



**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 3:20 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 664

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 Amy Thomas 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, Amy Thomas is System Chief Nurse Executive of Hawai'i Pacific Health. This nomination will fill a current vacancy in Group 1 as she is a "nursing executive".

Amy Thomas has long partnered with HSCN's recruitment and retention efforts including our Hawai'i Clinical Placement Collaborative and the Hawai'i Transition to Practice Collaborative, and was an instrumental community member in supporting the legislative efforts to enact continuing competency requirements, and to include practice-based activities like precepting, evidence-based practice (EBP), and nurse residency engagement as qualifying activities. Her engagement with us started as a clinical nurse educator, as well as an active member of the American Organization of Nurse Leaders - Hawai'i Chapter.

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.



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Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair

From: Bridget Lai
Executive Director

**Re: Testimony in Support of GM 664
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing
Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee Amy Thomas, for a term to expire
06-30-2029**

My name is Bridget Lai, and I am the Executive Director of the Academy for Healthcare Innovation (AHI). Launched on June 30, 2025, the AHI brings education to learners in their communities, facilitates growth through education, and supports upward mobility for numerous careers within the healthcare field.

I write in support of GM 664 which submits for consideration Gubernatorial nominee Amy Thomas to serve on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Amy Thomas, APRN, FNP, is the system chief nurse executive for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH). She leads efforts to further nursing excellence within HPH's medical centers and clinics in order to provide the highest quality care possible for the developing needs of the community. Ms. Thomas also oversees professional programs for nearly 2,000 registered nurses, including more than 1,600 bedside nurses, throughout HPH. She is imminently qualified to serve on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

With more than two decades of experience as a nurse and in working as an advocate for initiatives supporting nursing and education in Hawai'i, Ms. Thomas will be a valuable asset to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board. She has held leadership roles at HPH for over 15 years, and has developed HPH's nursing academies, which provide training for new graduate nurses and offer registered nurses a chance to learn different specialties. In addition to her various responsibilities, Ms. Thomas continues to serve as director of clinical education, employee health and workers' compensation, which involves managing medical library services, educational opportunities and employee health, safety and well-being programs for HPH's more than 7,500 employees.



Ms. Thomas has the educational background, experience, as well as commitment to being a meaningful member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board. I fully support the nomination of Amy Thomas to serve on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board and urge this committee to recommend that her appointment be confirmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair

From: Art Gladstone
EVP, Chief Strategy Officer

**Re: Testimony in Support of GM 664
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing
Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee Amy Thomas, for a term to expire
06-30-2029**

My name is Art Gladstone, and I am the EVP and Chief Strategy Officer of Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of GM 664 which submits for consideration Gubernatorial nominee Amy Thomas to serve on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Amy Thomas, APRN, FNP, is the system chief nurse executive for Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH). She leads efforts to further nursing excellence within HPH's medical centers and clinics in order to provide the highest quality care possible for the developing needs of the community. Ms. Thomas also oversees professional programs for nearly 2,000 registered nurses, including more than 1,600 bedside nurses, throughout HPH.

With more than two decades of experience as a nurse and in working as an advocate for initiatives supporting nursing and education in Hawai'i, Ms. Thomas will be a valuable asset to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board. She has held leadership roles at HPH for over 15 years, and has developed HPH's nursing academies, which provide training for new graduate nurses and offer registered nurses a chance to learn different specialties. In addition to her various responsibilities, Ms. Thomas continues to serve as director of clinical education, employee health and workers' compensation, which involves managing medical library services, educational opportunities and employee health, safety and well-being programs for HPH's more than 7,500 employees.

Ms. Thomas has the educational background, experience, as well as commitment to be a meaningful member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board. I fully support the nomination of Amy Thomas to serve on the Center for Nursing Advisory Board and urge this committee to recommend that her appointment be confirmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair

From: Edna Magpantay-Monroe, Ed.D., APRN, CMDCP
Dean and Professor
Hawai'i Pacific University

**Re: Testimony in Support of GM 664
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing
Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee Amy Thomas, for a term to expire
06-30-2029**

My name is Dr. Edna Magpantay-Monroe, and I serve as Dean of the School of Nursing at Hawai'i Pacific University. I respectfully submit this testimony **in strong support of GM 664**, confirming the gubernatorial nomination of **Amy Thomas** to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Ms. Thomas has been a longstanding and highly effective partner in advancing nursing education, workforce development, and academic-practice collaboration across Hawai'i. In addition to her professional leadership, she has served as an adjunct faculty member at Hawai'i Pacific University since 2002. Over more than two decades, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to nursing education, consistently going above and beyond her roles in clinical practice, academic instruction, and nursing leadership. She remains among our highest rated nursing faculty, and her influence on student success and professional development is evident throughout our nursing community.

