

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU, HAWAII

David Y. Ige
Governor

Testimony on GM 507
Confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler
Director, Department of Health

Governor David Y. Ige

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

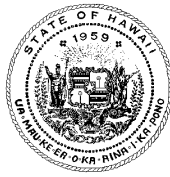
April 1, 2015
1:15 PM in Room 414

Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Dr. Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health. Dr. Pressler previously served as the department's Deputy Director for Health Resources Administration from 1999 to 2002. She most recently served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer at the state's largest nonprofit healthcare network, Hawai'i Pacific Health. While there, she was a leader in the effort to transform healthcare in Hawai'i.

This administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I'm confident that Dr. Virginia Pressler will support our department employees in this effort. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

David Y. Ige
GOVERNOR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Hon. Josh Green, Chair

The Hon. Glen Wakai, Vice Chair

April 1, 2015, 1:15 p.m., Room 414

Re: GM 507, VIRGINIA PRESSLER, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE FOR DIRECTOR,
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Testimony in Support

Submitted by Beth Giesting, Health Care Innovation Director

I strongly support the nomination of VIRGINIA PRESSLER to serve as the Director of the State Department of Health. In my role as Health Care Innovation Director, I couldn't have chosen a better partner for this significant role.

Dr. Pressler brings a high level of energy, intelligence, and experience to both public health and Hawaii's changing health care system. Health care has evolved in recent years to focus on transformation in care, quality, and population health outcomes. Having served as a DOH Deputy Director in the past, her strong advocacy for public health contributed significantly to her success as head of innovation for Hawaii Pacific Health. Her experience with HPH will, in turn, contribute to her success at the Department of Health.

I have had the privilege of working with Ginny ever since she was a Deputy at DOH. Most recently she was my valued co-chair and a significant contributor to our State Innovation Models (SIM) design process. Her leadership with SIM helped rally private sector support and involvement. I expect that Dr. Pressler's new role with the Department of Health will enlarge her perspectives and influence, which will, in turn, be reflected in her continued contributions to health innovation in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to add my strongest support for Ginny's nomination.



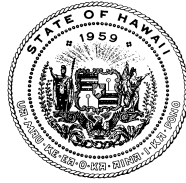
STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 507
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of the Department
of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, DR. VIRGINIA PRESSLER

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015 Room Number: 414

- 1 My name is Stuart Yamada and I am the Chief of the Environmental Management
- 2 Division at the Department of Health. I STRONGLY SUPPORT the nomination of Dr.
- 3 Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health. She is a proven leader in
- 4 the field of public health and has great familiarity with the Department's operations from
- 5 her past experience as a Deputy Director.
- 6 While her credentials are amazing, I am equally impressed by her basic listening and
- 7 comprehension skills, and her ability to make people feel appreciated. She is very
- 8 personable and approachable, and her leadership skills will surely help elevate the
- 9 Department's efforts in protecting public health and the environment.
- 10 Dr. Pressler's "return" to the Department has generated much energy and excitement
- 11 among staff. Her commitment to public service is truly inspiring and I look forward to
- 12 working together with her as the Director of Health.
- 13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
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Testimony of Lynn N. Fallin, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health,
in SUPPORT of GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the
Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee,
VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 This testimony is submitted in very strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Dr.
2 Virginia Pressler for the Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH).

3 We are very fortunate that Dr. Pressler made the choice to return to state public service and to
4 the DOH. Dr. Pressler's experience, accomplishments and respected reputation as an executive
5 leader in health policy and care and administration in the private and public sectors are
6 formidable and impressive. As Director of Health, her expertise and approach to leading and
7 managing will be a major asset to Hawaii's health care system transformation work underway
8 including revitalizing the behavioral health system, especially for the most vulnerable.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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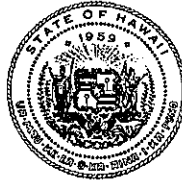
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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
3627 KILAUEA AVENUE, ROOM 101
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

In reply, please refer to:
File:

March 17, 2015

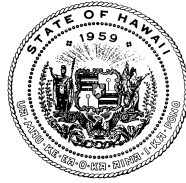
Dear Senators:

I am writing to you in support of the nomination of Dr. Pressler for Director of the Department of Health. As the Administrator of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division and a long-time practicing physician, I have come to understand the central importance of having leadership in health care that voices the physician perspective as an advocate for the patients, but also as one who has seen the health care system function and dysfunction in everyday experience. This has only been compounded with the necessity of having an understanding of the transformation that is taking place with health care reform. Dr. Pressler has been a leader in advocating for both patient care and reform of the system that must be re-designed to improve that care. She has intimate knowledge of the Affordable Care Act and its goals. In order to control ballooning health care costs, efficiencies offered through technology, electronic health records and communications are key to the long-term sustainability of the health care system for all citizens. Dr. Pressler understands this.

We look forward to working with Dr. Pressler to achieve these goals of better quality and lower costs. We heartily endorse her nomination and hope that the committee will confirm her without reservation.

Sincerely,

M. Stanton Michels, MD



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL
235 S BERETANIA ST., SUITE 702
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
Tel. (808) 586-4185
Fax. (808) 586-4186
oeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 507
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER,
as the Director of the Department of Health, for a term to expire 12-3-2018

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015 at 1:15PM

Room Number: 414

Office Testimony: Testimony in strong support of Virginia Pressler as Director for the
Department of Health.

Aloha Chair Green and Committee Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Dr. Virginia Pressler.

I knew of Dr. Pressler and her work since 1990, when I worked for the Department of the
Attorney General's office as a deputy attorney general. She was known to be diligent, more than
competent, straightforward, and easy to work with. I have had the honor to work with
Dr. Pressler since Governor Ige appointed her and I have been increasingly impressed by her
ability to comprehend large quantities of information, identify relevant issues, and prioritize
appropriately. She is extremely skilled at managing people and solving problems.

