he will positively contribute to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

-----Original Message-----

From: GREGORY Morris <gregbmorris@msn.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 7:30 PM  
To: baker4 - David <baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
Subject: Dr Robert LaReaux

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Aloha Senator Roz Baker,

I have known Dr. Robert LaReaux for over 20 years since I moved my pediatric medical practice to Queens Medical Center here in Hawaii. Dr LaReaux and I worked closely through the years prior to his retirement to better the field of podiatry. He is an extremely intelligent, hard-working, ethical and personable individual. I greatly enjoyed our friendship and professional association. I give Dr. LaReaux my highest recommendation without reservation for any position he is seeking. I think he would be an excellent addition to the Hawaii board for acupuncture secondary to his knowledge, expertise and past experience.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gregory Morris, DPM FACFAS  
Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Freeman <freemant001@hawaiiantel.net>

Sent: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 4:44 PM

To: baker4 - David <baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: Confirmation hearing for Dr Bob LaReaux

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Senator Roz Baker  
State of Hawaii

Aloha,

My longtime friend and neighbor Robert LaReaux, DPM has been nominated to serve on the Board of Acupuncture. His confirmation hearing is this Friday.

I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. LaReaux to serve on this board. His experience, leadership, and willingness to serve his community are unsurpassed and he will certainly bring a positive force to this Board. Dr Bob is a dedicated family man and a caring person of high ethical and moral standards.

Mahalo,

Tim Freeman  
Kailua, Hawaii



Dr. Joni Kroll, D.Ac.  
320 Uluniu Street Suite 2  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734  
808-262-4550  
855-594-5059 (fax)

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April 5, 2022

RE: Robert LaReaux, DPM Appointment to the Board of Acupuncture

TO: Senator Roz Baker  
Chair of Consumer Protection Committee

Dear Senator Baker,

I am writing to express my strong support and recommendation for Dr. Robert LaReaux to serve as a Public Member on the Board of Acupuncture. Dr. LaReaux has experience both as a healthcare practitioner (now retired) as well as an educator, having taught biology and other courses at an acupuncture school in Honolulu.

I have known Dr. Bob for over 25 years, both professionally through mutual patient referrals as well as personally as volleyball coaches for our children's teams. I know of Dr. Bob's passion for good policy and his experience passing legislation to improve his own profession of podiatry. I find that he has the character, experience and qualifications to help the Board of Acupuncture in its primary mission of ensuring public safety and look forward to working with him.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Joni Kroll, D.Ac.*

Dr. Joni Kroll, D.Ac.,  
Diplomate in Acupuncture NCCAOM  
Diplomate in Acupuncture Orthopedics (NBAO)  
Chair, State of Hawaii Board of Acupuncture