



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i ma Mānoa

John A. Burns School of Medicine
Office of the Dean

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education

Friday, April 17, 2026 at 1:00 pm

By

T. Samuel Shomaker, MD, JD, MSM, Dean

GM 507 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHRISTOPHER YHEULON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.

Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the committee:

My name is T. Samuel Shomaker, and I am the Dean of the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) of the University of Hawai'i. I also serve as chair of the Hawai'i Medical Education Council (HMEC).

I am writing in **support** of GM 507 which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council Dr. Christopher Yheulon, MD, FACS, FASMBMS for a term expiring on June 30, 2029. Dr. Yheulon represents a hospital at which accredited graduate medical education programs are conducted in accordance with the HMEC's Charter.

Dr. Yheulon currently serves as the Chief of General Surgery, Chief of Bariatric Surgery, Associate Program Director of the General Surgery Residency, and, most recently, as the new Designated Institutional Official (DIO) for Graduate Medical Education (GME) at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC). As the DIO for GME, Dr. Yheulon, oversees all GME at TAMC. His distinguished military and academic career demonstrates a deep and sustained commitment to medical education, clinical excellence, and surgical innovation as illustrated below.

With over a decade of experience as a surgical educator, Dr. Yheulon has trained hundreds of residents and students, and previously served as Director of Research for the residency program. His academic appointments include Associate Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Emory University. Dr. Yheulon is a board-certified surgeon, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a Fellow of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, demonstrating his dedication to academic excellence.

Dr. Yheulon's service includes multiple overseas deployments as a trauma and general surgeon, and he has received numerous military honors for his leadership and clinical contributions. His scholarly output, including more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and invited lectures, reflects his active engagement with surgical

651 Ilalo Street, Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone: (808) 692-0886 Fax: (808) 692-1247
Website: <https://jabsom.hawaii.edu>

An Equal Opportunity Institution

education, research, and policy. He is also a frequent reviewer and contributor for surgical journals and conferences.

Dr. Yheulon's unique combination of leadership, academic excellence, and military service makes him exceptionally well-suited to serve on the Council. His breadth of experience will bring valuable perspective to the ongoing advancement of graduate medical education in Hawai'i.

I strongly support of the nomination of Christopher Yheulon to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council and urge your committee to recommend confirmation of his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.