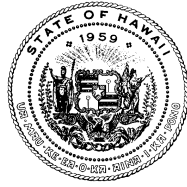


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Human Services
Thirty-Second Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 213
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura:

My name is Kenny Fink, and I am Governor Green's nominee to be the Director of Health. As a seasoned physician executive, I have expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. I am interested in serving as the Director of Health because I believe in the value and meaning of public service, and I embrace the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i. I recall I wrote in my medical school application personal statement that I wanted to help people be healthy to be able to do the things they enjoy. During my medical training, I became more interested in population and public health, and health policy in general. I believe government is important for keeping the public safe and providing a safety net. For most of my career, I have worked in the public sector finding meaning in service. Serving as the Director of Health would provide an opportunity for me to have a significant impact on the health of my community. I provide responses to your questions below, and I humbly ask for your recommendation to advise and consent to my nomination.

(1) A description of your experience in the field of Health, or any related field;

I have subject matter expertise in population health and public health. After earning Medical Doctor and Master of Governmental Administration degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, I completed a residency in family medicine at the University of Washington. I then went to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where I earned a Master of Public Health degree, completed a preventive medicine residency, and completed a health services research fellowship as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar. My good fortune continued as I was selected to be a Kerr White Visiting Scholar completing a health policy fellowship at the US Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). I have an active unrestricted medical license in Hawai'i, and I am board certified in both family medicine and also general preventive medicine and public health. I have been

awarded the degree of fellow by both the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

I have substantial experience in evidence-based health policy. At AHRQ, I directed the US Preventive Services Task Force program whose recommendations are arguably considered the goldstandard in clinical prevention and are required to be covered under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As the Evidence-based Practice Centers program director also at AHRQ, I collaborated with federal agencies, national professional organizations and others to develop systematic reviews for clinical guideline, quality indicator, coverage decision, and research agenda development. At the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, I served as the Chief Medical Officer for Region 10 performing outreach and education to the clinical communities and leading quality improvement initiatives, and I also served as a clinical expert to the Office of the Inspector General. I have published research in top-tier peer-reviewed journals and served on the editorial board for the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine for over a decade. Recently I served a four-year term on the AAFP Commission on Health of the Public and Science.

I have a proven track record of leading healthcare organizations. As the Hawai`i State Medicaid Director, I led a complex \$2.0 billion program providing health insurance to nearly one-fourth of the residents in Hawai`i, including overall responsibility for budgeting and finance, contractual oversight, customer service, compliance with state and federal law, systems, personnel, and external affairs with healthcare providers, advocates, and legislators. During the great recession, I managed a \$100 million general fund budget reduction, led staff through a significant reduction in force while experiencing a 35% increase in beneficiaries, and led implementation of provisions under the ACA, the biggest changes to Medicaid since its inception. Under my leadership, Hawai`i was ranked by the Commonwealth Fund as the best state in the nation for healthcare system for low-income individuals.

I have also worked in the non-profit and private sectors. As the Medical Director for Kamehameha Schools—the largest independent school system in the nation that serves approximately 10,000 students of Native Hawaiian ancestry annually at three K-12 campuses, 29 preschools, and numerous community programs throughout the state, I created and led an enterprise division comprised of Health Services, Behavioral Health, Athletic Healthcare, and Student Safety departments establishing standardization of policies and procedures to mālama na haumāna. And during my recent time at HMSA, I oversaw the Medicare and Medicaid lines of business. My experiences outside of government have been humbling as I learned more about different perspectives and the need for relationships, to listen, and to partner.

(2) An assessment of your strengths and weaknesses;

I believe my strengths can be my weaknesses, and my weaknesses can be my strengths. What I believe is important is that I have the insight to recognize them. I'm also cognizant that I have one perspective, so not only is the team I have important, but more so that I create an environment in which they not only feel safe but feel expected to speak their minds including

and especially if they disagree with me. My belief is as a leadership team we complement each other, and our collective strengths outweigh our collective weaknesses.

I am an introvert, like off the chart on Myers-Briggs. Too often people may make incorrect assumptions confusing supercilious with shy. I recognize that I have to make an intentional effort to attend gatherings, socialize, and develop relationships. But as an introvert, I try to avoid attention, so it's easier to give credit and be humble. I also prefer to listen than talk, which helps me focus beyond the words on the meaning and intent of what's being said.

I suppose I could be considered a scientist. I seek to base my decisions on the best information available trying to optimize the desired health outcome. My recommendations for evidence-based policy are generally sound. But I do not have a natural political acumen. I would like to believe that good policy is good politics, but I recognize that policy is determined through a political process. I understand that while I may be recommending policy based on my touching one part of the elephant, stakeholders may be touching other parts. Communication is important to have a more informed process and recognize that indeed we're talking about the same elephant. And while I may recommend the best policy for protecting public health, there may be other secondary impacts that need to be considered. The Director of Health should be the strongest advocate for the health of the public, but should also recognize when ideal is not achievable, and some improvement in health is better than no improvement.

I've had a breadth of experiences including state and federal government, non-profit, private sector, and military. The amalgam may obfuscate an archetype, but I will be predictably guided by the Department's mission, vision, and values. My perspective could bring positive change and some innovation. However, if the expectation is that because I previously worked for the State, I am more likely to follow the status quo, then the dis-synchronicity between expected and actual could cause consternation and have a negative impact. Effective change management is important and starts and ends with communication.

I am dedicated to my family, and I couldn't pursue this opportunity without their support. They are the ones who will be there for me when I falter. They are my source of strength. And as they sacrificed during my military services, they would sacrifice again during this public service. I understand that at times, and perhaps frequently, I will need to prioritize work, but I will strive to maintain balance and protect some family time when I can truly be present with them. My record demonstrates my high work ethic that I don't believe is incompatible with this.

(3) An assessment of the department's strengths and weaknesses. Please include an explanation of how the department's strengths may be best utilized, as well as how the department's weaknesses may be improved;

In 2002, McGinnis et al published the sentinel manuscript on the determinants of health (<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.21.2.78>). Health behaviors, genetic predisposition, environment, and healthcare contributed 40%, 30%, 20%, and 10% respectively to health status. And while healthcare contributed only 10%, 90% of the total expenditures for

all categories combined were spent on it. In their model, environment contributed 20%, including 5% for things such as air and water, and 15% for social environment, including food and housing, poverty, and race and ethnicity.

Healthcare, population health, and public health are a continuum, and investing more in public health can improve health status and reduce healthcare expenditures. The Department is ready should there be a desire to substantially invest in public health. For example, there continues to be an increasing prevalence of end stage renal disease (ESRD) with a response to have more dialysis facilities. However, there hasn't been a concurrent investment in preventing and managing hypertension and diabetes to reduce the incidence of ESRD. Intervening upstream in a disease process continues to be increasingly important.

Public health can be challenged with long lead times, perceived small gains, and proving a negative. According to the CDC, almost one in two adults has hypertension, and of those with hypertension, only one in four has it under control (<https://www.cdc.gov/bloodpressure/facts.htm>). It may take some time to see a reduction in the rates of stroke, heart attack, and heart failure resulting from interventions to improve the diagnosis and management of hypertension. And we might see only a small decrease. But with a large population attributable risk, a small decrease corresponds to a substantial impact. In a population based or public health intervention, we are likely unable to determine in which individual person the undesired health outcome was avoided. In addition, assurance is a core public health function such as through facility, food establishment, and other inspections, and their success is the absence of something that is hopefully a rare occurrence including nosocomial infection or food-borne outbreak. Providing education and more effectively communicating about public health might help improve understanding of and investment in it.

The Department's inability to influence policy to protect our keiki is a weakness. The Department has unsuccessfully worked for nearly a decade on getting flavored vaping products banned. I recently read an article that considered law as a social determinant of health. This could occur based on what law does or doesn't do. An example of the former could be the criminalization of possession of small amounts of cannabis and its sequelae; an example of the latter could be allowing the sale of flavored vaping products which disproportionately targets and harms our youth. Prior to the outbreak of e-cigarette or vaping use-associated lung injury (EVALI), about one in three high school students used e-cigarettes or vaped. The acute manifestation of harm and media coverage resulted in decreased use, likely confounded with the pandemic, but use is now rising again while the insidious harm persists and is overlooked. Policies to protect our youth from the inhalation of concentrated nicotine and flavoring chemicals, whose structures may change when heated and have not been evaluated for safety, have been ineffective. Being on the precipice of legalized recreational cannabis, we risk compounding harm to our youth. The Department will continue to provide evidence-based information and strive to protect our keiki.

Only about 15% of the Department's budget is general funds. While some funding is through special funds, the majority is federal funds. But federal funding is not received in a single omnibus grant; the Department must apply for numerous grants to maintain operations. Much,

if not most, of that federal funding reaches our community through contracts with local organizations. The applying for federal grants, meeting grant requirements, contracting and overseeing contracting all require substantial administrative support. A challenge of ours is not having enough staff to do this work and subsequently needing to forego some federal funding opportunities.

Another strength and weakness is our workforce. As I've been meeting with staff, and am continuing to do so, I have been impressed by their expertise and dedication. They are without a doubt a strength. The weakness is not having enough of them. Customer service, such as for vital records requests and permits, may be where our workforce shortage is most apparent by causing delays, but there are other impacts as well. While we seek to address the workforce shortage, we are also pursuing business process, workflow, and system changes, as applicable, to improve efficiency. I address in my response to question (6) how we are trying to address the workforce shortage.

(4) An overall vision for the department, specifically what goals can be accomplished within the next four years and what types of annual benchmarks can be used to evaluate the department's progress towards those goals;

The Department's vision is that all Hawai'i residents have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being. Our mission is to promote and protect the physical, psychological, and environment health of the people of Hawai'i through assessment, policy development, and assurance. Our values are Integrity, Stewardship, Science, Curiosity, Innovation, and Communication.

