

Testimony of the Board of Psychology

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Monday, March 30, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 582, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SEAN SCANLAN,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2029**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Sean Scanlan's appointment to the Board as a licensed member.

Dr. Scanlan has over 30 years of experience in psychology and obtained his Hawaii licensure in 2005. His experience is broad and includes: (1) providing therapy, training, clinical support in practice settings with a focus on child and adolescent psychopathology; (2) serving as the President of the Hawaii Psychological Association; (3) educating and training students of psychology, including implementing training programs; and (4) serving in his current role as an Associate Professor position at Chaminade University of Honolulu, where he also the Director of the Hawaii School of Professional Psychology. His knowledge of educational training standards, as well as his experience in private and forensic practice, contributes to a well-rounded perspective that will benefit the Board.

Since his interim appointment, Dr. Scanlan has attended three meetings and has begun orienting himself to the matters before the Board.

The Board believes that he will provide valuable insight on a range of issues, including the review of complex licensure applications, the development of administrative rules and legislative testimony, and the adjudication of disciplinary matters. Additionally, his demonstrated commitment to service and active participation enhances the effectiveness of the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 24, 2026

Letter of Support for Dr. Sean W. Scanlan

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the confirmation of Dr. Sean W. Scanlan to the Hawai'i Board of Psychology. Dr. Scanlan brings a depth and breadth of experience that aligns exceptionally well with the Board's central mission of protecting the public.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Scanlan has served in a wide range of professional roles, including work in elementary school settings, private clinical practice, doctoral-level instruction, and leadership within the Hawai'i Psychological Association. This diverse background affords him a comprehensive understanding of psychology across developmental stages, service delivery systems, and professional contexts. Importantly, it positions him to thoughtfully evaluate issues that come before the Board with both clinical insight and systems-level awareness.

As a lifelong resident of Honolulu, Dr. Scanlan possesses a deep connection to the community the Board is entrusted to serve. His work directly with children, families, students, and practicing professionals reflects a sustained commitment to improving the well-being of individuals across Hawai'i. His emphasis on ethical, evidence-based practice demonstrates a clear alignment with the Board's responsibility to uphold professional standards and ensure public safety.

In addition to his clinical and community-based experience, Dr. Scanlan's role as a doctoral instructor and past president of the Hawai'i Psychological Association highlights his leadership and his commitment to advancing the profession. He understands both the preparation of future psychologists and the ongoing development of licensed professionals—perspectives that are invaluable to a regulatory body tasked with maintaining high standards for licensure and practice.

Dr. Scanlan also brings a thoughtful and balanced approach to regulatory service. His awareness of the need to both safeguard the public and ensure timely licensure for qualified applicants reflects an understanding of how Board processes impact access to care across the state. His commitment to ethical integrity, transparency, and accountability further underscores his readiness to serve in this important role.

For these reasons, I strongly support Dr. Sean W. Scanlan's confirmation to the Hawai'i Board of Psychology. I am confident that his experience, integrity, and dedication to the people of Hawai'i will make him a valuable and effective member of the Board.

Sincerely,
Dale Fryxell

Digitally signed by Dale Fryxell
DN: cn=Dale Fryxell, o=Chaminade University,
ou=SEBS, email=dfryxell@chaminade.edu,
c=US
Date: 2026.03.24 16:46:55 -10'00'

Dr. Dale Fryxell
Dean of the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences and Professor of Psychology



March 30, 2026

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Re: GM 582 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Psychology,
Gubernatorial Nominee, SEAN SCANLAN, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

HMSA appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM 582, which requests the Senate's advice and consent for the appointment of Sean Scanlan to the Board of Psychology for a term expiring June 30, 2029.

The Hawai'i Board of Psychology plays a critical role in protecting the health and safety of our communities by ensuring that psychologists meet high professional and ethical standards. Through its oversight of licensure and regulation, the Board helps maintain public trust in mental health services and supports a qualified, culturally responsive workforce to meet Hawai'i's growing behavioral health needs.

HMSA believes that Dr. Sean Scanlan brings an exceptional combination of clinical experience and educational leadership that will strengthen the Board's work. His perspective would help uphold professional standards while thoughtfully addressing the challenges facing our broader community.

Dr. Scanlan has committed his life to building strong communities and giving back to Hawai'i's youth, with a focus on cultivating the next generation of providers and leaders. For these reasons, we respectfully request your favorable consideration of Dr. Sean Scanlan.

Sincerely,

Walden Au
Director of Government Relations

GM-582

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 2:28:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/30/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapilialoha Kidder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am writing in support of **Sean W. Scanlan, Ph.D.** and his nomination to the Board of Psychology. I have know Sean for many years and believe he would continue to benefit the profession of psychology as a board member. He has served in many roles throughout his long career and would be able to give good insight and fair recommendations to the board. Mahalo!

GM-582

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 2:33:54 PM

Testimony for CPN on 3/30/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vilmarie Baez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **SUPPORT** the confirmation of **Sean W. Scanlan, Ph.D.**, to the Board of Psychology, **Measure GM582**. He is a career psychologist who has worked as a private practitioner, as psychology faculty member, and as the Hawai'i Psychological Association President. With these experiences, he has demonstrated commitment to various facets of the field of psychology and would make an excellent board member. As a psychologist dedicated to the ethical practice of psychology and serving the unique needs of the residents of Hawai'i, Dr. Scanlan would be an invaluable board member.