



**Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Monday, April 13, 2026 at 1:00 P.M.  
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 SUPPORT of GM 663**

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

The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) 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 Center's 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 of Tammie Napoleon for the position of Advisory Board member of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing. The HSCN Advisory Board must have five (5) members who are nurses with an active Hawai'i nursing license, including but not limited to: (A) Nursing executive, (B) Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), (C) Registered nurse (RN) affiliated with a nurse collective bargaining organization, and (D) Doctorally prepared RN educator or researcher. A nurse license IS required for Group 1. Related to this nomination, Tammie Napoleon is a doctorally prepared nurse educator, therefore this nomination will fill a current vacancy in Group 1 for a "Doctorally prepared RN educator or researcher."

Tammie Napoleon has a longstanding relationship with HSCN, both as a former Board of Nursing member and as a collaborating community partner in her role as Nurse Faculty and Interim CTE/OCET Dean for Kaua'i Community College. In addition, she holds key insights as a nurse representing a neighbor island. In particular, Kaua'i has the greatest needs for nursing workforce development.

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.*



Testimony of  
**Derek S.K. Kawakami**  
Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the  
**Committee on Health and Human Services**  
April 13, 2026 at 1:00 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**GM 663 Tammie Napoleon**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee for the Center for Nursing Advisory Board**

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** for the appointment of Tammie Napoleon, DNP, APRN-Rx, PPCNP-BC, to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Ms. Napoleon brings nearly three decades of nursing experience rooted entirely in Hawai'i, making her an ideal advocate for the Center's vision of a thriving local nursing workforce. Her career reflects every dimension the Advisory Board is charged with advancing.

As a Professor of Nursing and Health Education Division Chair at Kaua'i Community College for nearly twenty years, Ms. Napoleon has been on the front lines of nursing education, recruitment, and pipeline development. This work is directly aligned with the Center's mandate to develop strategies for recruiting and retaining nurses. Her concurrent role as a practicing Pediatric Nurse Practitioner demonstrates that she understands the realities of bedside care, not just the academic side of the profession.

Ms. Napoleon's record of scholarly inquiry, including her DNP dissertation on improving STD education for adolescents through social media, speaks to the Center's mandate to research best practices and quality outcomes. Her prior appointment to the State Board of Nursing and participation in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing NCLEX Review Subcommittee further demonstrates her ability to engage at the policy and regulatory level.

Perhaps most importantly, Ms. Napoleon's work has been centered on rural and neighbor island communities, populations that face the most acute nursing workforce challenges in our state. Her perspective is one that the Board needs and cannot afford to be without.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I respectfully urge you to **Advise and Consent** to Tammie Napoleon's nomination and forward to the full Senate for their consideration.