

GM-660

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 4:56:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/2/2026 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacce Mikulanec	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and members of the committee,

I would like to express my strong support for GM660, nominating Sarah Kamakawiwo'ole for a term on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jacce Mikulanec

GM-660

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 10:23:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/2/2026 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and HHS Committee Members,

As a public health professional, I write in **unequivocal support of Sarah Kamakawiwo‘ole** to join the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) Advisory Board.

I have worked with Sarah in various public health settings and projects for over 5 years, and I am continually impressed by her integrity, perspicacity, and dedication to the health of our local communities. We have collaborated on important health issues for our state, including the ongoing opioid epidemic and Native Hawaiian health policy.

Sarah’s education and career background for the last ten years includes research, policymaking, and health systems administration. She is well-versed at the intersection of the health industry and government at federal, state, and local levels. Her career to date has been generously informed by working alongside a variety of government officials, clinicians, researchers, facility administrators and paraprofessionals, community health workers, and familial caretakers.

This context lends Sarah a unique lens to understand what shapes the needs of nurses and how a thriving nursing workforce supports all who live in Hawai‘i, an aligned perspective with the HSCN’s mission and mandates. Her perspective on the HSCN Advisory Board supports the members who represent the active nursing workforce and can contribute to the Board’s discourse.

Please confirm Sarah to the HSCN Advisory Board.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

GM-660

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 12:33:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/2/2026 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keone Nakoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Stance: SUPPORT / CONFIRM

G.M. 660, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, SARAH KAMAKAWIWO‘OLE, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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

I am writing in support of Sarah Kamakawiwo‘ole to the Hawai‘i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) Advisory Board.

I have worked with Sarah on issues of Native Hawaiian health care and policy for a number of years and always found her work to be well-researched, informed, and insightful. She would make an incredibly impactful addition to the Advisory Board and serve the State and its people well.

Sarah’s education and career background for the last ten years includes research, policymaking, and health systems administration. She is well-versed at the intersection of the health industry and government at federal, state, and local levels. Her career to date has been generously informed by working alongside a variety of government officials, clinicians, researchers, facility administrators and paraprofessionals, community health workers, and familial caretakers.

This context lends Sarah a unique lens to understand what shapes the needs of nurses and how a thriving nursing workforce supports all who live in Hawai‘i, an aligned perspective with the HSCN’s mission and mandates. Her perspective on the HSCN Advisory Board supports the members who represent the active nursing workforce and can contribute to the Board’s discourse.

Me ka ha'aha'a, thank you for your consideration, please confirm Sarah to the HSCN Advisory Board.

**Testimony of
MANUOKALANI TUPPER**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Thursday, April 2, 2026
3:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 660
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE CENTER FOR
NURSING ADVISORY BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SARAH KAMAKAWIWO'OLE,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2027**

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

I am writing in support of Sarah Kamakawiwo'ole's nomination to serve as on the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) Advisory Board.

HSCN is a statewide organization dedicated to strengthening the nursing workforce in Hawai'i. Its Advisory Board members must have a background or experience in health care delivery, finance, workforce, representation of hospitals and acute care hospitals of the State, and community agencies or consumer groups. Ms. Kamakawiwo'ole's professional and academic background strongly align with these qualifications.

Ms. Kamakawiwo'ole holds a Master of Science in Education in Clinical and Applied Exercise Physiology from the University of Miami and a Master of Public Health from the University of Hawai'i, with a focus on health policy and management. Her career has centered on health care policy, research, and administration, along with meaningful community and stakeholder engagement and advocacy. She has also demonstrated a strong commitment to service through her involvement in numerous volunteer roles.

Ms. Kamakawiwo'ole is well-positioned to contribute to HSCN's mission to foster workplace conditions in Hawai'i that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Kamakawiwo'ole's nomination.

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

My name is Oriana Leao and I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of GM660, the nomination of Sarah Kamakawiwo'ole to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

I met Ms. Kamakawiwo'ole in Washington D.C. when she served as Director of Policy Strategy for Papa Ola Lokahi and can confirm that as both a colleague and friend, she is steadfast in her dedicated service to the health and wellness of Kanaka Maoli and Hawai'i as a whole. Ms. Kamakawiwo'ole is a writer's writer with skills and expertise in everything from grant writing, implementation of special federal funds, management growth, administrative processes, advocacy, research, and data collection. As a Native Hawaiian with experience in serving some of the most underserved populations, Ms. Kamakawiwo'ole is the comedy in the chaos and her wise, old soul would make it fraudulent to write her off as "just another millennial." Her personal mana (spiritual power) carries as much weight as her last name and for these reasons and more, I am thrilled to support Sarah Kamakawiwo'ole for the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Me ka ha'aha'a (with humility),

Oriana Leao

**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Thursday, April 2, 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 STRONG SUPPORT on GM660

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

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing 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 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 for Sarah Kamakawiwo'ole for the position of Advisory Board member of the Hawaii State Center for Nursing. HSCN Advisory Board must have four (4) members who have background or experience in health care delivery, finance, workforce, representation of hospitals and acute care hospitals of the State, and community agencies or consumer groups. Nurse license is NOT required for Group 2. Related to this nomination, Sarah Kamakawiwo'ole has extensive knowledge in public health, health policy at the state and federal levels, and a broad understanding of the healthcare needs in the state.

Sarah Kamakawiwo'ole has a longstanding relationship with HSCN through shared presence on a number of committees and coalitions. In addition, as the only-non nurse on the Advisory Board, her unique viewpoint will add depth and breadth to the advice and council that the Center receives.

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.