There is every reason in the book to confirm Dr. Pressler as the Director of the
Department of Health. If confirmed, I'm confident she will continue to do an amazing job and
serve the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to testify in support of
Dr. Pressler.

Sincerely,

Jessica Wooley, Director

Office of Environmental Quality Control



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE & PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING DIVISION
1250 Punchbowl Street, #423
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Committee on Health,

The Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division of the Department of Health strongly support the confirmation of Virginia Pressler, M.D. as the Director of Health for Hawaii.

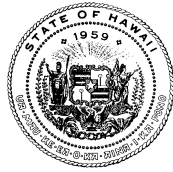
Dr. Pressler's background in economics, research, medical practice, and executive management of health care programs, as well as her previous experience as Deputy Director of Health for Health Resources Administration, provide an ideal framework for managing and leading the Department of Health. She is a proven leader having steered numerous large successful projects, programs, and organizations.

Dr. Pressler is honest, respectful, diligent, and responsible, with a collaborative leadership style that ensures unity of effort and maximal efficiency. We sincerely believe Governor Ige has selected an outstanding, collaborative individual to work with the Legislature to lead public health activities in Hawaii during this Administration.

We respectfully request your confirmation of her selection as Director of Health. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Glenn M. Wasserman, M.D.
Chief, Communicable Disease and
Public Health Nursing Division



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer
to:

April 1, 2015

Testimony on **GM 507**
Consideration and Confirmation
as Director of the Department of Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **Dr. Virginia Pressler**

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015
1:15PM

Room: 414

By

Keith E. Kawaoka

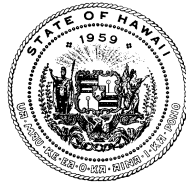
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler to serve as Director of the Department of Health.

In the relatively short period that I have worked with Dr. Pressler, she has demonstrated a keen and attentive interest in all parts of the department. Her observations, knowledge, and experience have contributed valuable insights and collaborative decision-making. I find that Dr. Pressler is very responsive, focused, and committed in matters related public health and the environment.

Please grant her the opportunity to continue her leadership and commitment to the overall goals of the Department of Health.

Mahalo, again, for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378**

In reply, please refer to:
File:

March 25, 2015

**G.M. 507
Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA M. PRESSLER,
for the Director of the Department of Health**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Ms. Ginny Pressler, as the Director of the Department of Health.

Ginny brings a background reflective of what the Department of Health stands for and exhibits personal qualities that will help move the department forward, building positive relationships within the department as well as with our partners in the community. Having previously worked for the Department of Health, Ginny has quickly fortified her rapport with familiar staff as well as with the many new faces that make up our department. This has made her transition into the department smooth and positive.

I have great confidence in Ginny's fortitude and vision to move our department forward with the support of the rest of our team. Ginny is working towards creating a consistent and unified department, giving us the tools to maneuver through systems unique to state government and ensures that our programs within the department are able to meet their objectives.

I look forward to Ginny's leadership of our team, as we strive to move the State of Hawaii forward.

Thank you,

Rita Hoopii-Hall
Human Resources Officer
Department of Health



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**GM507 Testimony of State Laboratories in strong support of confirmation of
Gubernatorial Nominee Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health**

Senate Committee on Health


Hearing Date: April 01, 2015

Room Number: 414


Position: Strong Support

Comments: This testimony is the opportunity for the State Laboratories Division to show its enthusiastic support for the senate confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler as the Director of our Hawaii Department of Health. Dr. Pressler has had a distinguished public and private sector career in medicine, and is the perfect leader to ensure the Department of Health continues to overcome our many challenges and succeed for the people of Hawaii. We, the undersigned urge the swift confirmation of Dr. Pressler as our new Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.


A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.,
State Laboratories Division Administrator


Gail Kunimoto,
Public Health Microbiology Laboratory Manager


Wanda Chang,
Public Health Chemical Laboratory Manager

Rebecca H. Scull
Rebecca Scull,
Laboratory Preparedness and Response Program Chief

Kent J. Magawa, QA/Training Coordinator
James Cuth, PHAO

Stephen [Signature]
[Signature]
Richard Kell, Microbiologist
Shirley Myler

Frank Legata

[Signature]
Dyckin Damp
Annette Siderman

Joann Perkins
Joanna Cook
Beverly Jaira

Elsie N. Ch
Mel Altman
[Signature]
[Signature]

Guomin Jiao
Richard Gule

Valma H. Davis

Dagmar Melner
Klinger Cecher

[Signature]

Shandra Schenck
Mayer
Carri Fig

Paul [Signature]
[Signature]

[Signature]

Gynthia Amig
[Signature]

[Signature]
[Signature]



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 31, 2015

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **GM 507 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 1, 2015; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol

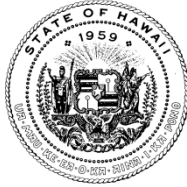
I am writing **in strong support** of the confirmation of Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH). You will hear from others about Ginny's history and experience as a bank manager, surgeon, health plan administrator, DOH deputy, and healthcare executive, and many will attest to her knowledge, reputation, and successes. I have worked with Ginny over the last three years in our overlapping roles in the healthcare system, and I would like to comment on her character and what she uniquely brings to the Department of Health and the State.

Ginny brings to the DOH a wealth of experiences and knowledge gained from working with stakeholders across our islands to improve the delivery of healthcare, the healthcare reimbursement system, and the public's health. She brings a career built on integrity, collaboration, and respect for others, as well as her generosity of spirit, aloha, and time. She is a

strategic planner who makes sure to understand the details, know those involved, and learn how they will be impacted, and her strong sense of ethics keeps all of this in mind in decision-making. As director, Ginny will be able to lead the DOH team and engage community stakeholders to make strides in streamlining programs and improving the community's health.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides empowering programs, services, and benefits to those in our community who are vulnerable with the goals of expanding their capacity for self-sufficiency, self-determination, independence, healthy choices, quality of life, and personal dignity. The well-being of our children, families, and *kupuna* is directly connected to the social determinants of health: education, transportation, access to healthcare, housing, job opportunities, and the environment. I believe that DOH would say the same things. The Department of Health's efforts are therefore connected to our work at DHS, and we are invested in its success. I hope to work with Ginny as the DOH Director and continue to collaborate across departments.