My top priority is not what we do, but rather how we do it. A strong foundation is the necessary platform to optimize efficiency and effectiveness. With 3,300 positions and about 850 vacancies, we need to look at how to work differently. Caring for and engaging the workforce is the first and most important step. They will be the ones to generate the best ideas; my role is to create an environment conducive for this to occur.

I believe the pandemic revealed the erosion that had occurred in the public health infrastructure and workforce, and it reminded us that we need public health when we need it. If neglected, public health won't be ready when needed to respond. With added responsibilities, the public health workforce needs to grow. Setting a position cap means that responding to a new issue, such as increased mental health needs, must come at the expense of other public health functions. Our public health workforce is our most valuable asset.

The pandemic was a moment for public health to shine, and in many ways it did. But, there were certainly bumps along the way. It was a highly dynamic time with an explosion of new knowledge resulted in changing guidance as more was learned. While there may have been opportunities for communication improvement, the politicization of science trumped and triumphed. With a plethora of misinformation and disinformation, deciphering accurate information became increasingly difficult with traditionally trusted sources increasingly

dismissed. Respecting that individuals will make their own decisions, my goal is for the Department to be a trusted source of information to inform those decisions.

Increasing health literacy will help improve the provision of more understandable information and the community's ability to understand it. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, personal health literacy is the degree to which individuals have the ability to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others; and organizational health literacy is the degree to which organizations equitably enable individuals to find, understand, and use information and services to inform health-related decisions and actions for themselves and others (<https://www.hrsa.gov/about/organization/bureaus/ohe/health-literacy#:~:text=Personal%20health%20literacy%20is%20the,actions%20for%20themselves%20and%20others>). Providing information that is accurate, accessible, and actionable is an important part of health literacy and helps with becoming a trusted source. Building out the communications office is essential for this.

To be a trusted source, we need to say what we know and what we don't know. We will make mistakes, and we need to be transparent about them and explain what we learned and how we'll correct. Building trust means having a relationship. Engaging with communities, especially disenfranchised ones, for purposes of listening to and addressing their concerns, rather than solely in advancement of what we believe to be their interests, is important. Public health requires engagement with the public, and we need the workforce to be able to do so.

Disenfranchised communities tend to have higher rates of health disparities. Although Hawai'i has the longest average lifespan compared to all other states, this masks the ten-year variation between those who for example live at opposite ends of H-1. While the difference is multifactorial, it represents an inequity. Directing resources and effort to the populations with the greatest need is part of health equity. Embodied in the Department's vision is health equity.

As the virus that causes COVID-19 transitions from pandemic to endemic and federal funding subsidies that was available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), American Rescue Plan Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, the Department needs to ensure we optimize this opportunity and are in a better place as a result of it. Some examples of investment include improved data infrastructure and new equipment and capability for the State Laboratory. We need to identify and anticipate which federally funded activities to sunset and for which programs and positions to pursue supplanting general funds.

As a tactical level, there are certain issues facing us now that are both urgent and important. We must ensure the defueling of Red Hill as quickly as can safely be performed. We must hold the Department of Defense (DoD) accountable to a timeline that is acceptable to the Department. With the expertise and resources at DoD's disposal, anything other than an expeditious timeline with clear dates that is communicated to the public would suggest a lack of concern for the people of Hawai'i and our natural resources. Once defueled (and aqueous firefighting foam removed), the threat of further imminent contamination of the aquifer is abated. The decommissioning process would then ensue while aquifer remediation is ongoing.

Water safety and quality will remain prominent as there is increased detection of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in our drinking water, and we will continue our work on cesspool conversion.

Community mental health has deteriorated, and there is a need for increased community mental health services. With the Hawai`i State Hospital (HSH) having around its highest census, we need to implement measures to ensure that only those who require that level of care receive it. Access to earlier treatment, diversion programs, expanding community resources, and increased transitional options are all aspects of the comprehensive mental health system that is needed. And we'll need to look more closely at HSH itself to ensure the safety of staff and patients.

Following the unauthorized access of our Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS), we will continue implementation of additional security measures. We are also conducting a security review of all our systems.

We are aware of the delay in issuing birth, death, and marriage certificates. Clients need these documents and deserve timely issuance. We have focused on this and made improvements, and we will continue to make further improvements to our operations and system to provide more timely issuances.

Routine early childhood immunization rates have declined nationally, including in Hawai`i and there has already been a measles outbreak on the mainland. During the 2019-2020 school year, 3.4% of schoolchildren had missed routine vaccinations or had incomplete immunization records. This figure jumped fivefold this school year to 18.6%. And religious exemptions increased by 50%. Six states including California, Kentucky, and Mississippi, but not including Hawai`i, do not allow non-medical exemptions. We will work to increase vaccination rates, and we will pursue enhancing our vaccination registry to assist both healthcare providers and the Department of Education.

The unfortunate air ambulance incident revealed the vulnerability of air ambulance services for people in Hawai`i. We believe that ensuring access to both air ambulance services, like we do for ground ambulance, is critical. As such, we presented options to the legislature for a policy decision that would require an appropriation.

The Department's strategic plan has not been updated since 2018. Updating the plan, with public input, should occur.

In summary, some specific goals and benchmarks include:

- Plan for federal funding reduction following end of the public health emergency
 - Captured in biennium and supplemental budget requests
- Defuel and decommission Red Hill
 - Defueling completed by the end of calendar year 2023
 - Accepted decommissioning plan by end of April 2024
 - Decommissioning completed by end of September 2024

- Open a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) in every county
 - Two CCBHCs by end of June 2024
 - Two additional CCBHCs by end of June 2025
- Expand mental health crisis/stabilization beds
 - Add 16 new beds on Oahu by end of calendar year 2023
- Improve timeliness of vital record certificate issuance
 - Reduce delay to one month by end of May 2023
 - Reduce delay to two weeks by end of August 2023
- Increase vaccination rates for children 19-35 months of age for 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hep B, 1 Var and 4 PCV
 - Increase vaccination coverage to 65% by end of 2023 (reported in 2025)
 - Increase vaccination coverage to 70% by end of 2024 (reported in 2026)
- Improve the stability and predictability of inter-island air ambulance services
 - Implement an option by end of March 2024
- Update the Department's strategic plan
 - Draft plan by end of 2024
 - Final plan by end of June 2025

(5) The department's top budgetary priority for the biennium;

The Department has numerous priorities. In general, the top priority is growing the public health workforce. We are seeking to expand the capacity and capability of the District Health Offices on the neighbor islands, staff a CCBHC in every county to better address urgent mental health needs, increase staffing at the Hawai'i State Hospital to increase quality and safety of care, establish an environment health planning office to address health impacts from climate change, increase the Human Resources Office to improve recruitment and hiring, and increase the communication's office to improve dissemination of information. With the federal health equity grant concluding, we are also seeking to make those positions permanent.

Our hope is that we don't have to cut other positions to get these new ones that are sought to address new needs. While we have a substantial number of vacancies, some work isn't being done and other work is being contracted; we still need those vacant positions. As we reassess, we should identify work that may no longer be needed and intentionally eliminate the positions for that work. Note that of our approximately 850 vacancies, about 300 are in behavioral health, and the other 550 are distributed over roughly 70 branches, offices, and divisions.

(6) An assessment of the department's staff morale, including the turnover rate for personnel; and

As a general matter, staff are mission-driven. During the pandemic, they sprinted a marathon. They were tired and burnt-out. In my opinion, they were, and are, the hidden heroes. The effrontery surrounding the pandemic response should in no way minimize their diligent efforts to help protect our community. They deserve the mahalo they never received.

The pandemic response experience likely traumatized many staff. This preceded me, but I believe they supported one another the best they could. Not that I think staff are seeking accolades, but I imagine that given staff's long hours and personal sacrifice for the betterment of their community, having the community challenge their intentions or merit of their work could be disheartening. Staff are recovering and at different rates, and I think it's important for me to recognize and acknowledge that.

With the convergence of departmental leadership change and pandemic waning, there seemed to be a higher rate of resignations and retirements, which appears to have since returned to baseline. But I am concerned that the persistent workforce shortage adds sustained stress. We simply cannot continue to ask staff to do more with less. Delays in hiring hurt morale, and having vacancies eliminated really hurts morale.

So, we're trying to do what we can. We've received approval for more delegated hiring, have requested additional recruiter positions and funding for recruitment activities, and are exploring university partnerships as well as internships. We need to generate interest in public health careers, develop a pipeline, and have a streamlined hiring process. In a 2021 article on public health graduates and employment in government public health, the pace of the hiring process, ease of navigating the job application/hiring process, and communication from the employer after submitting the application were perceived to be negative influences on the decision to take or continue pursuing a job in governmental public health (https://journals.lww.com/jphmp/Abstract/2021/01000/Public_Health_Graduates_and_Employment_in.2.aspx).

My job is to care for my staff, and I espouse a servant leader approach to leadership. I believe that rather than my staff working for me, I work for them, and they work for the public. By creating an environment that is safe and supportive, putting staff in positions to be successful, and coaching instead of criticizing, staff will feel valued. I know that my actions will speak more loudly than my words, and until I am able to provide staff with facilities that have consistently functioning bathrooms, ceilings that don't leak, and a sense of security walking to and from their vehicles, all I have is words. I seek to have staff feel engaged and invested by delegating authority, as appropriate and with guardrails, and by having them provide meaningful input into decisions. Imagine 2,500 staff who are motivated to think of ideas for improvement and feel safe to share them. Don't expect me to have the best ideas; expect me to get the best ideas from my staff.

(7) Any foreseeable possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service in the department and how you would overcome them.

