



**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

**KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING**  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

**CAROLINE CADIRAO**  
DIRECTOR  
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone  
(808) 586-0100

Fax  
(808) 586-0185

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM687  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder  
Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICK TABOR, for a term to expire 06-30-2029**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao  
Director, Executive Office on Aging  
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing: Friday, March 6, 2026 1:00 P.M

Conference Room: 225

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH), is in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Rick Tabor to the Policy Advisory
- 3 Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** Mr. Rick Tabor is being considered for appointment to the PABEA
- 5 for a term ending June 30, 2029. He has an extensive record of service to the community,
- 6 working with individuals across the lifespan, from youth to older adults. His early career in the
- 7 United States Navy led to subsequent roles in mental health, including work at the Kaneohe
- 8 Medical Clinic and as a counselor at the Hale Kipa Youth Shelter.

1 He later dedicated nearly 30 years to mental health and addiction treatment in King County,  
2 Washington. After returning to Hawai‘i, he served for three years as Operations Manager for the  
3 in-home elder care agency Right at Home.

4 Mr. Tabor continues to demonstrate his commitment to public service through active  
5 involvement in numerous community organizations, including the Alzheimer’s Association,  
6 Kupuna Caucus, Palama Settlement, and Hawai‘i Meals on Wheels. He currently serves as Chair  
7 of both PABEA’s Legislative Committee and the Recognition and Awards Committee, where he  
8 leads discussions and advances initiatives that support Hawai‘i’s older adults.

9 Rick is enthusiastic, dependable, and highly engaged. His advocacy for hearing aid coverage  
10 underscores his empathy and his dedication to improving the lives of Hawai‘i’s kūpuna.

11 Mr. Tabor’s leadership, extensive mental health background, and longstanding service to  
12 vulnerable populations make him a valuable asset to the Executive Office on Aging. As Director,  
13 I strongly support his confirmation to the PABEA.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify

15

Beverly Ann Gotelli  
6286 Opaekaa Road  
Kapaa, HI 96746

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Friday, March 6, 2026  
1:00 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Strong Support: GM 687  
Appointment of Rick Tabor  
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair and members of the Committee,

I'm Beverly Ann Gotelli. Chair of the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, and strongly support the appointment of Rick Tabor to the Policy Advisory for Elder Affairs.

Rick, has an outstanding background in mental health and a volunteer at multiple agencies on Oahu. He is committed to helping our Kupuna be safe through these difficult times.

Rick has been an asset with his knowledge in various fields, from mental health to mediation. He is always willing to share personal experiences to help understand the concerns of Kupuna.

I strongly urge the Committee to approve GM 687 for consideration and confirmation of Rick Tabor to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

**GM-687**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:00:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/6/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
GARY SIMON	Testifying for Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am Gary Simon, a member of the board of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition, whose mission is to improve the quality of life of those who give and receive care by increasing community awareness of caregiver issues through continuing advocacy, education, and training. I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty-five years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition.

The Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition strongly supports the nomination of Rick Tabor to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

I have known Mr. Tabor since 2019. His robust non-profit volunteer leadership experience has contributed to PABEA's guidance to the Executive Office on Aging and its Director in the development of policies and programs which enhance the active aging and care of our kūpuna here in Hawai'i.

We urge you to support Mr. Tabor's nomination, and we urge you to recommend his confirmation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Gary Simon

Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition

2026 Hawaii  
Leadership Board

Travis Kikuchi, *Chair*  
Senior Vice President  
Central Pacific Bank

Lori McCarney, *Immediate*  
Past Chair Community  
Advocate

Tricia Medeiros, *Past Chair*  
Chief Operating Officer  
The Plaza Assisted Living

Gina Fujikami, *MD*  
The Queen's Medical  
Center

Kai Ohashi,  
Financial Advisor Edward  
Jones

Michael Robinson,  
Vice President Hawaii Pacific  
Health

Kimberly Soares, *Vice*  
President Atlas Insurance

Gino Soquena,  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Building and  
Construction Trade Council

Gordon Takaki, *Past*  
President Hawaii Island  
Chamber of Commerce

Cary Tanaka,  
Past President  
Island Insurance  
Companies

Caroline Witherspoon,  
President Becker  
Communications

LJ R. Duenas,  
Executive Director  
Alzheimer's Association

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Friday, March 6, 1:00 PM  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225, and Videoconference**

**RE: GM687 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy  
Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICK TABOR, for a  
term to expire 06-30-2029**

---

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

My name is Coby Chock, and I am testifying on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association Hawaii Chapter. The Alzheimer's Association writes in strong support of GM687, considering the confirmation of Rick Tabor to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs for a term to expire on June 30, 2029.

The Alzheimer's Association Hawaii Chapter is dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. With 31,200 Hawai'i residents living with Alzheimer's, 60,000 caregivers providing \$1.9 billion in unpaid care, and a rapidly aging population, it is critical that we ensure the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable kūpuna.

Rick has been a longtime volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association and brings both extensive career experience and deep community involvement. He embodies the true spirit of volunteerism and is a steadfast advocate for older adults—especially those affected by Alzheimer's and dementia. Rick understands the complexities of these issues and consistently offers thoughtful, informed insights that help the Board address the full spectrum of elder health needs.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask the Committee to make the recommendation to advise and consent to the confirmation of Rick Tabor, so he may continue his valuable work on the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. If you have questions, please contact me at 808-451-3410 or [ckchock@alz.org](mailto:ckchock@alz.org)



Coby Chock  
Director of Public Policy and Advocacy  
Alzheimer's Association - Hawaii

**GM-687**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:37:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/6/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Lenzer Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Mr. Tabor for several years now as a fellow member of the PABEA Board and previously as part of the Hawaii Pacific gerontological Society. During this time, Rick has been devoted to the interests of Hawaii's Kupuna. He has used his considerable passion and knowledge toward furthering, understanding and appreciation for Hawaii's elderly. I strongly support his continuation serving on the PABEA board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to give my full support to Mr. Tabor