Thank you for your serious consideration of Dr. Ginny Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.



Testimony of
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 1, 2015
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 414

GM 507

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

Senate Committee on Health

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Dr. Pressler earned her BA degree from Cornell University and her MBA, MS in physiology, and MD degrees from the University of Hawaii. She has over 35 years of experience in the medical field in both private and public sectors and is a well respected leader of Hawaii's medical and business communities having earned several local and national awards.

Dr. Pressler clearly has an impressive personal story and resume. From 1999 to 2002, she served as the Deputy Director at the DOH and was instrumental in obtaining 60% of the \$1.3 billion tobacco settlement fund for public health purposes and initiated the Tobacco Trust Fund, Healthy Hawaii Initiative, Hawaii Outcomes Institute, and Hawaii Uninsured Project.

Dr. Pressler has a track record of hard work, listening intently to a broad spectrum of stakeholders, working collaboratively and thinking creatively about solutions to seemingly intractable problems. The DOT is very pleased with her appointment and believes she will improve public understanding of the role of public health to ensure Hawaii continues to lead our nation as the Healthy State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
IN SUPPORT OF

**GM 507, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director
of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER,
for a term to expire 12-3-2018.**

April 1, 2015

Aloha Chair Green, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

It is an honor to provide this testimony in strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Virginia Pressler to lead the Department of Health (DOH).

Ms. Pressler has more than 35 years of experience in the medical field and has held several administrative positions, including Deputy Director for Health Resources Administration during the Cayetano Administration. She is well-respected by Hawaii's medical and business communities, and her wealth of knowledge and experience equips her to successfully lead the DOH. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands works frequently with the DOH as our staff researches genealogies for thousands of Hawaiian home lands beneficiaries, and we look forward to working alongside her for the next four years.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



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Phone: (808) 585-7931 • Fax: 585-7932 • www.hipaonline.com

Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

GM 507: Support of Dr. Virginia Pressler as Department of Health Director

Testimony of
Jeanne Schultz Afuvai
President and CEO

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 1:15 pm
Conference Room 414

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs, we want to heartily endorse and support Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Pressler for the position of Director, Department of Health. Dr. Pressler is well suited for this position with both public and private sector experience in the delivery of health services.

I personally support Dr. Pressler, having worked with her on the Hawaii Healthcare Project – a public-private partnership between the State of Hawaii and the healthcare industry stakeholders. Dr. Pressler is genuinely concerned that health resources are available to all Hawaii’s citizens. She can make a difference overseeing positive health outcomes not only in urban Honolulu but also the rural areas of Oahu and the Neighbor Islands.

I urge you to move Dr. Pressler’s nomination forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
April 1, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 507 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee Virginia Pressler, for a term to expire 12-3-2018

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 507**, relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

The Council is administratively attached to DOH and is mandated by Public Law 106-402 (DD Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2002) and Chapter 333E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities on behalf of individuals with DD and their families that contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family-centered, and consumer and family-directed, comprehensive system that includes needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination for individuals with DD and their families.

We were fortunate for the opportunity to work with Dr. Pressler as Deputy Director of Health Resources Administration (HRA) during former Governor Ben Cayetano's Administration (1999-2002). The DOH Respite program for infants and toddlers (birth to three years), children with a chronic illness, children with serious emotional disabilities, adults with serious mental illness, and children and adults with DD was administered by HRA under Dr. Pressler. At a time when budget restrictions were being implemented, she worked collaboratively with the DOH Respite Task Force to consider various options to minimize the restrictions and disruption of services to families. She supported consumer and family-directed services, and understood the meaning of self-determination for individuals with DD.

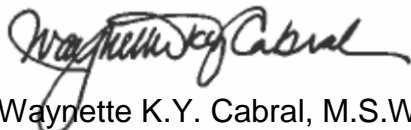
The Honorable Josh Green
Page 2
April 1, 2015

Furthermore, she respected the Council's advocacy role and independent status from DOH that contributed to a positive and efficient working relationship with other Divisions in the Department, especially with the DD Division. Through our work with Dr. Pressler, we found her to be a very committed and compassionate Deputy Director who respected other people's views and perspectives, and considered all recommendations in her decision making.

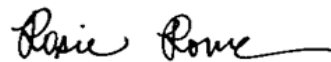
Although the Council is an administratively attached agency, we feel equally important that we are considered a partner in working with DOH in areas that impact the lives of persons with DD and their families. We are confident that under Dr. Pressler's leadership, we can continue to work in collaboration and partnership with DOH's team in enhancing the quality of life and advancing self-determination for persons with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of GM 507 to confirm the nomination of Dr. Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health.**

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair



Senate Committee on Health
The Hon. Josh Green, Chair
The Hon. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of GM507
Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, CEO, Hawaii Primary Care Association
April 1, 2015, 1:15 pm, Room 414

The Hawai'i Primary Care Association, which represents community health centers in Hawai'i, **strongly supports** the nomination of Dr. Virginia Pressler to the Director of the Department of Health.

The HPCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

In recent years, the Hawaii Primary Care Association has collaborated extensively with the Department of Health on a variety of social determinant issues, including obesity prevention, school health initiatives, dental health programs, behavioral health endeavors, and a host of others. Because of that, the HPCA endorses the nomination of Dr. Pressler and looks forward to continuing to work with her on these vital issues moving forward.

Dr. Pressler comes to this position after a lifetime spent working in healthcare in Hawaii. A graduate of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, Dr. Pressler served as a surgeon for more than a decade, developing an acute awareness of the clinical side of health delivery. From there she used that knowledge to move into the administrative side, helping to develop and shape policy for both plans and providers in the state. Along the way she proved a great ally to the HPCA, working diligently on a great number of collaborations.

The HPCA believes there are few people in the state with the breadth of experience and knowledge about the issues facing the health status of the state as Dr. Pressler. We have always had an excellent working relationship with her and the Department of Health and look forward to the continuation of both moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Dr. Virginia Pressler's nomination.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831
eo@doh.hawaii.gov

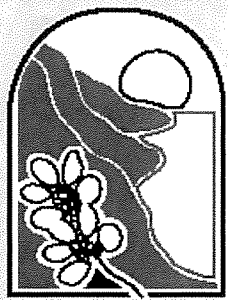
Testimony in SUPPORT of GM507
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, VIRGINIA
PRESSLER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-3-2018

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Testimony of Terri Byers
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015, 1:15pm Room Number: 414

- 1 **Office Testimony:** As Director of the Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency of
- 2 the Department of Health, I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of
- 3 Dr. Virginia (Ginny) Pressler as Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Health.
- 4 Dr. Pressler brings a unique and well-rounded perspective to the post. She is a passionate
- 5 advocate for health equity and healthy living. Her leadership qualities will lend to greater
- 6 partner collaboration, honesty, and transparency.
- 7 I am confident that Dr. Pressler's commitment to public health and visionary leadership will
- 8 serve the State well. I look forward to working with her in her new role.



KAUA'I
*Chamber
of
Commerce*

TESTIMONY

Date: April 1, 2015

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 414, Hawaii State Capitol

March 30, 2015

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair

Vice Chair Senator Glenn Wakai and Members, Senators Roslyn H. Baker, Mike Gabbard, Gil Rivere, Russell E. Ruderman and Sam Slom

Committee on Health

Hawaii State Senate

Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Green and Vice Chair Wakai and Members:

RE: Governor Message 507, Dr. Virginia Pressler, Director, Department of Health

Aloha! My name is Randy Francisco, President/CEO, Kauai Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents 450+ members, 600+ representatives and over 6,000+ employees on Kauai. I am writing on behalf of the Chamber in **Support of Dr. Virginia Pressler, nominee for the position of Director, Department of Health.**

I have known Dr. Pressler in her leadership roles in the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii and at Hawaii Pacific Health. Dr. Pressler is an outstanding leader and partner whom I have had the privilege and honor to work with on health-related and business-related matters, especially, during the recently-concluded recession that began in 2008. During that time, Dr. Pressler provided the leadership, insight and vision essential to help guide and facilitate members of the business community and leaders throughout the state to have a better understanding of the law and, more importantly, the impacts and benefits regarding the Affordable Care Act. Ginny's leadership and keen understanding of the impact of this landmark legislation which she also recognized Hawaii's leadership in the landmark Hawaii Pre-Paid Health Care Act of 1974 insured that the state's vision over 40 years ago to provide the vast majority of residents a health care plan insured its continuance as our state worked with the federal government to provide health insurance for the remainder of our population who do not already have a health plan.

Dr. Pressler's impressive credentials which also includes a career in banking/finance and degrees in medicine and law and, work previously in the state Department of Health as well as recently with Hawaii Pacific Health will provide significant insight and understanding of the issues as the state's Hawaii Health Systems Corporation continues to face an environment of declining revenues. As a former resident of Maui County, Dr. Pressler will also provide additional insight and advocacy for the neighbor island and rural communities in Hawaii, including O'ahu where parts of our state are vastly under-served.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of this much needed leadership in order to support farmers and small businesses on Kauai and, throughout Hawaii nei.

Should I be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 245-7363.

Mahalo Nui Loa and Aloha,

Randall Francisco
President/CEO



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: Chair Josh Green
Vice Chair Glenn Wakai
Senate Committee on Health

From: Paula Yoshioka
Senior Vice President
The Queen's Health Systems

Re: GM 507, Nominating Dr. Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Hawaii Department of Health
Hearing—April 1, 2015 at 1:15 PM

The Queen's Health Systems would like to provide our strong support for Dr. Virginia Pressler's nomination to serve as the Director of the Department of Health.

Dr. Pressler is widely recognized as one of Hawaii's healthcare leaders. In carrying out her many roles in both the public and private workforce, Dr. Pressler has shown her firm commitment to improving the health and welfare of all of the people of Hawaii. She has a deep understanding of the healthcare challenges facing our state and the leadership qualities needed to address them. Dr. Pressler has also been at the forefront of pursuing opportunities that help to keep Hawaii as a leader in providing high-quality, accessible care to residents.

We would ask that your committee support Dr. Pressler's confirmation for this position. She is uniquely qualified for the role, and we believe that she will carry out the duties required with great success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The mission of The Queen's Health Systems is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.

From: [Marya Grambs](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: [Marya Grambs](#)
Subject: Hearing April 1, 2015, 1:15, Senate Health
Date: Friday, March 27, 2015 4:06:33 PM

TO: Committee on Health, Sen. Josh green, Chair, Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee
FR: Marya Grambs, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Hawaii
RE: GM507, Confirmation of Virginia Pressler, Director of DOH

This is Marya Grambs, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Hawaii, and I am writing in support of Dr. Pressler's nomination as Director of the Department of Health. I first met Dr. Pressler when she was at the Health Resources Administration. I more specifically interacted with her in her leadership role at the Hawaii Healthcare Project State Innovation Model and as President of the Chamber of Commerce.

I have always been impressed with her calm, innovative, and fair leadership style. I have seen that she is an impeccable and innovative leader with a broad vision and a collaborative work style.

Very importantly with respect to the mission of our organization, I've been very appreciative of the fact that, in spite of her varied areas of responsibilities, she is aware and supportive of issues related to mental health. She understands the importance of mental health care as key to addressing the healthcare needs of our community.

As we see time and time again, when quality mental health care is not readily accessible, when there is no adequate safety net for the most severely mentally ill, when mental illness remains such a highly stigmatized condition that people are reluctant to seek help, and when people with mental illness are left to fend for themselves, there are enormous and terribly painful costs to those individuals, to their loved ones, and to the community as a whole. Dr. Pressler will bring an understanding of these dynamics to her position as Director of the Department of Health.

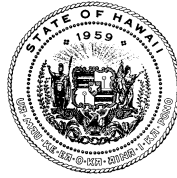
I urge her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Aloha,

Marya Grambs, Executive Director
Mental Health America of Hawai`i
1124 Fort Street Mall, Suite 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808.521.1846
F: 808.533.6995
marya@mentalhealth-hi.org
www.mentalhealth-hi.org

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER,
M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of the
Gubernatorial Nomination of Virginia Pressler, M.D.
as Director of the Department of Health**

**SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

1 **Testimony:** I am Mark A. Fridovich; I am a Psychologist employed by the State of Hawaii,
2 Department of Health (DOH) as the Administrator for Adult Mental Health. I have lived and
3 worked in Hawaii since 2006. I testify in strong support of Virginia A. Pressler, M.D., being
4 confirmed as Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

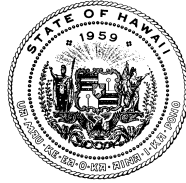
5 Dr. Pressler is a committed and conscientious clinician who has been an effective and
6 consistent advocate for public health. She previously served as DOH Deputy Director of Health
7 Resources Administration. Since assuming her role in the DOH a few months ago, she has
8 quickly and accurately grasped the essence of the critical actions we need to take generally, and
9 specifically, to address the issues facing the Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD), the
10 communities it serves and its hospital based programs.

11 Upon visiting the Hawaii State Hospital (HSH) and meeting with staff, she was able to
12 directly understand both the unique services and treatments which the HSH provides and the
13 special work challenges experienced by staff.

1 Additionally, Dr. Pressler has business, operational and strategic acumen which will help
2 the AMHD, the DOH, and our state in order to be increasingly better able to efficiently and
3 effectively address the health needs of our citizens, families, communities and visitors. For
4 example, she understands the need for effective integration between behavioral services and
5 primary care, how services to promote better mental health and substance abuse treatment are
6 related, and how important a continuum of mental health services is to all in Hawaii.

7 It takes great courage to step forward to lead in the current environment. As a health
8 professional, Dr. Pressler has many options to express her care and compassion for others and to
9 make an impact on health in Hawaii. We are very fortunate to have her as our Director. I urge
10 your confirmation of her gubernatorial nomination.

11 Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of
GM No. 507 Dr. Virginia Pressler, M.D.**

Senator Josh Green, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015, 1:30 pm

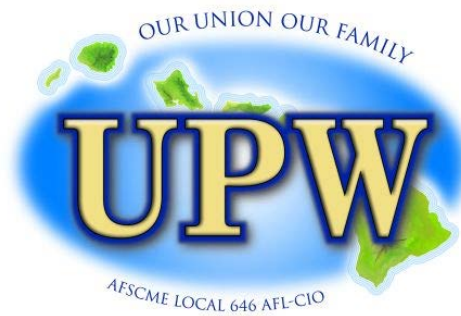
Room Number:

1 Chair Green and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

2 My name is Wilfredo Tungol and I am currently the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and
3 Affordability Act) Office Security Officer. I am submitting testimony in my individual capacity in support
4 of Dr. Pressler's confirmation as the Director of Health for the State of Hawaii. Dr. Pressler had
5 previously served as Deputy Director of Health (Health Resources Administration) from 1999 to 2002
6 under Governor Cayetano's administration. During that time she was instrumental in obtaining majority
7 of the funds from the \$1.3 billion tobacco settlement fund for public health purposes and with this
8 funding she initiated the Tobacco Trust Fund, Healthy Hawaii Initiative, Hawaii Outcomes Institute and
9 Hawaii Uninsured Project. All these programs served the needs of the community, particularly those
10 who are underserved and unable to afford health care.

11 Her background in the medical administration will be of great asset to the Department of Health
12 (DOH) in accomplishing the department's mission of serving our community's public health. As a former
13 practicing physician and chief executive of large private hospitals, she is also familiar with federal laws
14 that govern the privacy of patient medical records. The DOH is a hybrid entity under HIPAA laws. What
15 this means is that certain entities within the DOH are covered under HIPAA laws. It is important to have
16 someone in a leadership position who will ensure that the DOH covered HIPAA entities are in full
17 compliance with the HIPAA laws and regulations.

1 The state of Hawaii is fortunate to have Dr. Pressler return to the DOH to serve our community.
2 She has the requisite qualifications (former Executive VP of Hawaii Pacific Health), education and
3 training (BA, MBA, MS, and MD) and relevant work experience (former practicing surgeon and member
4 of Fellow of the American College of Surgeons) to carry out the leadership duties that is required of a
5 DOH Director. Most importantly, she has the heart and the dedication to serve our communities. I
6 respectfully ask you to act in favor of her confirmation as Director of Health.



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Senator, Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, April 1, 2015
TIME OF HEARING: 1:15 PM
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY ON GM507 FOR THE NOMINATION OF DR. VIRGINIA PRESSLER FOR
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports GM507 for the gubernatorial nomination of Dr. Virginia Pressler. For over 35 years, Dr. Pressler has held administrative positions in the medical community in Hawaii. Her previous service as Deputy Director at the Department will serve her well in addressing the health needs of the people of Hawaii. Her attitude of "getting the right people together to solve a problem" is a strong indicator of her collaborative nature.

The UPW looks forward to working with Dr. Virginia Pressler in her efforts to improve the health and well being of our State. We ask the consideration of the Senate Health Committee in confirming Dr. Pressler as Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Dr. Pressler.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: cvancamp3@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM507 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 5:59:42 AM

GM507

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol A. VanCamp	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strongly support Dr. Virginia Pressler as the new director of the State Health Dept. Her healthcare experience and knowledge will be an asset to the people of our state.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Wednesday, April 1, 2015– 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson, President
Kapi'olani Health Foundation

Re: **GM 507 – Virginia Pressler – Gubernatorial Nominee**
Director of the Department of Health

Testimony in Strong Support

My name is Michael Robinson, President, Kapi'olani Health Foundation. The Kapi'olani Health Foundation is the designated 501c3 organization with a mission to improve the health of Hawaii's people through the funding of medical care, health education and research at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children. As a not-for-profit organization, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children provides care to all regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

I am writing in strong support of Ginny Pressler, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Director of Health, State of Hawaii Department of Health. I have had the pleasure of working for Ginny for more than a decade while she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer at our organization. Ginny was instrumental in overseeing our philanthropy efforts during our "Campaign for Hawaii's Children" which was the largest fundraising effort our organization embarked upon raising more than \$35M in support of the critical care needs of the pediatric patients that our hospital serves.

As both a Foundation Board member and the Executive Team member overseeing philanthropy, Ginny was instrumental in articulating the need for excellence in pediatric care to various stakeholders in our community. Whether it was working to secure state funding for Kapiolani's Pediatric Bone Marrow program following the closure of Saint Francis West or her advocacy work towards addressing pediatric obesity as the Co-Chair of the Hawaii State Obesity Task Force, Ginny has dedicated her career to the betterment of Hawaii's health status.

Many can attest to Ginny's numerous professional accomplishments. However, I can also provide my insight on Ginny's character as a leader as I also had the good fortune of reporting directly to Ginny throughout the majority of my career at Hawaii Pacific Health as both philanthropy and government relations were amongst the strategic priorities she oversaw. During my entire career, she has always served as a leader who unfailingly demonstrated the highest levels of personal integrity, compassion, and who courageously was motivated solely by doing what is right by the community. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such an amazing individual and know that the Department of Health would benefit from a person with motivations as pure as Ginny's.

Given Ginny's broad and diverse health care experience, deep community knowledge, and genuine commitment to lead health care policy, I strongly support Ginny's nomination to serve as Department of Health towards its mission to make Hawai'i a healthier state.

Dixie Thompson
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
dixie_713@hotmail.com
April 1, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Walker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee:

RE: Governor's Message 507, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA
PRESSLER, for a term to expire December 3, 2018

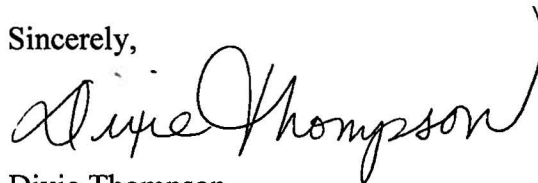
Though employed as Prevention Branch Chief at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) which is one of four Divisions within the Behavioral Health Administration of the Department of Health, I am submitting written testimony on my own accord to express my strong support of Virginia M. Pressler, M.D. to serve as the Director of Health.

ADAD is the primary and often sole source of public funds for substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Agency efforts are designed to promote a statewide, culturally appropriate, comprehensive system of services to meet the needs of individuals and families. As the lead public health officer for the State, Dr. Pressler has the responsibility for planning and administering statewide activities designed to protect, preserve and improve the physical and mental well-being of the people of the State of Hawaii.

As a highly respected member within the state's medical and business communities, Dr. Pressler has well demonstrated the requisite knowledge and expertise needed to lead the Department through its many and varied challenges. Your expeditious and favorable consideration in confirming her as the Director of Health will ensure the leadership necessary as the Department of Health addresses current and emerging public health issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Dr. Virginia Pressler.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dixie Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dixie" and last name "Thompson" clearly legible.

Dixie Thompson

Statement of
Mary Alice Evans

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Wednesday, April 1, 2015
1:15 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of

GM 507

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee,
VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Health.

I respectfully urge your **strong support** for the confirmation of **Virginia Pressler** as Director of the Department of Health.

I have known Dr. Ginny Pressler for over 15 years. I worked with her when she served as a Deputy Director of the Department of Health. Ginny is a passionate advocate for affordable health care for all of Hawaii's residents. She is familiar with the challenges faced by private sector health care providers as they deal with shrinking funding and expanding needs.

I respectfully urge your **favorable consideration** of the nomination of Dr. Pressler as Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Wednesday, April 1, 2015– 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

From: Jen Chahanovich
Chief Executive Officer

Re: **GM 507 – Virginia Pressler – Gubernatorial Nominee**
Director of the Department of Health

Testimony in Strong Support

My name is Jen Chahanovich. I am the Chief Executive Officer of Pali Momi Medical Center (Pali Momi). Pali Momi is a not-for-profit hospital located in West O'ahu, and is dedicated to the health and well-being of all Hawai'i residents.

I have had the pleasure of working with Ginny for more than a decade. In addition to my role as CEO of Pali Momi Medical Center, I also serve as the Executive Team member in charge of development of the Oncology service line across Hawai'i Pacific Health. In this role, I had the opportunity to work closely with Ginny who was instrumental in developing Pali Momi's status as a member of the Hawai'i Cancer Consortium to the benefit of Pali Momi's cancer patients.

Ginny's decision to pursue public service to serve as Director of Department of Health is consistent with her lifetime of work in healthcare. I have always known Ginny to be a courageous and fearless advocate dedicated to improving health care access throughout our state. Within our organization, Ginny was the most visible Executive Team member genuinely committed to addressing health care disparities for many who reside in the geographic areas that Pali Momi primarily serves.

