



Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate
Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 229 and via Videoconference
by
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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Support for GM 623

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 623. The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing supports the nomination of Sondra Leiggi Brandon to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Dr. Sondra Leiggi Brandon has a strong reputation in the nursing and mental health community as being a high-quality nurse, clinical instructor, and administrator in the behavior health setting. Her skillsets match the priorities of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing, and our interest in addressing clinical education capacity, exploring and addressing the needs of the behavioral health nursing workforce, and ensuring that nurses are well supported in transitioning into specialty roles like mental health. Further, her experience and skillset will enable Hawai'i State Center for Nursing to better plan for the future as we look to update our strategic plans in 2025.

Please accept this testimony in strong support of Sondra Leiggi Brandon. Her contributions are invaluable and the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing thanks the Committee for considering her nomination to our advisory board.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Higher Education

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

Date: March 28, 2024

Re: **Support for GM623:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sondra Leiggi Brandon, for a term to expire 6-30-2028

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.

The Queen's Health System appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support** of GM623, consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sondra Leiggi Brandon. Ms. Brandon has been a crucial and trusted member of the Queen's ohana since she first came to work with us in 2016 as psychiatric APRN/telemetry manager. Since that time she has expanded her roles and responsibilities and currently serves as Vice President of patient care, behavioral health and pharmacy for our health system. She most recently represented Queen's in the statewide effort to provide and coordinate critical behavioral health services to the Maui community following the devastating wildfires. Sondra has also been a key advocate for the DOH's successful mental health emergency worker (MHEW) program, which has assisted law enforcement with assessing individuals experience mental health crises.

Sondra is a leader both internally and externally; her recent completion of the Omidyar Fellows program and her ongoing duties as an instructor at the University of Hawaii – Manoa, and service on numerous professional and community boards are a testament to her personal and professional investment in our health system and the state.

Her personal and professional expertise will lend well to the mission of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board. On behalf of The Queen's Health System, I humbly ask your support in recommending confirmation of Sondra Leiggi Brandon for a term on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Mahalo.

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.