



Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 3:20 PM
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference
By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of GM 705

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 2003 “to address nursing workforce issues” (Act 198). The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is established in laws under Chapter 304A, The University of Hawai'i System, and under Chapter 457, The Nurse Practice Act. The Center's mission is to collaborate on fostering workplace conditions that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession. Our vision is a thriving Hawai'i nursing workforce.

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing commends the Legislature in considering this nomination of Terilyn Luke for the position of Advisory Board member of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. The HSCN Advisory Board must have five (5) members who are nurses with an active Hawai'i nursing license, including but not limited to: (A) Nursing executive, (B) Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), (C) Registered nurse (RN) affiliated with a nurse collective bargaining organization, and (D) Doctorally prepared RN educator or researcher. A nurse license IS required for Group 1. This nomination will fill the current vacancy in Group 1. Related to this nomination, Terilyn Luke as the president of Hawai'i Nurse and Healthcare Professional, represents the category in Group 1, a “RN affiliated with a nurse collective bargaining organization”.

Terilyn Luke has a longstanding relationship with HSCN, including having been a member of our Evidence-Based Practice intensive program. Her longtime contributions to professional nursing make her well suited to advise the Center for Nursing.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to collaborate on fostering workplace conditions that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession.



Rosalee Agas-Yuu, RN
President

1600 Ala Moana Blvd Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96815

Tel: (808) 531-1628
Fax: (808) 524-2760

In Strong Support of GM 705: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, TERILYN LUKE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey and Committee Members from the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. We are in **strong** support of Terilyn Luke to serve as a member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Terilyn is currently the President at Hawaii Nurses and Healthcare Professionals (HNHP) and is very aware of the workplace issues for the Nurses in the State of Hawaii. She can provide assistance in developing a plan for implementing strategies to **RETAIN** Nurses in Hawaii. Recruitment strategies are well represented in the Hawaii State Center for Nursing, and it is a great opportunity to add another layer to that and provide the focus in hospitals where retention needs to be addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of GM 705.

Sincerely,

Rosalee Agas-Yuu

Rosalee Agas-Yuu

President, Hawai'i Nurses' Association, OPEIU Local 50



**Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee
on Health and Human Services**

HEARING: Thursday April 16, 3:20 P.M.

PLACE: Room 225 State Capitol and via videoconference

GM 705

Chair Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for providing this opportunity to testify.

Hawai'i-American Nurses Association (Hawai'i- ANA) is the professional association for over 17,000 registered nurses who live and work in Hawai'i. Our mission is to advocate for our profession and for the improvement of the healthcare system in the communities where we live and work. **We strongly recommend that our colleague Terilyn Luke, BSN, RN, be confirmed to the position on the Center for Nursing (HSCN) Advisory Board , as nominated by Governor Josh Green, for the term to expire 06-30-2030.**

I am the current Vice President of Hawai'i-ANA and I can attest to the appropriateness of this nomination as I have known and worked with Terilyn Luke for decades, on healthcare and nursing policy and workforce issues in Hawai'i. She has deep experience in the healthcare system in Hawai'i, in staff nursing and executive leadership roles, bridging the gap between frontline clinical realities for nurses and high-level organizational policy. Terilyn Luke will bring to the HSCN Advisory Board direct collaboration with labor unions representing nurses, as mandated by state law under Chapter 304A, The University of Hawai'i System.

Hawai'i-ANA thanks your committee for its commitment to the people of Hawai'i in supporting our healthcare workforce in their service to our community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this confirmation.



Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:

Chair of Advocacy Committee: Linda Beechinor, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

President: Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Executive Director: Elizabeth Kahakua, RN, BSN

phone (808) 779-3001 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/10/2026 10:35:59 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support the appointment of Terilyn Carvalho Luke to the Hawaii State Center for Nursing Advisory Board. I have had the privilege of working with Teri since around 2011–2012, first as a fellow nurse at Kaiser Permanente and, more recently, under her leadership as Union President during my time as a union steward with the Hawaii Nurses and Healthcare Professionals Union over the past two years.

Teri is deeply committed to ensuring nurses have a voice and is skilled at navigating the balance between frontline staff and management. She approaches her work with thoughtfulness, compassion, and integrity. I believe her experience and dedication would make her a valuable asset to the Advisory Board.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 3:47:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Salvador	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Terilyn Carvalho Luke, to be appointed to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 10:20:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francisco Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Consiser statement. Teri has served more than three decades of caring for patients at Kaiser Permanente. Your unselfish routine to serve patients beyond scheduled hours is not one time occasion as these consistent and truly caring and concerned healing episodes happen at all moments. Altruism is present her as family members recognize and acknowldege, understanding that those that need our help are accomidated. The greater good of the community is advanced as they are our our neighbors, family members and friends that will be there in the future. Take care of them at the time of need. Teri will absolutely bring this lifelong persuasion in greater capacity with her board assigment.

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 6:23:56 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tani Iida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, HHS Committee members Sens. Hashimoto, Keohokaloe and Fevella,

I'm writing in to give my strong support to the Governor's nomination of Terilyn Carvalho-Luke to the Hawai'i Center for Nursing Advisory Board. Mrs. Luke is a strong and tireless supporter of the Nursing profession and Advocate for us to be able to deliver safe and skilled patient care. She has also consistently demonstrated the professionalism needed to interact efficiently and effectively with healthcare management, even during very difficult negotiations. Her voice will be a welcome addition to the Center, especially at this time as they seek to establish safer Hospital staffing guidelines for Hawai'i. My hope is that attention can then also be focused on the unique problems RNs have faced in Clinic/Ambulatory Nursing, as staffing shortages and long wait times for patient access to providers continue to increase. Thank you for your consideration for Terilyn Carvalho-Luke.

Mahalo for your service to our island home, Tani-Ann Iida, RN

LATE

GM-705

Submitted on: 4/16/2026 7:03:37 AM
Testimony for HHS on 4/16/2026 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa McClellan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 705

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board for the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing, Gubernatorial Nominee, **TERI CARVALHO LUKE**.

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Hawai‘i State Capitol, Conference Room 225/Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong **personal support** for the appointment of **Teri Carvalho Luke** to the Advisory Board for the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing (HSCN).

Having known Teri for several years, I can speak directly to her exceptional character and her profound commitment to the people of Hawai‘i. Teri is a leader of immense integrity who approaches every challenge with a focus on community well-being and professional excellence.

My support is rooted in several key pillars of her background:

- **Extensive Clinical Expertise:** With more than 30 years of experience as a Registered Nurse, Teri possesses an institutional knowledge of Hawai‘i’s healthcare system that is increasingly rare and incredibly valuable. She understands the evolution of patient care in our islands from the bedside up.
- **Proven Leadership:** In her role as President of Hawai‘i Nurses and Healthcare Professionals (HNHP), Teri has demonstrated an ability to lead with both strength and empathy. She is a fierce advocate for our nursing workforce, recognizing that the health of our nursing profession is inextricably linked to the quality of care provided to our patients.

- **A Balanced Perspective:** Teri's appointment would provide a critical bridge between frontline clinical reality and high-level workforce policy. She understands the nuances of labor, the pressures of the clinical environment, and the strategic needs of our state's healthcare infrastructure.

Teri Carvalho Luke is a dedicated public servant who will bring a balanced, practical, and deeply human perspective to the HSCN Board. I am confident that her contributions will help the Center fulfill its mission to ensure a robust and well-supported nursing workforce for all of Hawai'i.

I respectfully urge your committee to recommend the confirmation of Teri Carvalho Luke.

Mahalo,

Kekoa McClellan