Given Ginny's background, experience and genuine concern for the quality of healthcare in Hawaii, I believe she will make an excellent Director of the Department of Health. Her compassion and stellar reputation in the community will enable her to lead the Department to achieve great things.

I enthusiastically recommend Ginny's nomination to serve as State Director of Health.

Wednesday, April 1, 2015– 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

From: Ray Vara, President & CEO
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Re: **GM 507 – Virginia Pressler – Gubernatorial Nominee**
Director of the Department of Health

Testimony in Strong Support

My name is Ray Vara, President and CEO of Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system, and the state's largest health care provider and non-government employer. Hawai'i Pacific Health's hospitals are Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. We are committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through our four hospitals, more than 50 outpatient clinics and service sites, and over 1,600 affiliated physicians.

I am writing in strong support of Ginny Pressler, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Director of Health, State of Hawaii Department of Health. I have had the pleasure of working with Ginny for more than a decade while she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer at our organization. As a key member of our Executive Team, Ginny was instrumental in leading our government relations, philanthropy, service line, and community benefits efforts at our organization.

I cannot think of a more qualified and capable candidate for the Director of Health position than Ginny Pressler. Her entire life's work demonstrates a sincere and dedicated commitment towards improving the quality of health care in Hawai'i. At Hawai'i Pacific Health Ginny was the organization's most visible champion leading our efforts to address health care disparities and access to care issues that exist in our community. Her decision to pursue public service as Director of Health is a natural progression from the work she accomplished at Hawai'i Pacific Health.

Ginny's personal integrity, health care experience, deep community knowledge, combined with the respect she has garnered amongst her peers will enable her to lead the Department of Health towards its mission to make Hawai'i a healthier state.

I enthusiastically support Ginny Pressler to serve as Director of the Department of Health.



Wednesday, April 1, 2015– 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

From: Kathy Clark
Chief Executive Officer

Re: **GM 507 – Virginia Pressler – Gubernatorial Nominee**
Director of the Department of Health

Testimony in Strong Support

My name is Kathy Clark, Chief Executive Officer, of Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Founded in 1938, Wilcox Memorial Hospital is a not-for-profit hospital dedicated to providing the Kaua'i community with accessible, quality health care.

I am writing in strong support of Ginny Pressler, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Director of Health, State of Hawaii Department of Health. As a key member of our Executive Team, Ginny was instrumental in leading the government relations, philanthropy, service line, and community benefits efforts at the organization.

Ginny's entire life's work demonstrates a sincere and dedicated commitment towards improving the quality of health care in Hawai'i. At Hawai'i Pacific Health Ginny was the organization's most visible champion leading our efforts to address health care disparities and access to care issues that exist in our community. In many ways, Ginny served as the heart and soul of our organization and genuinely concerned with healthcare disparities that exist in our state.

Most importantly Ginny is known for her personal integrity and a person deeply committed to improving healthcare disparities and access to care issues in our State. I believe that her community knowledge, stellar reputation amongst her peers will enable her to lead the Department of Health in an effective manner.

I wholeheartedly support Ginny Pressler to serve as Director of the Department of Health. I cannot think of another candidate better qualified for this role.

Wednesday, April 1, 2015– 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

From: Art Gladstone, Chief Executive Officer

Re: **GM 507 – Virginia Pressler – Gubernatorial Nominee**
Director of the Department of Health

Testimony in Strong Support

My Name is Art Gladstone, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Straub Clinic & Hospital (Straub) and Chief Nurse Executive of Hawai'i Pacific Health. Straub is a not-for-profit hospital in Honolulu, O'ahu, with 159 beds, a network of neighborhood clinics and a visiting specialist program that reaches throughout the state of Hawai'i. Straub is an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health, the state's largest health care provider.

I am writing in strong support of Ginny Pressler, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Director of Health, State of Hawaii Department of Health.

I have had the pleasure of working with Ginny for more than a decade. I worked closely with Ginny as we focused on ensuring access to care on Lana'i where Straub Clinic & Hospital collaborates with the other community providers to ensure access to care is provided to every island resident. Ginny was also instrumental in developing Straub Clinic & Hospital's relationship as a member of the Hawai'i Cancer Consortium to the benefit of our cancer patients.

There is no better qualified and capable candidate for the Director of Health position than Ginny Pressler. Ginny is a fearless advocate of improving health care access throughout our state as demonstrated in her lifetime of work in a variety of health care settings including physician, health plan executive, public health official, and health care executive.

I have always been impressed by Ginny's deep knowledge of the community and guided our partnership efforts with community stakeholders and policy makers. Ginny is held in extremely high regard amongst her peers – in both the public and private sector – and is definitely qualified to lead the Department of Health in its effort to improve the health of our community.

I ask that you confirm Ginny Pressler to serve as Director of the Department of Health.

Wednesday, April 1, 2015– 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

From: Martha Smith
Chief Executive Officer

Re: **GM 507 – Virginia Pressler – Gubernatorial Nominee**
Director of the Department of Health

Testimony in Strong Support

My name is Martha Smith and I am the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (Kapi'olani). Kapi'olani is the state's only maternity, newborn and pediatric specialty hospital. It is also a tertiary care, medical teaching and research facility. Specialty services for patients throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific Region include intensive care for infants and children, 24-hour emergency pediatric care, air transport, maternal-fetal medicine and high-risk perinatal care. The not-for-profit hospital also offers several community programs and services, such as the Kapi'olani Child Protection Center and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. Kapi'olani Medical Center is an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health, the state's largest health care provider.

I am writing in strong support of Ginny Pressler, Gubernatorial Nominee for the Director of Health, State of Hawaii Department of Health.

Ginny and I worked together when she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer of Hawaii Pacific Health. We worked closely together as Ginny's responsibilities included development of both the oncology and women's health service lines which naturally involve the services delivered at Kapiolani Medical Center.

