

**Testimony of the Board of
Speech Pathology and Audiology**

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 10, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 585, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KRISTIN BABA,
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 Speech Pathology and Audiology (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Kristin Baba's appointment to the Board as a licensed member.

Dr. Baba has provided audiological care to Hawaii residents and military families for over a decade. After earning her doctoral degree in Audiology from Pacific University in Oregon, she returned to Hawaii and has since contributed her knowledge and expertise to the profession. She holds a Certificate of Clinical Competence awarded by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 2017. Her experience has primarily been accrued in clinical settings with the Veterans Affairs, at Tripler Army Medical Center, and for such hospitals as Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. She also functions as a consulting Audiologist with the private company Hawaii Audiology Consultants handling such referrals as those requiring knowledge of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines. Dr. Baba's dedication to serving Hawaii residents and her experience in private and clinical settings make her a sound source of knowledge within the Board.

In her interim appointment thus far, Dr. Baba has had the opportunity to sit for two meetings and has begun the process of orienting to the matters before the Board. Just within her tenure so far, the Board strongly feels that Dr. Baba will provide crucial support to the Board, including but not limited to the review of complex applications for licensure, developing or updating standards of practice for Hawaii licensees, and

addressing disciplinary actions of licensees. In addition, her desire to serve on the Board and commitment to actively participate in board meetings enhances the Board's effectiveness providing fresh perspectives in matters before the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
GM585

Friday, April 10, 2026
9:30 AM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

IN SUPPORT:

I, Mark Sanders, am testifying in favor of Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

I was Dr. Baba's direct supervisor from 2018 to 2024 when she worked as an Audiologist at the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System and we continue to collaborate closely since her departure to Tripler Army Medical Center.

Dr. Baba is one of the best audiologists I know. She is responsible, respectful, compassionate, and up to date with regards to the theory and practice of audiology. During her time at the VA she made significant contributions to the audiology program including improving coordination with community care providers, expansion of tele-audiology services to the outer islands, and launching our audiology student education program.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. I recommend her for this position without hesitation. She is an excellent asset to the profession of audiology and the Hawaii Community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Sanders', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Sanders, Au.D., CCC-A
Chief, Audiology and Speech Language Pathology
VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protections
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96818

RE: **SUPPORT** GM-585 - Nomination of Kristin Baba to the Board of Speech
Pathology and Audiology

April 10, 2026

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Kristin Baba to the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology, and I respectfully ask that you confirm her appointment. I have had the opportunity to work with Kristin since 2022, and I greatly appreciate her dedication, professionalism, and expertise in occupational noise and hearing conservation programs.

Kristin plays a critical role in protecting workers who are regularly exposed to hazardous noise levels. Her work helps ensure their safety and preserves their hearing, which is essential to their quality of life and long-term well-being. She brings both technical knowledge and a clear commitment to occupational safety, and I am confident she will be a valuable member of the Board.

Hawaii Audiology Consultants Inc. is a local, family-owned and operated business that provides mobile occupational hearing testing and hearing conservation training services across the State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Damien Waikoloa

President, Hawaii Audiology Consultants Inc.

GM-585

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 6:57:53 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Hourican	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Lauren Hourican, recommend Kristin Baba to serve as a member of the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. She consistently uses best practices, has precepted multiple students, constantly continues her education, and has passion for the field. She would make a great asset to the board.

GM-585

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 9:05:52 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catrina Liner, Au.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

GM 585

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State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

IN SUPPORT:

I, Catrina Liner, Au.D., am testifying in favor of Kristin Baba to serve on the board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Kristin Baba has been a mentor and colleague for 3 years and has consistently demonstrated kindness, expertise in the field of Audiology, and a strong work ethic. She is truly a well-rounded professional, with valuable experience serving individuals across all age groups. She has also dedicated many hours to precepting Audiology Doctoral Interns and Externs, like myself, to

help cultivate the next generation of professionals and advance the field. I have witnessed her dedication to excellence and ability to inspire those around her. I am confident that Kristin Baba would be an exceptional asset to the board and have no reservations.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Catrina Liner, Au.D.

Staff Audiologist at the Department of Veteran Affairs.

GM-585

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 8:37:25 PM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Chen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Dr. Brian S. Chen, MD, am testifying in favor of Dr. Kristin Baba, AuD, to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

I have had the honor of serving on this board since 2020 as a community member and a licensed Otolaryngologist. While this board has many esteemed members, Dr. Baba will bring a fresh perspective of the training and certification process for prospective Hawaii Audiologists. I have known Dr. Baba for the last 5 years and have found her to be diligent in her work and a reliable team member. She has a lot to offer this board.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Brian S. Chen, MD

Otology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery

Member, Hawaii State Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology

GM-585

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 5:57:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rie Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

GM585

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IN SUPPORT:

I, Dr. Rie Chan, am testifying in favor of Dr. Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

I had the pleasure of supervising Dr. Kristin Baba from 2016-2017 when she interned in the Audiology Dept at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC). During her internship at TAMC, Dr. Kristin Baba proved to be a skilled clinician who was competent in her overall knowledge of audiology and clinical skills. She accepted feedback without hesitation and always maintained professionalism with her fellow peers, superiors, and patients.

After graduating with her doctorate in audiology, Dr. Kristin Baba gained experience working at various audiology clinics including the Honolulu VA, Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children's, a private practice, and serving as a hearing conservation specialist making her a well-rounded clinician. I have had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Kristin Baba for the past two years at Tripler Army Medical Center where she currently serves as the pediatric specialist. During this time, I have observed Dr. Kristin Baba demonstrate exceptional clinical judgment, strong diagnostic skills, and a deep understanding of audiological best practices. Her ability to communicate complex audiological information to patients and their families is commendable. Dr. Kristin Baba is honest, reliable, respectful, and collaborates well with her peers. She goes above and beyond to ensure patients and their families fully understand their diagnosis and treatment options, often taking extra time to address concerns and provide reassurance. She has been an invaluable asset to our clinic.

I strongly support Dr. Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Rie Chan, Au.D., CCC-A

GM-585

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 8:55:56 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexe Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IN SUPPORT:

I, Alexandra P Morgan am testifying in favor of Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

I have worked with Kristin at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) for over a year. During that time we have cotreated several patients together, held two CAOHC certification courses, collaborated in teaching ENT resident training, presented at TAMC "Oto updates" which provides audiologic education to medical providers in the hospital as well as hands on vestibular bedside assessment training. Throughout our collaborations Kristin has been an ideal partner. Always prepared, on time, and willing to help in any situation. She is professional in all aspects and always places her patients first. Based on my experiences with her, I believe she would be an asset to your team.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Alexandra P Morgan
TAMC Audiologist

GM-585

Submitted on: 4/10/2026 11:54:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/16/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denby Rall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

GM585

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IN SUPPORT:

I, Denby Rall, am testifying in favor of Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

I have had the privilege of being Dr. Baba's preceptor a decade ago, watching her turn into a competent and successful audiologist. Over the next few years I have seen her grow in her profession, both clinically and expanding her knowledge base while she worked for the VA. She has a well-rounded experience with the entire age range from birth to death for patient care. She

is now working as a pediatric audiologist and I have witnessed her expand the specialty at Tripler Army Medical Center into a thriving practice. Her knowledge and expertise will be a benefit to her future contributions to the board.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Kristin Baba to serve on the Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Denby Rall, Audiologist