



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

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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April 9, 2026

TO: THE 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. Advisory to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **GM 724 -- Nomination of Tricia-Lynn Yamashita for Kauai Health
Planning Subarea Council through June 30, 2030**

HEARING: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 @ 3:20 pm, Conference Room 225

POSITION: SUPPORT

Testimony:

SHPDA is pleased the Governor has nominated Tricia-Lynn Yanashita, MPH, MSPC for our Kauai Health Planning Subarea Council. Tricia-Lynn is a stellar candidate, and we strongly support her confirmation.

Tricia-Lynn has an MPH degree from Hawai'i Pacific University, a master's degree in palliative care from the University of Maryland, and a bachelor's degree from Chaminade University, Honolulu. Her employment history includes currently serving as Executive Director of Kauai Hospice, and previously as its Director of Operations, having worked there since 2011. She was formerly employed by Girl Scouts of Hawai'i as Director of Strategic Operations; and before that with DHS as part of the Youth Gang Response System. She also worked for DOH as a Contracts Administrator.

She also serves on the statewide Board of Directors for the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i (HAH), the statewide Board of Directors of Kokua Mau, and on various national and state hospice committees. She is very engaged in the Kauai healthcare sector and in the broader community, and is widely respected there.

Tricia-Lynn will bring SHPDA very valuable perspectives, expertise, and experience to our Kauai SAC, representing the healthcare priorities and challenges for the county very well. Her willingness to serve us and represent her colleagues in healthcare there is a great opportunity for the SAC. We urge you to approve her confirmation.

Mahalo, Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



Testimony of
Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the
Committee on Health and Human Services
April 14, 2026 at 3:20 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of
GM 724 Tricia-Lynn Yamashita
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Health Planning Council, Kaua'i Subarea

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Tricia-Lynn Yamashita to the Hawai'i Health Planning Council. Ms. Yamashita brings an exceptional combination of executive leadership, financial stewardship, and deep commitment to health equity that makes her uniquely qualified to serve in this capacity.

As Executive Director of Kaua'i Hospice since 2019, Ms. Yamashita has demonstrated the kind of transformative leadership our state's health planning infrastructure demands. Under her direction, Kaua'i Hospice pivoted to become a financially stable healthcare organization.

Ms. Yamashita's commitment to care quality is equally impressive demonstrated through the high ratings and scores that place Kaua'i Hospice among the top performers in the nation. She has also negotiated value-based payment models and secured system integration contracts with facilities which reflect her capacity to think strategically across the healthcare continuum.

Beyond her organizational achievements, Ms. Yamashita has served with distinction at the board level locally, statewide, and nationally. Her prior experience spans state government and the non-profit sector, giving her a rare cross-sector perspective on how policy, funding, and community needs intersect.

Hawai'i's rural communities, and Kaua'i in particular, have long faced disproportionate challenges in accessing quality healthcare. Ms. Yamashita has spent her career closing that gap. The Hawai'i Health Planning Council will benefit greatly from her voice, her expertise, and her unwavering dedication to the people of this state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I respectfully urge you to **Advise and Consent** to Tricia-Lynn Yamashita's nomination and forward to the full Senate for their consideration.

April 9, 2026



Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey
415 South Beretania Street, Room 221
Honolulu HI 96813

Re: Letter of support for Nomination for Trisha Yamashita to the Health Planning Council, Kauai Subarea

Aloha Senator McKelvey,

I am writing this letter in strong support for my colleague Tricia Yamashita to serve on Health Planning Council for Kauaʻi. I have worked with Tricia for a number of years in her role as Executive Director for Kauaʻi Hospice and more recently I have had the honor to serve with her on the board of Kōkua Mau.

Tricia would be an excellent addition to the Council. She brings years of experience in health care, especially in the field of serious illness care. She is very aware of and speaks eloquently about the needs of Neighbor Islands as well as the whole state. She is interested in a variety of aspects of health care including policy, planning, workforce development, regulation and hands-on delivery. Especially as we move into uncharted waters in health care, her expertise and vision will be an excellent addition to any group.