Throughout my professional interactions with Ms. Thomas in academic, clinical, and educational settings, I have observed her steadfast dedication to nursing professionalism, workforce sustainability, nurse wellbeing, and the advancement of nursing specialty certification. Her leadership reflects both deep subject matter expertise and a genuine commitment to supporting nurses at every stage of their careers.

In her current role as System Chief Nurse and Director of Clinical Education for Hawai'i Pacific Health, Ms. Thomas has led innovative clinical education partnerships with Hawai'i Pacific University. She has been instrumental in creating structured and supportive pathways for new graduates through Hawai'i Pacific Health's twelve nursing specialty academies, ensuring nurses are effectively prepared, supported, and retained as they transition into professional practice.

Ms. Thomas is deeply committed to the future of the nursing workforce. As a proud alumna of Hawai'i Pacific University, she continues to give back to the profession by speaking at graduations and pinning ceremonies, inspiring the next generation of nurses to lead with excellence, compassion, and integrity.

Over the course of her 26-year nursing career in Hawai'i, Amy Thomas has consistently demonstrated the leadership, collaboration, and vision necessary to advance nursing and health care for our communities. Her experience, dedication, and deep understanding of Hawai'i's nursing workforce needs will make her a valuable and effective member of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your thoughtful consideration of this nomination. If you have further questions, you may reach me at emmonroe@hpu.edu

Respectfully,

Sabrina R. Maggard-Lay-Morris

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services on
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 3:20pm

By

Clementina D. Ceria-Ulep, PhD, RN
Dean & The Queen's Health Systems Endowed Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

GM664—Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Center for Nursing Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, AMY THOMAS, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Chair Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Senator Angus McKelvey and members of the committee(s):

My name is Clementina D. Ceria Ulep, and I serve as Dean of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. I respectfully submit this testimony **in strong support of GM 664**, confirming the nomination of Amy Thomas to the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Amy has been a longstanding and highly effective partner in advancing nursing education, workforce development, and academic–practice collaboration in Hawai'i. Her leadership reflects deep knowledge of the nursing profession and a sustained commitment to building systems that support nurses, students, and patients statewide.

Early in her career, Ms. Thomas partnered with my predecessor, Dean Mary Boland, to establish the State's Continuing Competency requirements for nurses. She also played a key role in developing the statewide nursing student clinical placement system—an infrastructure that remains in use today and continues to support the education of thousands of nursing students across Hawai'i.

In her current role as System Chief Nurse and Director of Clinical Education for Hawai'i Pacific Health, Ms. Thomas has led innovative clinical education partnerships with the University of Hawai'i School of Nursing. These efforts have strengthened the quality, consistency, and outcomes of clinical practicums for students and faculty while supporting workforce readiness across the health care system.

Notably, she spearheaded the integration of Hawai'i Pacific Health's clinical training academies into the final semester of nursing education for select students, creating an enhanced clinical experience and a structured pathway into professional nursing practice. She also developed the Clinical Home program, which allows students to work as nursing assistants, complete clinical practicums, and pursue graduate nursing opportunities within Hawai'i Pacific Health—an effective model for workforce development and retention.

Amy has additionally addressed the statewide nursing faculty shortage by not only remaining a nursing faculty member herself, but also by partnering with the University of Hawai'i School of Nursing to establish dual faculty appointments. This approach enables experienced nurses to teach while remaining in their home clinical units, ensuring both academic capacity and clinical relevance.

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Throughout her decades long career as a nurse, nurse educator, and nurse leader, Amy Thomas has demonstrated the expertise, judgment, and collaborative leadership necessary to advance nursing and health care in Hawai'i. Her experience navigating complex health systems and her sustained commitment to the profession will make her a valuable and effective member of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing Advisory Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your thoughtful consideration of this nomination.