

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. 583, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SHERRIE TAKUSHI-ISARA,
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. Sherrie Takushi-Isara's appointment to the Board as a licensed member.

Dr. Takushi-Isara has nearly 30 years of experience in psychology and obtained her Hawaii licensure in 2001. Her professional background is diverse and includes, but not limited to: (1) providing therapy, training, clinical support in practice settings focusing on individual and family therapy for 25 years; (2) recently serving as the Clinical Program Manager position at the Hawaii Pacific Health's Kapi'olani Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), in Honolulu, where she managed staff and treatment objectives until 2022; (3) providing primary, secondary, and tertiary services to sex abuse victims including legal advocacy and case management; and (4) currently serving as a Clinical Psychologist at SATC and in private practice, where she provides therapy and clinical consultation. Dr. Takushi-Isara's expertise in trauma-informed care, knowledge of education and training standards for psychologists, and breadth of experience in both private and clinical settings will bring a valuable and distinct to the Board.

Since her interim appointment, Dr. Takushi-Isara has attended two meetings and has begun orienting herself to the matters before the Board. Even within this short tenure, the Board believes she will provide meaningful contributions, including the review of complex licensure applications, the development of administrative rules and legislative testimony, and the adjudication of addressing disciplinary matters. Her

Testimony of the Board of Psychology

G.M. 583

Page 2 of 2

demonstrated commitment to public service and active participation will further enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

March 30, 2026 / 9:30am

In consideration of

GM 583

Letter of Support for Dr. Sherrie Takushi-Isara's Nomination for the Hawaii State Board of Psychology

Dear Chair Keahokalole and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kelsey Fujinaka and I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in the state of Hawai'i. I am writing in support for the nomination of Dr. Sherrie Takushi-Isara for the Board of Psychology.

I have known Dr. Takushi-Isara since 2018 and have consistently been impressed by her leadership skills, work ethic, and dedication to the field of psychology. She is a lifelong learner and is a proponent of advancing the practice of psychology through continuing education, research, mentorship, supervision, and the maintenance of high standards of care.

She is deeply committed to serving the people of Hawai'i, improving the lives of vulnerable populations, fostering developing clinicians, and positively impacting systemic change. Refined through her experience in nonprofit work, she is skilled in navigating complex systems, leading and listening in challenging circumstances, and making hard decisions based on a common goal or mission.

Dr. Takushi-Isara is a strong advocate for professional integrity and ethical practice. She would both protect and advance the field of psychology in a way that is aligned with Hawai'i's needs and values.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Dr. Sherrie Takushi-Isara.



Kelsey Fujinaka, Psy.D.

Clinical Psychologist-Hawaii Licensed

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of Sherrie Takushi-Isara for service on the Hawaii Board of Psychology. I offer this testimony as someone who has known Sherrie personally for over 45 years and who has had the opportunity to observe her character, organizational skills, and commitment to serving others.

Although I am writing as a friend, my support is grounded in firsthand experience with Sherrie's integrity, reliability, and sense of responsibility—qualities that directly translate to effective, ethical public service. She consistently demonstrates sound judgment, fairness, and respect for others, all of which are essential for service on a regulatory board entrusted with public protection.

One of Sherrie's most notable strengths is her exceptional ability to organize and bring people together. Within our friend group, she is the individual who consistently ensures connection, follow-through, and mutual support. She plans, coordinates, and communicates thoughtfully, helping maintain cohesion and trust among people with different personalities, perspectives, and needs. This ability to thoughtfully organize and sustain collaboration reflects skills that are critical for board service, where preparation, structure, and teamwork are essential.

Equally important is Sherrie's generosity with her time and energy. I have repeatedly seen her step forward to help others, whether offering support, guidance, or practical assistance without expectation of recognition or reward. She donates her time freely and readily to help anyone in need, demonstrating a genuine commitment to service and care for others. This spirit of volunteerism and accountability speaks strongly to her suitability for a role centered on public trust. Her non-profit Making Ends Meet is a great example of this.

Sherrie also brings a deep respect for ethical standards and confidentiality. In both personal and professional contexts, she approaches sensitive matters with discretion and maturity. She listens carefully, considers different viewpoints, and responds with thoughtfulness and balance; qualities that are essential for making fair, well-reasoned decisions as part of a governing board.

In closing, I wholeheartedly support Sherrie for appointment to the Board of Psychology. I am confident that she would approach this role with dedication, organization, integrity, and a genuine commitment to serving the public interest.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Neil Murakami

GM-583

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 9:26:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darryl Salvador, Psy.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senators Keohokalole, Fukunaga and the esteemed members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of Dr. Sherrie Takushi's, who is being considered for confirmation to the Board of Psychology. I have had both the honor and pleasure to know Dr. Takushi for over 30 years and I have nothing but the highest respect and admiration for her as a person and professional psychologist. I've witnessed her growth in both a professional and personal capacity over the years by accepting challenges outside her comfort level and making profound changes in the lives of both her patients and the community. Dr. Takushi has consistently demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the profession of psychology, by treating and caring for her patients who have endured significant trauma, and maintaining a strong ethical foundation and compassionate spirit in all that she does. I would not hesitate to recommend my closest family members to her practice and care if needed.

