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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM689
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder
Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, SCOTT SPALLINA , for a term to expire 06-30-2030**

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: Monday, April 13, 2026 1:00 P.M

Conference Room: 225

1 The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of the Department of Health,
2 strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Scott Spallina to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder
3 Affairs (PABEA) for a term ending June 30, 2030.

4 Mr. Spallina brings more than 30 years of distinguished service as a Senior Deputy
5 Prosecuting Attorney. His experience spans key leadership roles, including supervising the
6 Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Unit and establishing the Elder Abuse Justice Unit in 2008. His
7 extensive expertise, steadfast commitment, and proven passion for protecting Hawai'i's kupuna
8 make him exceptionally well-qualified to serve on PABEA.

9 Additionally, Mr. Spallina has previously served on the board, offering valuable
10 continuity. His deep understanding of elder justice issues and strong advocacy for vulnerable

1 older adults ensure that he contributes a thoughtful, informed, and broad perspective to
2 PABEA's work.

3 As demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, scams, exploitation, and abuse
4 targeting our kupuna continue to rise. The need for dedicated leaders who can champion elder
5 protection efforts is urgent and vital. Mr. Spallina's longstanding dedication to pursuing justice
6 for older adults positions him as an ideal candidate to help guide statewide policies and
7 initiatives.

8 As Director of the Executive Office on Aging, I strongly support his confirmation. Thank
9 you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Beverly Ann Gotelli
6286 Opaekaa Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

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

Monday, April 13, 2026
1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Strong Support: GM 689
Appointment of Scott Spallina
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 (PABEA), and strongly support the appointment of Scott Spallina to the Policy Advisory for Elder Affairs.

Scott will bring a different perspective to the Board, has a retired attorney and founded Hawaii's first Elder Abuse Justice Unit. His expertise on this subject matter will help members understand the importance of Elder Abuse in our community.

I believe with his experience and involvement in the community he will be a great asset to PABEA.

I strongly urge the Committee to approve GM 689 for consideration and confirmation of Scott Spallina to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

GM-689

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 9:05:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GARY SIMON	Testifying for Hawaii 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 Scott Spallina to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

I have known Mr. Spallina since 2016, when we both began serving on PABEA. His robust leadership experience in elder justice and advocacy for older adults contributed to PABEA's guidance to the Executive Office on Aging and its Director in the development of policies and programs which have enhanced the active aging, care, and wellness of our kūpuna here in Hawai'i.

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

Mahalo nui loa,

Gary Simon

Hawai'i Family Caregiver Coalition

Honolulu, Hawaii

GM-689

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 4:39:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelene Tenno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mr. Scott Spallina would be a great addition to the PABEA team.

His experience and knowledge of public sector legal experience will be an added bonus to PABEA as our elder population is growing.

Thank you to Scott for your willingness to volunteer your time!

Raelene Tenno

current PABEA Member, MCP Mediator and Education Chair for Hawaii Council of Community Assn's and Condo owner since 1990