To avoid potential conflicts of interest, I have resigned from the boards of the YMCA of Honolulu and Institute for Human Services. Also, to avoid potential conflict and my being over-extended, I resigned from the US Air Force after twenty-three good years in the Air Reserve Component. I have found my military experience to be a surprising asset in working with federal partners both with regard to emergency preparedness and to the Red Hill response.

Having worked recently at Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) for about one and a half years and expecting to receive a bonus this spring for work performed last calendar year, any decisions I make that directly impact HMSA could be perceived to have a conflict. I am unaware of any current contracts with HMSA and the Department does not regulate health plans. However, should a matter arise, I anticipate that I would defer to a Deputy to handle.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to have worked at Kamehameha Schools. While there, I developed a greater knowledge, understanding, and appreciation for Native Hawaiian culture and history. That experience may cause me to have a greater sensitivity and interest in Native Hawaiian health. However, I don't foresee any potential financial conflicts.

In 2015, while otherwise unemployed, I established a consulting business, Invictus Consulting. I have not done any work or received any revenue under this business for more than two years. For at least two years preceding that, my only client was the State of Hawai'i. I served as the expert witness for the State in a lawsuit that resulted in a settlement with the defendant paying the State approximately \$13 million. Given the effort to establish the consulting business, I intend to keep it in existence and good standing. However, I commit to not doing any work under this business while serving as the Director of Health, should I be confirmed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my thoughts, and I look forward to answering any questions you may have. I humbly ask for your recommendation to advise and consent to my nomination to be the Director of Health.

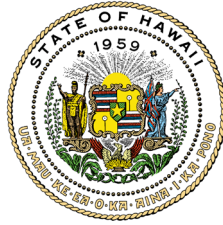
Me ka ha`a ha`a,



Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'

KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE



CAROLINE CADIRAO
DIRECTOR

Telephone
(808) 586-0100

Fax
(808) 586-0185

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM514
Consideration and Confirmation as the Director, Department of Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee Kenneth Fink

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR HENRY J.C. AQUINO, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing Date: Monday, April 3, 2023
1:00 p.m.

Room Number: 225
Via Videoconference

As the Director of the Executive Office on Aging, an attached agency to the Department of Health (DOH), I strongly support Dr. Kenneth Fink's nomination as Director of DOH.

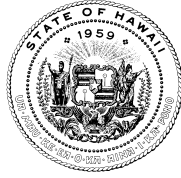
Though it has only been about three months, I have witnessed Dr. Fink's open-door approach and transparent, ethical leadership that he brings to this position. He supports the mission and vision of the DOH and his values, priorities, and effective leadership are the qualities needed in the Director of Health.

His style and leadership are what the department needs as we ensure equity in public health by promoting and protecting the physical, psychological, and environmental health of the people of Hawaii from cradle to grave.

I hope that the committee finds in favor of Dr. Fink's nomination. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HEARING ON APRIL 3, 2023 AT 1:00PM IN CR 225**

IN SUPPORT OF

GM 514

for consideration and confirmation as the Director,
Department of Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **KENNETH FINK**,
for a term to expire 12-07-2026

April 3, 2023

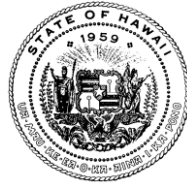
Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Kenneth Fink as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Mr. Fink's thorough training experience has served him well throughout his medical and administrative career. DHHL is confident that Mr. Fink will continue to utilize and incorporate the knowledge and skills he has gained from different states such as Washington and Maryland in his leadership and practices at DOH.

DHHL understands that health and medicine work is a key factor toward the success of housing in the State of Hawaii and the rehabilitative work that is necessary for native Hawaiians. DHHL is encouraged by Mr. Fink's work with different native communities including the Indian Health Service Locum Tenens Family Practice at the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, as well as Mr. Fink's service as a Director of Student Health Services at Kamehameha Schools.

DHHL looks forward to working in partnership with Kenneth Fink and we respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

LATE

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM514
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: 4/3/2023

Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the nomination
3 of Kenneth Fink, MD, MGA, MPH as the Director of the Department of Health.

4

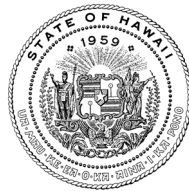
5 In his three months as Director of Health, Dr. Fink has re-energized the Department of Health, an
6 agency at the core of the COVID-19 pandemic response and other public health threats. He has
7 garnered the trust and support of staff for his emphasis on values – not so much what the agency
8 does, but how. At the top of his list of values is integrity, or doing the right thing, even when no
9 one else will know. This is reinforced in senior leadership meetings, in which Dr. Fink, rather
10 than enumerate a list of priorities or issue directives, engenders discussions on vulnerability,
11 compassion, and servant-leadership.

12

13 There is no dispute that Dr. Fink's credentials in medicine, military service, public health, public
14 and private sector executive leadership, and public administration are superlative. However,
15 these bona fides are not what he has chosen to put forward as the basis for leadership. Instead,
16 Dr. Fink seeks to foster a sense of stewardship, scientific fidelity, curiosity, innovation, and
17 communication to propel the department, the programs, and staff to do the right thing, as best as
18 possible, even when no one else will know. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

19

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 514

April 3, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Room 225 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KENNETH FINK, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Kenneth Fink to the position of Director of the Department of Health (DOH). I am working with Dr. Fink in my professional capacity as Deputy Director of Finance.

Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Dr. Fink is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Dr. Fink has been serving as the Director of DOH since January 2023. Prior to that, he was the State Medicaid Director at the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division from 2008 to 2015, and more recently he was the Vice President of Medicare and Medicaid Programs at HMSA. His work experience will benefit DOH and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



April 3, 2023

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
MAX J. SWORD
NA'ALEHU ANTHONY
JONATHAN KANESHIRO

DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E., Ex-Officio
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ERWIN M. KAWATA
Deputy Manager

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Members:

SUBJECT: GM 514: Confirming the Nomination of Kenneth Fink to
Serve as the Director, Department of Health

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports the nomination of Kenneth Fink, MD, to serve as the Director of the State Department of Health (DOH).

Mr. Kenneth Fink, MD, has served in both the government and private sector. Mr. Fink has extensive knowledge and experience in government operations and administrative matters gained from overseeing the Department of Human Services as the State Medicaid Director from 2008 to 2015. Most recently, he has served as Vice President of the Medicare and Medicaid Programs under the Hawaii Medical Service Association. Mr. Fink's resume demonstrates he is well qualified and has the executive and management skills to serve as the Director of the DOH.

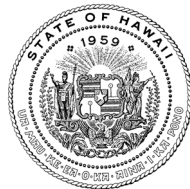
I respectfully request members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services vote favorably on his nomination and advancing GM 514 for full Senate confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Kenneth Fink's nomination to serve as Director of the DOH.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 514

April 3, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Room 225 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KENNETH FINK, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Kenneth Fink to the position of Director of the Department of Health (DOH). I am working with Dr. Fink in my professional capacity as Director of Finance.

Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Dr. Fink is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Dr. Fink has been serving as the Director of DOH since January 2023. Prior to that, he was the State Medicaid Director at the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division from 2008 to 2015, and more recently he was the Vice President of Medicare and Medicaid Programs at HMSA. His work experience will benefit DOH and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

VACANT
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 514
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF KENNETH FINK
TO BE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

By

Jordan Lowe, Director

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J. C. Aquino, Vice Chair

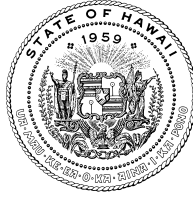
Monday, April 3, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
CR 225 & Via Video Conference

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Kenneth Fink as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Mr. Fink has extensive work experience in the medical and health fields within the private and public government sector. His academic achievements, numerous accolades, and leadership roles make him a highly qualified candidate to take on the complexities of the duties and responsibilities, and the authority as the Director for DOH.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 514 and the confirmation of Mr. Fink.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Monday, April 3, 2023
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 514

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 514, the appointment of Dr. Kenneth "Kenny" Fink to be the Director of the Department of Health.

Prior to his appointment, Kenny served as the Vice President for Medicare and Medicaid Programs at Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) from September 2021 to January 2023. In this role, Kenny gained deep knowledge in public health and the development of evidence-based health policies. Additionally, Kenny has served the community in various roles throughout his professional career. This includes as the Director of Student Health Services at Kamehameha Schools, the Administrator for the State's Med-QUEST Division, and as the Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Region 10.

Kenny earned his Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health, Doctor of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Master of Governmental Administration from the University of Pennsylvania Fels Center of Government, and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Haverford College.

Through his substantial background supporting public health, I am confident that Kenny will bring this experience and serve this State well as the next Director of the Department of Health.

Mahalo for your consideration.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 514

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KENNETH FINK**, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

Chairperson San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Kenneth Fink, as the Director, Department of Health (DOH).

Dr. Fink's resume demonstrates his record of success and is an indication of his future success serving the State. Respectfully requesting your vote to confirm Kenneth Fink's nomination to serve as the Director, Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

April 3, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GM 514 – Relating to Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

My name is Kirby Shaw. I am the Executive Director of the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB). I submit this testimony in strong support of Kenneth Fink, MD, MGA, MPH as the Director of the Department of Health.

Dr. Fink is undoubtedly well qualified with impeccable and relevant academic and experiential credentials that are essential for the position. In his brief time as Director, I found him to be interested in improving the Department of Health through valuing the work and contributions of its employees. When he and First Deputy Susan Fernandez visited my office, he was genuinely interested in DCAB's work. His leadership style welcomes collaboration and invites ideas for improving on the ways things are done. Importantly, he is a good communicator.

