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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 669 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII MEDICAL EDUCATION COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MARY ANN SPADARO ANTONELLI, 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 or Council).

I write in support of GM 669 which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council Dr. Mary Ann Spadaro Antonelli, for a term to expire on June 30, 2029.

Dr. Antonelli has served on the HMEC for the last few years and continues to be the Associate Chief of Staff for Education at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Pacific Islands Health Care System, offering over 20 years of high-level leadership experience.

The VA continues to be a longstanding and valuable partner of JABSOM, providing sites throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific, including on the neighbor islands of Hawai'i Island, Maui, and Kauai, which serve as excellent clinical rotation sites for our trainees as we continue to expand training to meet our state's health workforce demands.

As a faculty educator and supervisor, practicing physician, and health systems leader, with a career spanning over 50 years, Dr. Antonelli continues to demonstrate her commitment to medical education and serving the people of Hawai'i. She continues to support and advocate for Graduate Medical Education and is a valuable asset to the Council.

I strongly support the nomination of Mary Ann Spadaro Antonelli to serve on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council and urge your committee to recommend confirmation of her nomination.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.