On a more personal level, Dr. Takushi has been more than a peer. She has been a true friend and I hold her with the utmost highest respect and esteem. I have had the wonderful opportunity to observe her create and lead a non-profit organization that has strengthened and helped countless families in our state, and touch the lives of many individuals with a multitude of challenges,

I humbly hope that you strongly consider and confirm Dr. Takushi as a member of the Board of Psychology (BoP). The BoP will be greatly strengthened and significantly enhanced by her wealth of knowledge, expertise, experience, collaborative nature and leadership skills. I would highly recommend and support Dr. Takushi's consideration and confirmation to the Board of Psychology at this time without any reservation.

Very Respectfully,

Darryl S. Salvador, Psy.D.

GM-583

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 9:40:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzette Tokuda	Testifying for Suzette Tokuda	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Suzette Tokuda and I am a licensed psychologist residing in Honolulu, Hawai‘i. I am submitting this testimony regarding the nomination of Dr. Sherrie Takushi for appointment to the Board of Psychology.

I have worked in the field of Psychology for 25 years and I believe it is important that board members demonstrate professional competence, integrity, and an understanding of ethics.

I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Sherrie Takushi for this role. She has consistently demonstrated a commitment to ethical standards, professional leadership, and advocacy for the enrichment of the community at large. She has gone above and beyond the duty to promote care for those in need and has strongly advocated for access to care.

I urge the committee to confirm Dr. Sherrie Takushi for appointment to the Board of Psychology. She will bring a strong ethical perspective, exemplary support, and valuable expertise to the Boards work.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and thoughtful consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,
Suzette Tokuda Psy.D

GM-583

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 12:01:01 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Peacott-Ricardos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am writing to offer my strong support of Dr. Sherrie Takushi-Isara for appointment to the State of Hawai‘i Board of Psychology.

I have known Dr. Takushi-Isara both professionally and personally for more than twenty years. Our professional relationship began when we worked together at the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, where I had the opportunity to observe her clinical judgment, ethical rigor, and commitment to service in some of the most complex and sensitive contexts. For the past ten years, we have also served together on the board of Making Ends Meet, a nonprofit organization that Dr. Takushi-Isara established to provide critical assistance to individuals facing temporary financial hardship, further reflecting her commitment to thoughtful leadership and service to the broader community.

Dr. Takushi-Isara brings qualities that are essential for service on the Board of Psychology: integrity, sound judgment, respect for professional standards, and a demonstrated commitment to supporting those in need. I endorse Dr. Takushi-Isara without reservation. Her experience, temperament, and credibility would make her an exceptional asset to the Board. I am confident that she would serve the State of Hawai‘i with fairness and professionalism.

Respectfully,

Alana Peacott-Ricardos

TO: Hawaii State Legislature

FROM: Travis K. Lunasco, PsyD, Licensed Psychologist (License #: PSY 950)

DATE: 27 Mar 26

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of Dr. Sherrie Takushi-Isara to the Hawai`i State Board of Psychology

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Travis Lunasco, and I am a licensed clinical health psychologist with over 20 years of experience serving and practicing within the U.S. Armed Forces. I have served in a number of capacities including service member, provider, military leader, published author, director, international speaker, policy writer, and a consultant to the Offices of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of Defense. In addition, I was born and raised in Hawai`i, attended both my undergraduate and graduate education in Hawai`i, and was a Native Hawaiian Health Post-Doctoral Fellow at Tripler Army Medical Center.

I am writing to strongly support the confirmation of **Dr. Sherrie Takushi-Isara** to the Hawai`i State Board of Psychology.

I have known Dr. Takushi-Isara for over 24 years in a personal and professional capacity. Throughout our acquaintance, I have found Dr. Takushi-Isara to be of high moral character, dedicated to ethical practice, and deeply committed to improving the mental health and lives of the people of Hawai`i.

Dr. Takushi-Isara possesses the essential qualifications for this position including her: 1) Clinical care expertise in the field of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and generational trauma, which are common among the people of Hawai`i; 2) Commitment to improving the mental health and lives of Hawai`i's underserved populations, including her establishment of the Making Ends Meet Hawai`i organization which works to ensure those in Hawai`i who are experiencing hardship or trauma receive support; and 3) Professional competency, integrity, commitment to high standards of care, and knowledge regarding ethics and professional regulations.

I am confident that Dr. Takushi-Isara will be an objective and dedicated member of the Hawai`i Board of Psychology and strongly urge the committee towards approving her confirmation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Travis K. Lunasco, Psy.D.

353d Special Operations Wing Psychologist/Psychological Pillar Lead

PSC 80 Box 22449, APO AP, 96367, Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan

tlunasco@mac.com

Phone: +81 090 6865 7285