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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 659 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JUDE DOMIZIO, 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 659 which submits for consideration and confirmation Mr. Jude “JD” Domizio to serve on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council for a term expiring on June 30, 2029. Mr. Domizio is a current Student Services Coordinator at Hilo Medical Center Foundation, who will represent the general public as required by the HMEC Charter. Mr. Domizio has experience with workshop development, coordination of the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) scholars program and clinical skills/healthcare education workshops at educational institutions, and assists students with educational path planning and training. He also volunteers his time to the community through coaching youth athletes.

Mr. Domizio's experiences and passion for education, in addition to ties within the local communities, make him a top candidate to represent the general public. His direct experiences and passion will help to ensure our neighbor island medical education needs are being met to support the people of the State of Hawai'i.

I strongly support of the nomination of Jude Domizio 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.



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Thursday, April 16, 2026

**Testimonial in Support of GM659 Jude “JD” Domizio
For Appointment to the Hawai’i Medical Education Council**

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Aloha Chair, Co-Chair and Members of the Committee,

It is my honor to offer my strongest possible support for the appointment of Jude “JD” Domizio as the statewide community member to the Hawai’i Medical Education Council.

As Executive Director of the Hilo Benioff Medical Center Foundation and Hawai’i Island Area Health Education Center (AHEC), I have had the privilege of working alongside JD for several years in his role as Associate Director. In that time, I have witnessed firsthand his unwavering commitment to strengthening Hawai’i’s healthcare workforce pipeline; particularly for students from rural, underserved, and neighbor island communities.

JD is not only a program leader; he is a builder of opportunity. He leads our Future Docs program, where he mentors and prepares undergraduate students for medical school through MCAT preparation, clinical exposure, and hands-on skills development. He meets students where they are and walks with them every step of the way, ensuring they are not only academically prepared, but confident, culturally grounded, and connected to their purpose in serving Hawai’i.

In his AHEC leadership role, JD designs and delivers hands-on healthcare education experiences for students ranging from elementary school through postgraduate training, coordinates clinical shadowing and workforce development opportunities, and supports AHEC Scholars through leadership, service, and didactic programming. His work is deeply community-centered and grounded in the realities of rural health access, making him uniquely qualified to represent the voice of community in statewide medical education planning.

What sets JD apart is his ability to bridge worlds. He connects students to providers, education to practice, and community needs to system-level solutions. He understands that growing Hawai’i’s healthcare workforce is not just about training providers, it is about creating pathways, removing barriers, and building trust within communities that have historically been left out of these systems.



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JD also embodies the values we need in this role: humility, integrity, collaboration, and a deep sense of kuleana. His engagement in community service, including his work with the Rotary Club of Hilo and youth mentorship, reflects his lifelong commitment to giving back and investing in the next generation.

At a time when Hawai'i faces critical workforce shortages and ongoing disparities in access to care, especially on our neighbor islands, we need leaders who understand both the challenges and the solutions from the ground up. JD brings that perspective, along with the energy, creativity, and compassion to help shape a more equitable and sustainable healthcare workforce for our state.

I offer my full and unequivocal support for his appointment. Hawai'i would be well served by his voice at the table.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With respect and aloha,

Lisa Rantz

Executive Director

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