



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea Street, #402, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

April 13, 2026

TO: THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisory to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **GM 544 -- Regarding the nomination of Miriam Chang to the Health
Planning Council, Windward Oahu Subarea for a term to expire on
6-30-2029**

HEARING: Thursday, April 16, 2026 @ 3:20 pm, Conference Room 225

POSITION: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SHPDA is very pleased with the Governor's nomination of Dr. Miriam Chang to our Health Planning Council, Windward Oahu Subarea (WISAC).

Dr. Chang received her medical degree from the John A. Burns School of Medicine and completed her Family Medicine residency at Lutheran Medical Center, St. Louis Missouri. She has provided high-quality primary care services in Windward O'ahu for over 25 years. She has worked in Hau'ula, and at Koolauloa Health Center, which she helped found and where she served as Medical Director. Previously she had various primary care positions in Missouri following her residency there. Her career in Hawai'i has combined family medicine, home care, and nursing home care.

Her deep commitment to improving access to care and quality of care in Windward O'ahu and in the broader Ko'olauloa region makes her an invaluable resource for our Council. She has an untarnished reputation, is a person of integrity, and is committed to and greatly respected by the community in which she practices. Miriam has built trusted relationships with families across generations, demonstrating long-standing dedication to local health priorities in the community in which she lives and serves. She will make an excellent member of WISAC.

We respectfully urge her confirmation.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA

GM-544

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 3:16:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/16/2026 3:20:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tilahni Hunkin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support.

LATE

Aloha e Esteemed Colleagues,

I am writing to you today to support Dr Miriam Chang for a seat on the Windward Oahu Subarea Counsel under the Hawaii State Health Planning and Development Agency. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr Chang at the Hau'ula Community Center in my capacity as WIC Nutritionist for Ko'olauloa, in private practice with many client referrals from her, and as Community Nutritionist leading a weekly Healthy Living class with her for the last 4 years. I have been grateful for her mentorship and friendship as she strives to increase the access to and quality of health care for the Ko'olauloa region.

Through her partnerships with Hui O Hau'ula, the community nonprofit overseeing Hau'ula Community center, her long history as a practitioner and partner with Kahuku Medical Center, Ko'olauloa Health Center, and Hawaii Job Corp, and her ongoing work with the University of Hawaii John A Burns School of Medicine, the Hawaii Kidney Foundation and the Hawaii Diabetes foundation, Dr Chang has developed and maintained strong local and state wide relationships that drive collaborations bringing much needed access and capacity to health and wellness services and programs for the Ko'olauloa region.

A lifelong resident of the Windward side of Oahu, Dr Chang is intimately familiar with the health needs of the local community, gaps in access and capacity for care, and regularly works to address equity and sustainability of health and wellness programs. Her long time private practice has seen generations of families grow, giving her a unique perspective on specific challenges and needs of patients and supporting health organizations. She seeks to find a common ground from which to build lasting community driven solutions that benefit the greatest number of community stakeholders.

Finally Dr Chang works to support specific programs that highlight the cultural health practices of the islands. An avid paddler with Lahui O Ko'olauloa and former Medical Officer for the Hokuleia, Dr Chang has been instrumental in developing a strong Kupuna paddling program with the club and bringing cultural wellness programming to the Hau'ula Community Center.

I enthusiastically support Dr Miriam Chang's addition to the Windward Area Subcounsel with the Hawaii State Health Planning and Development Agency. I believe her medical expertise, familiarity with the community, dedication to equitable access, and her commitment to aloha make her a wise and wellsuited member of this Counsel. Please feel free to reach out if you would like additional comments.

Mahalo nui for your time and attention.

Dr Amy Nielsen, DCN, CNS, LDN
WIC Competent Professional Authority
Waimanalo Health Center WIC, Hau'ula Satellite
808-688-6654
DrAmyNutrition@gmail.com