



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

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

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April 6, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **GM 723 – Relating to the Consideration & Confirmation of Penny
Koval to the Health Planning Council, Tri-Isle County Subarea**

HEARING: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 @ 3:20 pm; Conference Room 225

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports GM 723, with comments.

SHPDA is pleased with the Governor's nomination of Penny Koval, RN MSN for the SHPDA Tri-Isle Health Planning Subarea Council through June 30, 2030. We are strongly supportive of her confirmation.

Ms. Koval is an exceptional candidate. She has over 15 years of healthcare clinical and leadership experience. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing with excellence awards from Western Governors University after received an associate degree in nursing from the University of Hawai'i, Maui College.

She has had extensive clinical nursing experience in various urban and rural hospital settings including ICU, emergency department, medical-surgical wards, including as charge nurse. She has since been patient safety coordinator, and nursing manager at Maui Memorial Medical Center and at Kula Hospital. She then went on to be Assistant Hospital administrator, and now as the Hospital Administrator for Maui Health overseeing Kula Hospital and Lanai Medical Center. She is also active in her communities in improving the health and well-being of her fellow citizens.

We recruited Penny for the Tri-SAC to obtain her insights and expertise for advising on the needs of those two rural facilities and for her connections and respect among the health sector professionals of Maui County. She is an exemplary

GM 723: testimony of SHPDA (2026), continued

candidate who will ably serve SHPDA's needs for tracking progress and identifying gaps in care that need to be addressed in rural Maui County.

We are certainly fortunate to have this candidate for this important advisory role. Please confirm Penny Koval for Tri-SAC.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA