



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM547
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Radiologic Technology Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RENA SHIMATA, for a term to expire 06-30-2029

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 03/06/2026, 1:00 pm, CR225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Position:** The Department supports this nomination.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division, Indoor and Radiological
4 Health Branch (EHSD-IRHB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

5 The Department supports GM547, the nomination of Rena Shimata to serve on the Radiologic
6 Technology Board.

7 Ms. Shimata has served as an interim Board member since May 29, 2025. She earned
8 associate degrees in both Radiologic Technology and Nuclear Medicine Technology from the
9 University of Nevada and subsequently became certified by the American Registry of Radiologic
10 Technologists in both disciplines. Ms. Shimata is a licensed radiographer and nuclear medicine
11 technologist in Hawaii and has served as a nuclear medicine technologist at Straub Benioff
12 Medical Center since 2018. Her duties include performing diagnostic imaging using
13 radiopharmaceuticals, ensuring proper patient care, and standardizing policy and procedures
14 related to nuclear medicine technology at her facility.

15

1 Ms. Shimata's extensive education, credentialing, and clinical experience provide her with a
2 well-rounded perspective that will have a positive impact on the board.

3 **Offered Amendments:** None.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Testifier: Nicholas Kan, Imaging Assistant, Straub Benioff Medical Center

Position: Support

Subject: Testimony in Support of Rena Shimata before the Hawai'i State Radiologic Technology Board

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Board,

My name is Nicholas Kan, and I am an Imaging Assistant at Straub Benioff Medical Center. I am submitting testimony in strong support of Rena Shimata as a nominee before the Hawai'i State Radiologic Technology Board.

The Radiologic Technology Board plays a vital role in safeguarding patient safety, ensuring radiation protection standards, and upholding the high professional and educational requirements expected of radiologic technologists across our state. These responsibilities require individuals who demonstrate integrity, technical expertise, and a commitment to continuous improvement. Rena embodies all these qualities.

Rena brings years of experience as both a Radiologic Technologist and a Nuclear Medicine Technologist. She maintains both licensures and has taken the initiative to update outdated Nuclear Medicine policies at Straub Benioff Medical Center to align with current standards of practice. Her work has directly contributed to preventing potential safety issues and strengthening compliance with modern radiation safety protocols. She also leads efforts in daily huddles, staff training, and communication boards, ensuring that issues are addressed promptly and that the department continues to improve.

I have worked alongside Rena for approximately eight years, and during this time I have consistently witnessed her dedication, professionalism, and leadership. She goes above and beyond her duties, creating training guides, updating policies, and supporting her colleagues. As a preceptor, she provides her students with real-world experience, structured study materials, and the mentorship needed to succeed—demonstrated by her student successfully passing his board exam. Her commitment to education and safety reflects the values that the State of Hawai'i seeks to uphold in radiologic practice.

For these reasons, I believe Rena Shimata exemplifies the State's commitment to a safer, stronger, and healthier Hawai'i, and I respectfully urge her consideration for appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nicholas Kan

Imaging Assistant, Straub Benioff Medical Center

02 Mar 2026

Dear Hawaii State Radiologic Technology Board:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Rena Shimata. I have worked with and supervised Rena in the Nuclear Medicine Clinic at Straub Benioff Medical Center since February 2024. During this time, Rena has displayed the strengths of an extraordinary nuclear technologist. Her clinical expertise is highly regarded, and she has made lasting improvements in the department's scope of services, the quality of care, and the efficiency with which care is delivered. Rena always displayed professionalism and cared for our patients with compassion. Her actions were always honorable and respectful. She is a well-disciplined individual with excellent communication skills, superb clinical skills, and an intense work ethic. Rena has unlimited leadership potential and will contribute to public health and safety as a part of your board. Therefore, without reservation, Rena has my highest recommendation as a valuable addition to the Hawaii State Radiologic Technology Board.

Very Respectfully,



Yang-En Steve Kao, MD
Nuclear Radiologist
Straub Benioff Medical Center
(o) 808-522-4501
yang-ensteve.kao@hphmg.org

Karie M. Izuo
7163 Kamilo Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825
karie.izuo@straub.net

March 2nd, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regard to Ms. Rena Shimata (GM 547) and her application to the Hawai'i State Radiologic Technology Board.

Rena began her nuclear medicine career here at Straub Benioff Medical Center after graduating from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As a new employee, I assisted with her training and she and I worked together seamlessly. I noticed how quickly she adapted to our work environment, had a great understanding of the workflow and was a very thorough communicator. Her immense knowledge and attention to details are what set her apart from most. Her problem-solving skills, compassion for others and pride in her work make her an asset to any organization.

I, therefore, highly recommend Ms. Rena Shimata for an appointment on the Hawai'i State Radiologic Technology Board.

Very Truly Yours,

Karie M. Izuo, CNMT
Lead Technologist, Nuclear Medicine
Straub Benioff Medical Center

GM-547

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 5:38:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/6/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing my testimony in support of Rena Shimata for consideration to the Hawai'i State Radiologic Technology Board. I have known Rena for more than seven years, first as a co-worker at Straub Benioff Medical Center and now as her supervisor. She is currently a Nuclear Medicine Technologist working in Straub's Nuclear Medicine Department.

In addition to her technologist duties, Rena has served as clinical preceptor for student interns as well as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist student who completed his clinical rotations at Straub. As clinical preceptor, Rena communicated with program leadership to coordinate and facilitate a fulfilling clinical experience. She mentored students and willingly shared her experience and knowledge with them.

Rena is very conscientious in her work and actively seeks ways to improve in areas such as patient care, image quality, equipment upgrades, and protocols. She works hard to ensure patients receive the best care possible.

I believe Rena's knowledge and experience in both Nuclear Medicine and General Radiography will make her an asset to the Radiologic Technology Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Yee