I look forward to working with Dr. Fink in the coming years. I hope you will as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW, JD, MPA
Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

LATE

Date: 04/03/2023

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: CR 225 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Health and Human
Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: GM 0514 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

As the Superintendent of the Hawai'i State Department of Education, I am happy to provide testimony supporting the confirmation of Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH, as Director of the Hawai'i Department of Health. Dr. Fink's extensive public and private sector experience, including his work as Vice President for Medicare & Medicaid Programs at HMSA and State Medicaid Director for Hawai'i, make him an excellent candidate for this position.

Dr. Fink is a highly qualified medical professional with board certification in family medicine, general preventive medicine, and public health. He has been recognized for his outstanding work with awards such as the Fellow distinction by the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

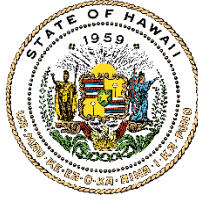
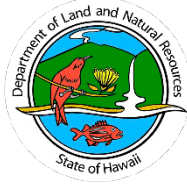
Furthermore, Dr. Fink's military experience as a retired Colonel in the United States Air Force, where he served as both the Chief of Aerospace Medicine and the Medical Group Commander in the Hawai'i Air National Guard, demonstrates his exceptional leadership abilities.

Dr. Fink's impressive educational background, public and private sector experience, and military service make him a highly qualified candidate for the Director of the Hawai'i Department of Health position. I look forward to working with Dr. Fink to improve mental and physical health services for our students. I urge you to support the confirmation of Dr. Fink. I do not doubt that he will serve the people of Hawai'i well in this vital role.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Monday, April 3, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 514
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KENNETH FINK, FOR
A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026**

Governor's Message 514 submits for confirmation as Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kenneth Fink, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department recognizes Mr. Kenneth Fink for his more than 14 years of dedicated efforts in the health and human services fields in the state of Hawai'i. His experience as an administrator and State Medicaid Director with the Hawai'i Department of Human Services, Director of Student Health Services at Kamehameha Schools, and Vice President for the Medicare/Medicaid programs at the Hawai'i Medical Service Association demonstrates his leadership capacity and expertise.

In addition, Mr. Fink's distinguished military, professional, and community service exemplifies the character and integrity suitable to the role of Director for the Department of Health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Governor's Message 514.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

In consideration of G.M. No. 514

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial nominee, Kenneth Fink

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2023
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 225

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Kenneth Fink as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Given his past administration experience in various health and human services programs and initiatives in the public and private sector, I believe Mr. Fink is qualified to lead the Department of Health. Based on my personal interaction with him, I am confident that Mr. Fink is prepared and committed to serving the best interests of the State and am confident that he will do a great job as Director of DOH.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 514.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 514
NOMINATION OF KENNETH FINK, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Monday, April 3, 2023

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Kenneth Fink as Director of the Department of Health.

Dr. Fink has worked as the Vice President of Medicare & Medicaid programs at the Hawai'i Medical Service Association since September 2021 and has an intimate knowledge of medicine, public health, and the development of evidence-based health policies.

He has a record of successfully leading and building major health organizations, including as the Director of Student Health Services at Kamehameha Schools, Administrator for the state's Med-QUEST Division, and the Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Region 10.

With his distinguished background, I am proud to support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



820 Milliani Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96813
www.ohanahealthplan.com

April 3, 2023

1:00 p.m.

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
The Honorable Vice Chair Henry J. C. Aquino
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: 'Ohana Health Plan
Rachel Wilkinson, Government Relations Manager

Re: GM 514, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director,
Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term
to expire at noon on 12-07-2026; **In Support**

'Ohana Health Plan is pleased to offer our strong **support** of GM 514, the confirmation of Kenneth S. Fink MD, MGA, MPH as the Director of the Department of Health.

'Ohana Health Plan is a wholly owned subsidiary of Centene Corporation, a leading multi-national healthcare enterprise committed to helping people live healthier lives. Since 2008, 'Ohana Health Plan has provided government-sponsored managed care services to families—from keiki to kupuna—and individuals with complex medical needs primarily through QUEST Integration (Medicaid), Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans across the state.

Dr. Fink has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthcare policy having worked at both the state and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink attended Haverford College, received combined Medical Doctor and Master of Governmental Administration degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and was awarded a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He completed residencies in family medicine at the University of Washington and preventive medicine at UNC.

In addition, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Kerr White Visiting Scholar, and Excellence in Government Fellow. He is board certified in both family medicine and also general preventive medicine and public health, and he has been awarded the degree of Fellow by both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

His health policy experience includes serving as the Director of both the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-Based Practice Centers programs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Chief Medical Officer for the US DHHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the state Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Administrator for Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink also has non-governmental experience having worked as the Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools and most recently as the Vice President for Medicare and Medicaid Programs at Hawaii Medical Service Association.

In addition, Dr. Fink has served the public and demonstrated his leadership in the military. He recently retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force, having served 23 years in the Air Reserve Component. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as both the Chief of Aerospace Medicine and the Medical Group Commander in the Hawai'i Air National Guard.

In summary, Dr. Fink has the qualifications, experience, and leadership to effectively lead the Department of Health. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of GM 514. Your consideration of the confirmation of Dr. Fink as the Director of the Department of Health is appreciated.



April 3, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

From: Hilton R. Raethel
President and CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
GM 514, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Dr. Kenneth Fink

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities, and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** the nomination of Dr. Kenneth Fink as the Director of the Department of Health. Dr. Fink has a long and extensive career both as a clinician and leader in public health and healthcare policy. Notably, he has both public and private sector experience from the national and state level that will help him to work through the many issues that the Department of Health is tasked with in protecting the public health of the people of Hawaii.

The association and our members have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Fink on various issues since his appointment. He has shown responsiveness and a willingness to work through difficult issues, such as emergency air ambulance services for our neighbor islands and ensuring that our facilities have the support they need during a historic staffing crisis. We look forward to working with him more extensively on strengthening our healthcare industry, especially as it relates to health equity and access.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony for this nomination and we would urge your committee to approve Dr. Fink's confirmation.



To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Monday, April 3, 2023, 1pm, State Capitol, Conference Room 225

RE: **GM514 - Consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of the confirmation of Kenneth Fink as Director of the Department of Health.**

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately half of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only safety net health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person health needs.

As a Medicaid plan, AlohaCare is grateful to have worked with Dr. Fink when he was the Med-QUEST Administrator. We also appreciate Dr. Fink's extensive background, including his leadership as Director of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and his experience working at HMSA. We're pleased to have a seasoned expert in public health and preventive medicine in Dr. Fink at the helm of the Department of Health as a partner to promote and protect the health for the people of Hawai'i. Further, Dr. Fink has demonstrated knowledge of healthy policy at the State and federal levels and experience as an administrator and leader. For these reasons, we think Dr. Fink is well qualified for the position of Director of the Department of Health.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of the confirmation of Kenneth Fink as Director of the Department of Health.**



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Monday, April 3, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 514, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KENNETH FINK, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** the nomination of Kenneth Fink as the Director of Health, and urges confirmation of this nominee.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The HPCA first began working with Dr. Fink when he served as the MedQUEST Administrator for the Hawaii State Department of Human Services. In that position, the State faced a significant and at the time, unprecedented, revenue shortfall that resulted from the "Great Recession". This led to many difficult decisions on the part of the State regarding Medicaid, including the reduction of certain benefits. Despite this, Dr. Fink tried his best to mitigate the impact these cuts would have on patients by working with providers in an honest and candid manner.

Having a strong working relationship with Dr. Fink will ensure that the many initiatives started during the COVID-19 pandemic by the Department of Health and FQHCs, such as vaccination and school-based health, will continue to ensure that the needs of the people are met. For this reason, the HPCA supports the nomination of KENNETH FINK as Director of Health, and urges the Senate's confirmation of this nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chief Executive Officer Robert Hirokawa at (808) 791-7830, or rhirokawa@hawaiiipca.net.



April 3, 2023

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: GM 514 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM 514, the confirmation of Kenneth Fink as the Director of the Department of Health. We've had the pleasure of working directly with Mr. Fink since 2021, as he served in his role as Vice President of Medicare & Medicaid Programs for HMSA. During that time, he has proven himself to be dedicated not only to improving the lives of HMSA members, but also the health of Hawaii.

Mr. Fink has served the people of Hawaii well in various capacities since 2008. Before joining HMSA, he served as Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools and as the State Medicaid Director for the Hawaii Department of Human Services. His expertise in his field also comes from his experience serving as a Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and as a Director for the US Preventive Services Task Force Program.

With a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina School of Health and a Doctor of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Mr. Fink has the foundation needed to make him an excellent candidate for this nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 514. Your consideration of the confirmation of Mr. Kenneth Fink as the Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Diesman
Senior Vice President
Government Policy and Advocacy

Testimony of
Dr. Anthea Wang
AAMD, Government Program & Community Population Health Solutions

Before:
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

April 3, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference

Re: GM 514, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on GM 514, for the confirmation of Dr. Kenneth Fink as Director for the Department of Health (“DOH”).

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 514.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 269,000 members in Hawai‘i. In Hawai‘i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i has more than 20+ medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the 1.4 million people living in the communities we serve.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i supports Dr. Fink’s nomination to lead the Department of Health given his extensive experience in medicine, public health, and health policy. He has been effective as a leader and administrator at state and federal levels and truly embodies the spirit of public service. Some of the broad experience that make him extremely qualified to lead the department, tasked in protecting and improving the health and environment for all people in Hawai‘i, includes serving as the Administrator for the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Human Services, the Chief Medical Officer for Region 10 for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, as well as the Director of Student Health Services at Kamehameha Schools.

Beyond his extensive qualifications as others have noted, I have personally known Dr. Fink for over 20 years, since our time in Preventive Medical Residency at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. More recently, we also worked together in the Med-QUEST Division and on the board for the Institute for Human Services. In my decades knowing Dr. Fink, I appreciate how very patient centered, evidence-based, and strategic he is. I value his integrity and never doubt that he will always do what is the right thing to do. Furthermore, Dr. Fink always surrounds himself with good people, which is evident by his deputy directors at the Department of Health. When I heard that Governor Green nominated Dr. Fink to lead the Department of Health, I was thrilled for him, for the department, and for the state. I know that he will be excellent, not only because his unique qualifications and experience will allow him to effectively lead the Department of Health but also because his heart truly embraces the mission of public health.

It is with this testimony that Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i respectfully urges the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services to recommend the Senate advise and consent to Dr. Fink's nomination to lead the Department of Health.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

April 3, 2023, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Derek Akiyoshi
Oahu Region Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

Sean Sanada
Oahu Region Chief Administrative Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

GM 514

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK,
for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026

We strongly support the appointment of Dr. Kenneth Fink to the position of Director of the Department of Health.

We have been working closely with Dr. Fink since he assumed his new role this year and he has proven to be a knowledgeable resource. Our joint efforts have targeted community healthcare needs for vulnerable populations and utilization of appropriate spaces at Leahi Hospital and Maluhia. He and his team have been very easy to work with and, together, we have been able to generate many creative ideas to help address the priorities of our community in a collaborative manner.

Dr. Fink has a broad and detailed understanding of government operations and policy. Of particular value, he brings extensive experience in medicine and administration to the Department during a time of immense pressure on the state's public health system. Dr. Fink has shown the composure and leadership qualities required for this position and, coupled with the expertise drawn from his service in both the public and private sectors, we are confident that he will prove to be a true asset to the Department of Health and the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Dr. Fink.

Monday, April 3, 2023 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **GM 514 – Testimony In Support
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department
of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at
noon on 12/07/2026.**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in **support** of GM 514 which submits for consideration and confirmation Dr. Kenneth Fink to serve as the director of the Department of Health (DOH), for a term to expire at noon on 12/07/2026.

Prior to joining DOH, Dr. Fink worked as the Vice President for Medicare & Medicaid Programs at HMSA. He has also worked as the Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools. His extensive public and private sector experience will enable him to assess and address Hawai'i's healthcare issues from a meaningful perspective.

Dr. Fink's government work includes serving as the State Medicaid Director for Hawai'i, the Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the Director of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-based Practice Centers programs at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Dr. Fink's experience in working in the private and public sectors together with his medical training make him an ideal candidate to lead the DOH. We support Dr. Fink's nomination and urge your committee to recommend that he be confirmed as the Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Clinic
4590 Hana Highway
Hāna, Maui 96713
tel 808.248.8294
fax 808.248.8917

Administration
P.O. Box 807
Hāna, Maui 96713
tel 808.248.7515
fax 808.248.7223

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Human Services
Thirty-Second Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 213
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura:

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Kenny Fink to be the Director of Health.

Dr. Fink has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink attended Haverford College, received combined Medical Doctor and Master of Governmental Administration degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and was awarded a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He completed residencies in family medicine at the University of Washington and preventive medicine at UNC.

In addition, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Kerr White Visiting Scholar, and Excellence in Government Fellow. He is board certified in both family medicine and also general preventive medicine and public health, and he has been awarded the degree of Fellow by both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

His health policy experience includes serving as the Director of both the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-based Practice Centers programs at the US DHHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Chief Medical Officer for the US DHHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the State Medicaid Director for Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink also has non-governmental experience having worked as the Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools and as the Vice President for Medicare and Medicaid Programs at HMSA.

In addition, Dr. Fink has served the public and demonstrated his leadership in the military. He recently retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force having served twenty-three years in the Air Reserve Component. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as both the Chief of Aerospace Medicine and the Medical Group Commander in the Hawai'i Air National Guard.

In summary, Dr. Fink has the qualifications, experience, and leadership to effectively lead the Department of Health. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support.

Cheryl Vasconcellos
Executive Director

Castle & Cooke
Hawai'i

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 510
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
(808) 548-4811 • Fax (808) 548-2980

March 30, 2023

Harry A. Saunders
President

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Human Services
Hawaii Senate, Thirty-Second Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 213
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura:

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Kenny Fink to be the Director of Health.

Dr. Fink has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and Federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service and embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink attended Haverford College, received combined Medical Doctor and Master of Governmental Administration degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and was awarded a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He completed residencies in family medicine at the University of Washington and preventive medicine at UNC.

In addition, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Kerr White Visiting Scholar, and Excellence in Government Fellow. He is board certified in both family medicine and also general preventive medicine and public health, and he has been awarded the degree of Fellow by both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

His health policy experience includes serving as the Director of both the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-based Practice Centers programs at the US DHHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Chief Medical Officer for the US DHHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the State Medicaid Director for Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink also has non-governmental experience having worked as the Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools and as the Vice President for Medicare and Medicaid Programs at HMSA.

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Human Services
March 30, 2023
Page 2

In addition, Dr. Fink has served the public and demonstrated his leadership in the military. He recently retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force having served twenty-three years in the Air Reserve Component. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as both the Chief of Aerospace Medicine and the Medical Group Commander in the Hawai'i Air National Guard.

In summary, Dr. Fink has the qualifications, experience, and leadership to effectively lead the Department of Health. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support.

Sincerely,
CASTLE & COOKE HAWAII

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Saunders", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Harry A. Saunders
President

HAS:fs

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 5:11:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are very pleased to submit testimony in support of GM 514 nominating Dr. Kenneth Fink to be the Director of Health. I have known and worked with Kenny for the past two decades, going back to when he was the Medquest Administrator. He is very bright, caring and dedicated to the cause of public health. I always found him open to ideas and we enjoyed a very positive, constructive working relationship. I think he will make an excellent Health Director and we urge the Committee to support his nomination.

April 3, 2023

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: In support of Governor's Message No. 514 for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully request your favorable support for Governor's Message No. 514 appointment of Kenneth Fink as Director of Department of Health.

Dr. Fink has the qualifications, experience and knowledge to effectively lead the Department of Health. He attended Haverford College and received a combine Medical Doctor and Master of Governmental Administration degrees from University of Pennsylvania. He was awarded a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC.) He completed residencies in family medicine at the University of Washington and preventive medicine at UNC. He has worked at the state and federal levels and demonstrated his leadership in the military. He recently retired as Colonel in the United States Air Force

Thank you for the opportunity to submitted written testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 514.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce A. Coppa

FAIRVOTE ACTION

March 6, 2023

Page 2 of 2

President



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Dr. Rick Bruno, President, The Queen's Medical Center

Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health System

Date: April 3, 2023

Re: **Support of GM514:** Consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kenneth Fink, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of the nomination of Kenneth Fink as the Director of the Department of Health.

Since his nomination in early January, Dr. Fink has hit the ground running and demonstrated his ability to comprehend and respond to the complex issues facing our diverse and complex local health care system. Dr. Fink's extensive clinical and administrative experience in both private and public sector organizations has demonstrated his commitment to improving the health and welfare of all of the people of Hawai'i. Queen's looks forward to working with Dr. Fink in his new role at the Department of Health and respectfully urges the Committee to support Dr. Fink's confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of GM514.

The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



April 3, 2023

To: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee

Date/Location: April 3, 2023; 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 225/Videoconference

Re: Testimony in support of GM 514 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM 514, the confirmation of Kenneth S. Fink MD, MGA, MPH as the Director of the Department of Health.

Dr. Fink is an experienced healthcare professional who has spent the past 15 years in Hawaii serving as the Hawaii State Medicaid Director, Director of Student Health Services at Kamehameha Schools, and the Vice President of Medicare & Medicaid programs for Hawaii Medical Service Association. Prior to this, he has served in various leadership positions in Washington, Maryland, and Alaska.

Dr. Fink's degrees include master's degrees in public health and governmental administration as well as a Doctor of Medicine. Dr. Fink has also served on numerous non-profit boards and is a retired member of the United States Air Force.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 514. Your consideration of the confirmation of Dr. Kenneth S. Fink MD, MGA, MPH as the Director of the Department of Health is appreciated.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

AlohaCare | HMAA | HMSA | Humana | HWMG | Kaiser Permanente | MDX Hawaii | Ohana Health Plan | UHA Health Insurance | UnitedHealthcare

hahp.org | 818 Keeaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96814 | info@hahp.org

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 11:51:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Tsuji	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Kenneth Fink as the Director of the Department of Health. During the last three months of working with him, I have found him to be committed to public health and improving its infra-structure.

Dr. Fink learns quickly and has been able to quickly grasp the various subject matters covered by the department. His leadership style that empowers staff and his calm demeanor will certainly benefit the Department of Health.

Thank you for your consideration.

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 7:49:24 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Rosen, M.D.,M.P.H.	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dr. Fink is a superb candidate for Director who is well prepared to lead thie Department of Health. He deserves strong support for his committment to take on this critical position in State. Government.

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:11:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Fink's nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of health policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

I strongly support his appointment. He will be a valuable asset as the Director to the Department of Health.

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 3:47:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Lang	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I vigorously support Dr. Kenny Fink's nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of health policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawaii!

Brian Pang
Honolulu, Hawaii

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health & Human Services
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

From: Brian Pang

Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 1:00PM

Re: GM 514 for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12/7/2026

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, Senator Moriwaki, Senator Shimabukuro, Senator Awa of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Brian Pang and I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Dr. Kenneth Fink's consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Fink as my supervisor while I was the Finance Officer for the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division from June 2008 to February 2015. Dr. Fink served as the Medicaid Administrator and led the Hawaii Medicaid Program through numerous Medicaid eligibility expansions allowing the coverage of additional adults and children. In addition, he was instrumental in bringing in millions of dollars in federal matching funds to fund the coverage of Medicaid expansion recipients.

Dr. Fink's educational background, professional experience, character, and professionalism will make him a great Director of Health. He has previously demonstrated his ability to manage a program that impacts a significant portion of the State's population. His knowledge of Hawaii state government, the budgetary process, and issues that affect the community puts him in a unique position to lead the Department of Health.

I would strongly urge the Senate on Human Services to recommend Dr. Fink's appointment to the full senate to be confirmed as the Director of Health.

Thank you for your time and opportunity to testify.

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Human Services
Thirty-Second Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 213
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura:

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Kenny Fink to be the Director of Health.

Dr. Fink has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink attended Haverford College, received combined Medical Doctor and Master of Governmental Administration degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and was awarded a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He completed residencies in family medicine at the University of Washington and preventive medicine at UNC.

In addition, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Kerr White Visiting Scholar, and Excellence in Government Fellow. He is board certified in both family medicine and also general preventive medicine and public health, and he has been awarded the degree of Fellow by both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

His health policy experience includes serving as the Director of both the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-based Practice Centers programs at the US DHHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Chief Medical Officer for the US DHHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the State Medicaid Director for Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink also has non-governmental experience having worked as the Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools and as the Vice President for Medicare and Medicaid Programs at HMSA.

In addition, Dr. Fink has served the public and demonstrated his leadership in the military. He recently retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force having served twenty-three years in the Air Reserve Component. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as both the Chief of Aerospace Medicine and the Medical Group Commander in the Hawai'i Air National Guard.

In summary, Dr. Fink has the qualifications, experience, and leadership to effectively lead the Department of Health. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kenneth Morris
808.753.2887
Kenny.morris@gmail.com

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 11:10:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunshine Topping	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Kenny Fink for Director of the State Department of Health. Although I have not worked directly with Kenny, I have known him and his ohana personally over the years, and am always impressed with his genuine commitment to the health and well being of our community.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Sunshine Topping

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Human Services
Thirty-Second Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 213
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura:

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Kenny Fink to be the Director of Health.

Dr. Fink has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink attended Haverford College, received combined Medical Doctor and Master of Governmental Administration degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and was awarded a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He completed residencies in family medicine at the University of Washington and preventive medicine at UNC.

In addition, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Kerr White Visiting Scholar, and Excellence in Government Fellow. He is board certified in both family medicine and also general preventive medicine and public health, and he has been awarded the degree of Fellow by both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

His health policy experience includes serving as the Director of both the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-based Practice Centers programs at the US DHHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Chief Medical Officer for the US DHHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the State Medicaid Director for Hawai'i.

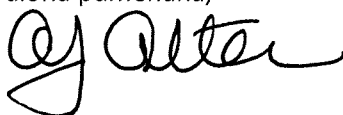
Dr. Fink also has non-governmental experience having worked as the Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools and as the Vice President for Medicare and Medicaid Programs at HMSA.

In addition, Dr. Fink has served the public and demonstrated his leadership in the military. He recently retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force having served twenty-three years in the Air Reserve Component. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as both the Chief of Aerospace Medicine and the Medical Group Commander in the Hawai'i Air National Guard.

On a personal note, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Kenny as a caring father, a dutiful spouse and a physician of unquestioned integrity. He will bring his considerable energies and intellect to this position of great import to the people of Hawai'i, and be a great credit to all of us.

In summary, Dr. Fink has the qualifications, experience, and leadership to effectively lead the Department of Health. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support. I commend him to you without reservation.

Me ke aloha pumehana,



GM-514

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 1:01:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aggie England	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura:

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Kenny Fink to be the Director of Health.

Dr. Fink has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink attended Haverford College, received combined Medical Doctor and Master of Governmental Administration degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and was awarded a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He completed residencies in family medicine at the University of Washington and preventive medicine at UNC.

In addition, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Kerr White Visiting Scholar, and Excellence in Government Fellow. He is board certified in both family medicine and also general preventive medicine and public health, and he has been awarded the degree of Fellow by both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

His health policy experience includes serving as the Director of both the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-based Practice Centers programs at the US DHHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Chief Medical Officer for the US DHHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the State Medicaid Director for Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink also has non-governmental experience having worked as the Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools and as the Vice President for Medicare and Medicaid Programs at HMSA.

In addition, Dr. Fink has served the public and demonstrated his leadership in the military. He recently retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force having served twenty-three years in the Air Reserve Component. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as both the Chief of Aerospace Medicine and the Medical Group Commander in the Hawai'i Air National Guard.

In summary, Dr. Fink has the qualifications, experience, and leadership to effectively lead the Department of Health. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Aggie B. England

LinkedIn: [Aggie B. England - Manager, Legal Administrative - Hawaiian Airlines, Inc. | LinkedIn](#)

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 2:58:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marci LaRouech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Fink's nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 3:52:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann N Matsunami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Fink's nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 7:09:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elzadia Kaina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support Dr. Fink's nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 8:43:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corey R Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Fink's nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 9:49:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dr Fink is an excellent candidate for State DOH Director, and I fully support his nomination. He and I have served together for several years as volunteer directors of the Institute for Human Services. It is one of many ways he gives freely of his talents to assist our community. I came to admire and appreciate his strong talents and leadership on public health issues.

He has diverse experience in the health field that will assist in success in his DOH duties. Prior to joining DOH, Dr. Fink worked as the Vice President for Medicare & Medicaid Programs at HMSA. Before that he was the Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools.

His government work includes serving as the State Medicaid Director for Hawai‘i, the Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the Director of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-based Practice Centers programs at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Dr. Fink has been recognized for his outstanding talents, as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Kerr White Visiting Scholar, and Excellence in Government Fellow. He has Medical Doctor and Master of Government Administration degrees and a Master of Public Health degree. He is board certified in both family medicine, and general preventive medicine and public health. In short, his impressive background is very well suited to be a talented and successful director of DOH.

I hope you will approve Dr Fink for this position.

Ellen Godbey Carson

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 7:44:44 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Oku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sen.San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Sen. Aquino, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I support the consideration and confirmation, of Kenneth Fink to serve as the Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 3:21:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Shim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Kenneth Fink, as Director, Department of Health.

March 31, 2023

TO: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

FROM: Leslie K. Tawata

SUBJECT: GM514 – CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KENNETH FINK, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12/07/2026

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Dr. Kenny Fink for Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health.

I worked with Dr. Fink when he was the Administrator of the Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD). As the Assistant Division Administrator I worked with Dr. Fink on a daily basis. As the MQD Administrator he was very knowledgeable about program services and federal requirements and often conducted research on his own to ensure compliance. He invited different opinions from staff and the community in order to make program and policy decisions.

Dr. Fink worked during one of the most consequential times for Medicaid due to the passage of the Affordable Care Act. He ensured that all requirements would be in place as federally required. It was during this time that our KOLEA eligibility system was implemented that subsequently enabled the Division to process the thousands of applications for Medicaid during the pandemic without any problems or disruptions.

In addition, due to this knowledge of federal statutes, the State was able to expand eligibility for many residents while bringing in millions of federal dollars to the Medicaid program and the State that still exists today.

On a personal note Dr Fink always understood and encouraged the importance of balancing family life and work. He was always professional in interactions with staff and the community and accepted responsibility for staff actions with our Administration when he could have easily attributed blame to others.

I strongly urge your Committee to recommend appointment of Dr. Fink to the position of Director for the Hawaii Department of Health.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony on this important measure.

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 10:44:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Broderick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Dr. Kenny Fink for 15 years. When I was the CEO of the YMCA of Honolulu, Dr. Fink served on the YMCA's Board of Directors. He was a superb Board member--responsible, conscientious, ethical, engaged, and strategic. He also is a very humble and kind human being, who cares deeply about our special Island community.

Dr. Fink will be a terrific leader of the Department of Health, and has my unequivocal support.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Michael Broderick

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 3:31:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelley Withy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 1, 2023

RE: Nomination of Dr. Kenneth Fink for Director of Health

To Whom It Concerns,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Dr. Kenneth Fink for Director of Health. I have known Dr. Fink for about 15 years since he was director of MedQuest. He was very supportive of care for those in need at that time, and continued that sentiment in different roles since then. I was supportive of his serving on a national committee of the American Academy of Family Physicians when I was president of the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians five years ago and he did a great job in that role.

During his time working at Kamehameha Schools, Dr. Fink was instrumental in helping Hawaii build our future workforce by mentoring students interested in health careers. As this is necessary for our health workforce, I very much appreciate the multiple skills Dr. Fink offers.

Furthermore, I have spoken with Dr. Fink about the needs of all the people of Hawaii, and about collaborative partnerships and I believe he has excellent ideas for how to maximize the health of Hawaii. The State of Hawaii has a severe shortage of all health professionals. I believe Dr. Fink will be excellent at managing the day to day needs of EMS, State Hospitals, Psychiatry services, disaster preparedness, but he will also be able to look to the larger picture of building the health workforce we need to meet all healthcare demand.

I look forward to working with Dr. Fink to build our health workforce and maximize care for all the people of Hawaii. I fully support his application for Director of Hawaii State Department of Health.

Sincerely,



Kelley Withy, MD, PhD

March 31, 2023

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF KENNETH FINK, M.D., M.P.H. FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

I write in strong support of Dr. Kenneth Fink's nomination as Director of the Department of Health for the State of Hawai'i. Dr. Fink's credentials and experience in Public Health are extensive and impressive. He has excellent knowledge and expertise in medicine and public health. He has had vast experience in administering State and federal health policies, such as Medicare, and has extensive experience administering public agencies.

More importantly, his commitment to our community and the nation is outstanding. He selflessly volunteered for military service after the attack on September 11, 2001 because he wanted to serve our nation. He had already completed medical school, residency, fellowship training and was doing extensive public health research but he put his professional career and goals to the side to serve our country during a truly dark time. During his time as medical director at Kamehameha Schools, he loved serving its community and immersed himself in the values of aloha. He humbly lives each value of aloha, especially ha'a ha'a.

On a personal note, he is my brother-in-law and I have yet to meet someone as kind, dedicated and sincere as he is. His only drawback is that he is a life-long Eagles fan.

In short, Dr. Fink's willingness to take on public service is a great benefit and gift to our community. I urge you to confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,

LESLIE E. KOBAYASHI

Mail: United States District Courthouse, 300 Ala Moana Blvd, Room C-423,
Honolulu, HI 96850 Tel: (808) 541-1331

Testimony of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, April 3, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
GM 514
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee.

I support the appointment of Kenneth Fink to serve as the Director of the Department of Health.

Dr. Fink has a diverse background in both the private and public sectors. He has held key positions at HMSA and Kamehameha Schools as the Vice President of Medicare & Medicaid Programs and Director of Student Health Services, respectively. Within the state, Dr. Fink served as the Administrator for the Med-QUEST Division in the Department of Human Services. He has also received a number of honors and recognitions, including the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services Manager of the Year. Dr. Fink's academic credentials and extensive leadership experience will continue to be beneficial to the state in this key position.

I respectfully ask for Dr. Kenneth Fink's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 9:54:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keane Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Fink's nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of health policy having worked at the state and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral and environmental health for the people of Hawaii.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Monday, April 3, 2023 at 1:00 p.m
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol

**GM 514 Kenneth Fink
Gubernatorial Nominee for Director of Health**

My name is Debbie Kim Morikawa and I stand in **STRONGEST SUPPORT** of the nomination of Kenneth “Kenny” Fink to serve as Director of Health.

While I have been a member of the DOH team for less than two months, I have found Kenny’s knowledge and collaborative style to be empowering and supportive. His leadership style has made what could be considered an intense and highly stressful job into a very enjoyable, albeit challenging experience. He is thoughtful and exudes a genuine caring and support of others and a high level of integrity.

As for his credentials, Kenny has an impeccable resume of service in both the healthcare industry and public health. From his beginnings as a family health physician with the Indian Health Service to his years in government healthcare service to employment in the insurance industry, Kenny has empowered team collaborations and leadership. His knowledge of healthcare policy from the state, federal, and non-profit sectors will serve the people of Hawaii well as he leads our state’s Department of Health. His span of experience matches the span of responsibility he will have as Director of Health. He created the Kamehameha Schools’ Enterprise Division for Student Health Services which encompassed Behavioral Health, Athletic Healthcare, and Student Safety. As Hawaii’s Medicaid Director, he served our at-risk and under/un-insured community members with dignity and compassion. At the federal level, he was involved in and directed preventive health research and reviews of clinical guidelines and research agenda development. His research papers are published in notable peer-reviewed publications and cited by others in their research.

Kenny’s down-to-earth manner, collaborative style, and strong healthcare and public health background is what is needed to simultaneously heal battered souls post pandemic while laying a new foundation for improved community health and greater health equity.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of gubernatorial nominee for Director of Health, Kenneth Fink.

Michael S. Vincent

GM 514: CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
OF
KENNETH FINK

Gubernatorial Nominee as Director, Department of Health
Before the Senate Committee on
Health and Human Services
Monday, April 3, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Buenavenura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Kenneth Fink to serve as the Director of the Hawai'i Department of Health.

I had the privilege of working very closely with Kenny over the years and I cannot think of a better suited person to serve as the Director of Health. I have worked with and observed him under circumstances and periods of extreme pressure and have been in awe at his ability to remain steady, responsive, well-reasoned, and logical in his responses and actions. The Department of Health needs a steady hand to guide it through the numerous health issues facing our state at any given time and his ability to successfully manage multiple competing events is an asset that the State needs in this position.

I am grateful for the opportunity to know Kenny and be able to work with him in the past and look forward to the future with him leading the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support the nomination of Kenneth Fink to serve the people of Hawai'i as the Director of Health and respectfully ask the Committee to move his nomination forward.

Michael S. Vincent

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 5:00:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael K Champion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I am testifying in my personal capacity as an individual citizen. My opinion is informed by my experience working in the Department of Health. Dr. Kenny Fink is an accomplished leader with experience in both state and national public health settings. In his time as Director of Health to date, he has demonstrated an ability to address complex challenges collaboratively within the department and with external stakeholders in a thoughtful, deliberate, problem solving manner. He is an excellent communicator and has emphasized the importance of the health of the community along with the health and wellbeing of the Department's employees- which has been very well received. As a member of our community and the community of healthcare workers, I support his nomination fully without reservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

-Michael K Champion, MD

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 6:57:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tisha Narimatsu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Fink's nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Tisha Narimatsu

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 7:18:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Mitchell, MS, APRN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dr. Kenneth Fink, M.D. is a remarkably qualified candidate to serve as Hawaii's next Dept. of Health Director. His education and experience in both medicine and public health, his past stint as our State's Medicaid Director and his experiences in the private sector at Kamehameha Schools and HMSA are sure to help facilitate needed conversations between health industry stakeholders while advocating many competing health needs.

As the Executive Director of IHS, The Institute for Human Services, I have been deeply engaged in promoting access to health care for some of our most vulnerable members of the community. I am hopeful for government leadership that understands the need to be responsive in designing effective services for ALL residents that both meets assessed needs and maximizes use of limited resources. I believe Kenny Fink has the ability and passion to lead a team to execute that reality for us in Hawaii. Please confirm his appointment as Hawaii's next Director of Health our Department of Health under this new administration.

Mahalo!

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 7:03:35 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan L Fernandez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of the appointment of Kenny Fink to the Department of Health position of Director. His credentials speak for themselves, and the broad expanse of his experiences outlines his commitment to public health medicine and policy. I have known Kenny for over a dozen years in varying professional capacities. Yet, the day-to-day work with Kenny these past 3 months as his First Deputy has given me a much clearer view of his leadership style.

Kenny is taking the top position of a large state department that has only recently come out from under the unrelenting demands of a pandemic, the remnants of which continue to impact the staff and operations. Out of the gate, in his unassuming manner, he laid the groundwork for change by emphasizing values as his intending north star. Instead of rehashing business and government mantras that have grown stale, he takes an inclusive approach in a kind of group-think, letting the values settle into the foundation, and involving senior staff in re-building the ways we can improve work life and court success. He is consistent, accessible, and down to earth, with a new energy and approach that is a welcomed change.

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 7:58:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rod Becker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GM 514 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07 2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I support the nomination of Kenneth Fink to serve as the State’s director of the department of health.

I’ve had occasion to interact with Mr. Fink for several years as Senate Ways and Means Committee staff while he served as the Administrator of the State’s Med-QUEST Division of the department of human services. My interactions with Mr. Fink were always positive and productive and I find him to be extremely knowledgeable and straight forward. Mr. Fink has the experience, knowledge, and temperament to be an effective director.

I respectfully recommend that the committee act favorably on GM 514.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 8:48:34 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Graham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Dr. Fink since 2003. I was then the Deputy Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and he served as the Director of the US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). His background in both Family Medicine and Public Health (Board Certified in both disciplines) made him extremely effective in this role. His later career responsibilities with both the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and as Director of the Hawai'i Medicaid program will provide him with an excellent background as Health Director for the State. I enthusiastically support his nomination.

/s/ Robert Graham, MD; RADM (Ret.) USPHS

WILLIAM M. KANEKO, ESQ.

American Savings Bank Tower
1001 Bishop Street, Suite 1800
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
808-222-5389

TO: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

DATE: Monday, April 3, 2023
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

RE: GM514 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Bill Kaneko, and I am a licensed attorney in Hawai'i. I have over thirty years of experience working with federal, state, and local government agencies on various public policy and legislative matters. I have known Dr. Kenny Fink for over 15 years since he served as Administrative Director of the DHS Med-Quest Division. Most recently, I have worked with Dr. Kenny Fink in his capacity as Director of Health on public health issues relating to federal qualified health centers.

In so doing, I have had various meetings, interactions and discussions with Dr. Fink on a variety of health policy and programmatic issues. As a physician with strong public policy and government experience, Dr. Fink is well educated, experienced and prepared to serve as Director of Health. He is intelligent, articulate, and methodical in his approach to health policy, with a compassion and understanding of what is best needed to serve our state.

I strongly support Dr. Fink's nomination as Director of Health. His academic credentials are impeccable. He received his MD from the University of Pennsylvania, his MPH from the University of North Carolina, his Masters in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and his BS in Chemistry from Haverford College.

Dr. Fink's practical and government experience is equally as impressive, as both a physician and public health executive. Over the years, Dr. Fink has held positions with the US Preventative Services Task Force Program; the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services; Hawai'i Department of Human Service, Med-QUEST Division; Kamehameha Schools, and HMSA. Combined, his academic and practical experiences will bring to the Department of Health a highly capable and dynamic leader to advance the mission of the Department of Health.

The people of Hawai'i are fortunate to have Dr. Fink lead the Department of Health. I urge this Committee to support the nomination of Dr. Kenny Fink as Director of Health. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM M. KANEKO

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 9:34:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynne T Toyofuku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support Dr. Fink's appointment to Director of Health. His credentials and expertise in medicine and public health, as well as his knowledge of health policy, are significant and extensive, having worked at the State and federal level in administrative and leadership roles.

He embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i. And his commitment and dedication to public service is well demonstrated.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my strong support for Dr. Fink.

GM-514

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 12:28:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Furubayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Dr. Kenneth Fink, a highly skilled and dedicated public health professional, for the Hawaii State Director of Health. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Fink for several years, and I can attest to his exceptional abilities and contributions to public health.