I am happy to offer any additional input and feel that you would be lucky to have Tricia on the Council. I know that I'm glad she serves on the Kōkua Mau board and value her insights and input.

Mahalo for your consideration,



Jeannette Koiijane, MPH
Executive Director
jkoiijane@kokuamau.org
808-292-7178 (cell)



April 14, 2026 at 3:20 pm
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Angus L.K. McKelvey

From: Hilton R. Raethel
President and CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
GM 724, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Health Planning Council, Kauai Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, for a term to expire 06-30-2030

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of Ms. Tricia Yamashita's nomination to serve on the Health Planning Council, Kauai Subarea. Ms. Yamashita currently serves as the Chair of our Hospice Leadership Committee and has a seat on our Board of Directors. In these roles, she has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, particularly in navigating complex and sensitive discussions with thoughtfulness and clarity.

Ms. Yamashita has deep expertise in not just hospice care—she has a strong understanding of the full continuum of healthcare services and the unique challenges faced by rural communities. In particular, she has been an advocate for developing a strong workforce pipeline of individuals who are interested in community-based care, especially for those in need of end-of-life services.

Her experience, judgment, and commitment to improving care delivery make her exceptionally well-suited to serve on this council. We are confident that her contributions will strengthen the council's work and support better outcomes for patients and communities across the island. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for her nomination.

April 10, 2026

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Esteemed Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Members,

I have practiced and taught full-time palliative medicine in Hawaii for over twenty years, and I am writing, as an individual, **in strong support of the appointment of Tricia Yamashita to the Health Planning Council, Kauai County Subarea**. I have had the privilege of serving on a non-profit board with Ms. Yamashita which has afforded me ample opportunity to observe her many skills.

The ultimate challenge for healthcare systems is to optimally balance margin and mission. In no area is this more critical than hospice and palliative care. Caring for individuals and families throughout serious illness challenges the health system to thoughtfully balance diverse needs to deliver compassionate, timely, effective, safe, sustainable, and equitable care. I know of no leader in Hawaii that better meets these challenges than Ms. Yamashita.

I was recently asked to present at a national conference on palliative care delivery. Knowing the leadership position Hawaii has taken in this area, the conference was eager to have a speaker from Hawaii. As I prepared my presentation, Ms. Yamashita was the first person I reached out to to inform me better on the perspective of delivery of palliative care in the rural setting she serves. As expected, Ms. Yamashita's insights were invaluable.

Serving on a board of directors with Ms. Yamashita, I have come to rely on her consistently for her strategic thinking, her collaborative skills, and her commitment to the highest standard of care for people living with serious illness. Ms. Yamashita is blessed with a brilliant mind and has worked diligently to educate herself at the highest levels to maximize the impact she can have in serving her community. Ms. Yamashita can put her skills to best use, and effect change, through truly exceptional spoken and written language skills. I marvel at the precision, thoughtfulness, and tone she puts into every email or contribution at a board meeting.

As a leader in palliative medicine in Hawaii for over twenty years, I could not possibly name a more qualified individual to serve the community on the Health Planning Council. Ms. Yamashita's combination of skills, passion, and integrity will serve the community extremely well.

Ms. Yamashita is truly an outstanding candidate for the Health Planning Council, Kauai Subarea. I support her nomination whole-heartedly and without any reservation whatsoever. I thank the Committee for its attention and diligence in ensuring the people of Hawaii receive the highest quality health care.

Respectfully,



Daniel Fischberg, MD, PhD, FAAHPM
Kailua, HI

LATE

GM-724

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:10:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/14/2026 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Ching	Testifying for Kaiser Permanente	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members:

I respectfully request your support of Tricia Yamashita to serve on the Health Planning Council for the Kauai Subarea.

Mahalo, Jonathan Ching