Dr. Fink has extensive experience in various areas of public health, here and around the country. He has consistently demonstrated understanding of complex health issues, as well as the ability to develop and implement effective strategies to address them.

What sets Dr. Fink apart is his strong leadership and communication skills. He is able to convey complex information in a clear and accessible manner to diverse audiences, including policymakers, healthcare professionals, and the general public.

Dr. Fink is also a compassionate and empathetic public health professional, who has a strong track record of working with communities and engaging stakeholders to ensure that public health interventions are appropriate and tailored to the unique needs of those they serve.

Overall, I believe that Dr. Fink would be an outstanding leader of our State Department of Health. I strongly endorse him and I am confident that he will make significant contributions to our state.

Sincerely,

Diane Furubayashi

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 11:29:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Ando	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support for the nomination of Kenneth Fink as Director of the Department of Health. Dr. Fink's extensive resume of his deep qualifications to lead the DOH is impressive. Among the many work experiences that make him a stand-out candidate for the position, he served as the State Medicaid Director within the Department of Human Services for nearly 7 years.

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 11:40:37 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Stanley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Senator Joy A. Buenaventura, Chair Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Members Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Kate Stanley

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of Ken Fink, Nominee for consideration and confirmation as Director , Department of Health.

I am Kate Stanley testifying in my individual capacity in support of the confirmation of Ken Fink as Director of Health.

I have known Ken for close to twenty years. He has demonstrated commitment and compassion for those in Hawai'i who need health care that they cannot afford.

Ken has shown continued commitment. Not many professionals will leave well paid positions to become once again a public servant. Agreeing to serve as Director of Health requires a thick skin and deep commitment.

Ken throughout his career has shown compassion for those less fortunate and will continue to show compassion as Director of Health. Compassion for humans and the environment are necessary.

I wholeheartedly recommend that the Committee on Health and Human Services support Ken Fink as Director of Health.

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 1:34:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strong support Dr. Kenneth Fink's nomination as Director of the Department of Health for the State of Hawaii. Dr. Fink's resume demonstrates an impressive grasp of the issues the DOH faces in these challenging times. He has a diverse background which is an asset as the Director for the DOH. The State will benefit from his varied experience, professional accomplishments, and commitment to service.

I have witnessed Dr. Fink's work ethic and commitment to consensus-building within his team. He is a leader with compassion, integrity and intelligence. He is a quick learner with excellent analytical abilities.

He possesses a commendable and demonstrated commitment to service. He has an impressive educational background that he can draw upon to fulfill his responsibilities and as the Director for the Department of Health for the State of Hawaii.

Dr. Fink truly believes in the mission of the DOH to protect public health and the environment, and I know he will make a positive contribution to the DOH and the State of Hawaii.

Thank you!

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 11:18:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nakata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the appointment of Dr. Kenneth Fink as Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Michele N. Nakata

LATE

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 2:27:00 PM
Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Townsend	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Fink’s nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department’s mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai`i.

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 2:55:03 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of Dr. Kenneth Fink's nomination to be the Director of Health. He is uniquely qualified for this position based on his distinguished career in public health administration and health policy at both the State and Federal levels. Dr. Fink's medical and policy expertise and his experience as a proven leader will be valuable assets to the Department. Through his career as a public servant, military officer and practicing physician, Dr. Fink exemplifies the Department of Health's mission to improve and protect the health of the people of Hawaii. The State of Hawaii is fortunate to have a leader of Dr. Fink's quality appointed to lead the Department. I wholeheartedly support his confirmation.

LATE

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 3:45:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trevor Lang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr. Fink’s nomination to be the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department’s mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai`i.

- Trevor Lang

LATE

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 7:02:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Boivin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Dr. Kenny Fink.

I collaborated with Dr. Fink to provide multi-year college campus safety training to Kamehameha Schools' high school seniors (and their parents). Our shared goal was to educate on various campus and life safety issues facing emerging adults in college and other settings, with a special emphasis on the correlation of alcohol use and sexual assault.

Dr. Fink's care for his students was evident from the start. He has a deep sense of kuleana for our community, and is very future-oriented. It was also apparent that he nurtured and mentored his staff.

I strongly support his nomination and would highly recommend him as Director of the Department of Health. Hawaii needs individuals like Dr. Fink, who will place the community's needs over his own and think about the generations to come in Hawaii. As a university administrator, I value Dr. Fink's perspectives on workforce development to support Hawaii's needs. I urge you to grant Dr. Fink due consideration for this pivotal role.

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Human Services
Thirty-Second Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 213
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813



Aloha Chair San Buenaventura:

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Kenny Fink to be the Director of Health.

Dr. Fink has expertise in medicine and public health, knowledge of healthy policy having worked at the State and federal levels, and experience as an administrator and leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service, and he embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavioral, and environmental health for the people of Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink attended Haverford College, received combined Medical Doctor and Master of Governmental Administration degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, and was awarded a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). He completed residencies in family medicine at the University of Washington and preventive medicine at UNC.

In addition, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, Kerr White Visiting Scholar, and Excellence in Government Fellow. He is board certified in both family medicine and also general preventive medicine and public health, and he has been awarded the degree of Fellow by both the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

His health policy experience includes serving as the Director of both the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-based Practice Centers programs at the US DHHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Chief Medical Officer for the US DHHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the State Medicaid Director for Hawai'i.

Dr. Fink also has non-governmental experience having worked as the Director of Student Health Services for Kamehameha Schools and as the Vice President for Medicare and Medicaid Programs at HMSA.

In addition, Dr. Fink has served the public and demonstrated his leadership in the military. He recently retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force having served twenty-three years in the Air Reserve Component. He is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and served as both the Chief of Aerospace Medicine and the Medical Group Commander in the Hawai'i Air National Guard.

In summary, Dr. Fink has the qualifications, experience, and leadership to effectively lead the Department of Health. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

TESTIMONY OF
KEITH A. REGAN
HONOLULU, HAWAII

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023, 1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 225

GM514

LATE

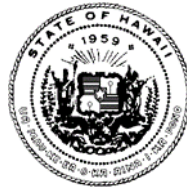
Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, I am providing testimony in support of GM514, the confirmation of Dr. Kenneth Fink as the Director, Department of Health.

Dr. Fink is an accomplished healthcare professional with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. He has an impressive track record, having worked in key healthcare industry leadership roles in both the public and private sector throughout his career. His government work is impressive, having served as the State Medicaid Director for Hawai'i, the Chief Medical Officer for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Region 10, and the Director of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and the Evidence-based Practice Centers programs at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Dr. Fink's educational background is equally impressive having received combined Medical Doctor and Master of Government Administration degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as his Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Fink's service as a retired Colonel in the United States Air Force, also reflects his dedication to our country and makes him strong leader and a great asset to any team.

In conclusion, Dr. Fink's extensive public and private sector experience, outstanding academic background, and military service make him a highly qualified candidate for any healthcare position. He has an extremely strong foundation and a clear vision to help lead the department as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are truly fortunate to have Dr. Fink in this role, working hard to protect the health of Hawaii's people, and, for these reasons, I humbly ask you to please support the confirmation of Dr. Kenneth Fink as the Director of the Department of Health.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 3, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

LATE

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director
Joseph Campos II, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **Testimony in Support**
G.M. 514, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director,
Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KENNETH FINK

Hearing: April 3, 2023, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

We, Cathy Betts and Joseph Campos II, serve as the Director and Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services. We are testifying in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 514, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kenneth Fink, as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Dr. Fink's background and extensive experience in various aspects of health him for appointment as Director of DOH. Dr. Fink has nearly 25 years of experience in public health in the public and private sectors. His service to the State is evidence of his commitment to the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii.

During the last four months, since December 2022, DHS has worked closely and collaboratively with Dr. Fink. Dr. Fink has shown himself to be collaborative, responsive, and understands the many needs of Hawaii residents. Additionally, Dr. Fink has a deep understanding of the social determinants of health and well-being, and understands the issues impacting our most marginalized communities. DHS strongly supports his appointment and confirmation to this very important role, as we navigate the various social and health impacts of the COVID-19

pandemic into the future. We look forward to continuing to work closely with DOH and Dr. Fink to ensure all families and individuals may thrive.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 514 and Dr. Fink.

LATE

GM-514

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 9:43:27 AM
Testimony for HHS on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I strongly support Dr. Fink's nomination for the Director of Health. He has expertise in medicine and public health as well as extensive knowledge of health policy having worked at the state and federal levels. He also has experience as an administrator and a leader. He believes in the value and meaning of public service and embraces the Department's mission to promote and protect the physical, behavior and environmental health for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you



Akamai Cannabis Consulting

3615 Harding Ave, Suite 304

Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY ON GM 514
CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR DIRECTOR FINK (DOH)

By

Clifton Otto, MD

LATE

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Monday, April 3, 2023; 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 225 & Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to offer COMMENTS on this confirmation hearing.

May we please have a question to the Director regarding the status of [HCR132 \(2021\)](#) and his position on actions the State can take to provide a source of Cannabis in Hawaii that is legal under state and federal law.

Please reference [21 USC 822\(d\)](#):

(d) WAIVER

The Attorney General may, by regulation, waive the requirement for registration of certain manufacturers, distributors, or dispensars if he finds it consistent with the public health and safety.

Aloha.

LATE

Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
In Support of GM514
Before the Committee on Health and Human Services
Date

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (Matson) supports GM514, which nominates Kenneth Fink to serve as Director of the Department of Health. Dr. Fink has been a dedicated, longtime physician and public servant. His experience in state government and medical background give him unique insight into health issues of the State of Hawaii. Matson has always found Dr. Fink to be open, fair, and transparent. We believe he will execute his duties with fairness and competence.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.