Over the years I've known Ginny to be a fearless advocate towards improving health care access throughout our state and sincerely concerned with addressing healthcare disparities. She has always been at the forefront of leading healthcare policy – both while working at Hawaii Pacific Health and in her work in the community.

Given Ginny's background, experience and genuine concern for the quality of healthcare in Hawaii, I believe she will make an excellent Director of the Department of Health. She will be a thoughtful leader and will make decisions based on what is right for the community.



HAWAII MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

1360 S. Beretania Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Phone (808) 536-7702 Fax (808) 528-2376 www.hmaonline.net

TO:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, April 01, 2015

TIME: 1:15PM

PLACE: Conference Room 414

FROM: Hawaii Medical Association

Dr. Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations

Re: GM 507

Position: Support

The Hawaii Medical Association supports the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Virginia Pressler, as the Director of the Department of Health. Dr. Pressler has shown tremendous leadership in the community both as a physician and an administrator. We look forward to her skilled leadership of the DOH. We look forward to working with her to improve healthcare in the State of Hawaii!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Officers

*President - Robert Sloan, MD, President-Elect – Scott McCaffrey, MD
Immediate Past President – Walton Shim, MD, Secretary - Thomas Kosasa, MD
Treasurer – Brandon Lee, MD Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO*



Wednesday, April 1, 2015 – 1:15 p.m.

Conference Room #414

Senate Committee on Health

To: Sen. Josh Green, MD, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

From: George Greene, President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: Testimony in Support
GM507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health (DOH), Gubernatorial Nominee, Virginia Pressler, for a term to expire 12-3-18

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH)'s 160 member organizations include all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, all public and private skilled nursing facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospices, all assisted living facilities, durable medical equipment suppliers and home infusion/pharmacies. Members also represent other healthcare providers from throughout the continuum including case management, air and ground ambulance, blood bank, dialysis, and more. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM 507, nominating Dr. Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health. She is uniquely qualified to lead a department that is responsible for ensuring that core public health functions – assessment, policy, and assurance – are implemented and maintained and that public resources are directed at those problems that pose the greatest risk to the public's health and the environment.

In her former capacity as the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for HAH-member Hawaii Pacific Health, we have had the privilege of working with Dr. Pressler on a number of strategic initiatives. As many of her colleagues know, she possesses the highest character and integrity, and is the perfect candidate to lead the Department of Health in an ever-changing healthcare environment.

Dr. Pressler has decades of experience in the medical field, both as a surgeon and administrator, and is well respected for her accomplishments in the business world and for her contributions to the community. HAH and its members look forward to continuing their collaborative partnership with Dr. Pressler in her new role.

For the foregoing reasons, HAH strongly supports GM 507, and respectfully urges confirmation of Dr. Pressler as Director of the Department of Health.

Linda Chu Takayama

Attorney at Law

Phone (808) 545-3060
Fax (808) 545-1182

Cynthia S. Nakamura
Attorney at Law

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

1:15 pm

Written Testimony Presented Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

By

Cynthia S. Nakamura

**GM 507, Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation As The Director Of The
Department Of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Virginia Pressler**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cynthia S. Nakamura. I am a licensed attorney practicing in Hawaii.

I write in strong support of Virginia Pressler, MD, Gubernatorial Nominee for Director of Health. In my capacity as an independent consultant, I have had the opportunity and honor to work with Dr. Pressler for a number of years while she was with Hawaii Pacific Health as its Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer. I believe Dr. Pressler is an ideal nominee to lead the Department of Health.

Dr. Pressler has experience in both the private sector and in public health. She has extensive knowledge about the health care environment in our state and is familiar with the many issues facing our communities here on Oahu as well as on the Neighbor Islands. Dr. Pressler is able to analyze problems from different perspectives and has a collaborative working style through which divergent groups can be brought together. Dr. Pressler is passionate about improving health in Hawaii, and has the skill set as well as commitment to be effective.

I ask that this Committee approve Dr. Pressler's nomination and recommend her confirmation as Director of Health. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Dr. Pressler.



To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, Senate Committee on Health

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director, Hawai'i Public Health Institute and the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Date: March 31, 2015

Hrg: Senate Committee on Health; Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 1:15 p.m. in Rm 414

Re: **Strong Support for GM 507; Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire 12-3-018**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **strong support of GM 507**, for the nomination of Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Pressler for the Director of the Department of Health.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a health Hawai'i. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawai'i the healthiest place on earth.

Dr. Pressler has over 35 years of experience in medical practice, has extensive experience in administrative management in the health sector as well as managerial experience in the business sector. She has served as the deputy director for Health Resources Administration in 1999-2002. During that time Dr. Pressler helped to secure sixty percent of the \$1.3 billion tobacco settlement fund for public health purposes and initiated the Tobacco Trust Fund, Healthy Hawai'i Initiative, and Hawai'i Outcomes Institute. Dr. Pressler has been a strong advocate for tobacco prevention and control and continues to support efforts to alleviate the detrimental health and environmental effects of tobacco.

Prior to the nomination for Director of the Department of Health, Dr. Pressler served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer at Hawai'i Pacific Health, the largest healthcare provider in Hawai'i. Dr. Pressler has been a volunteer for the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii, served on the American Heart Association's Hawaii Board of Director, and recently served as the Chair of the obesity prevention task force where I had the privilege of serving as Vice-Chair. Her vision, strategic direction and great leadership will help to lead and reshape our Department of Health.

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute asks the committee to support the nomination of Dr. Ginny Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Yamauchi".

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF
VIRGINIA PRESSLER AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

April 1, 2015

To: Chairman Josh Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am testifying in support of Virginia Pressler for confirmation as director of the Department of Health.

I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Pressler on several issues when she was the Deputy Director of the Department of Health and in particular the legislation which created the tobacco settlement special fund. I found her to be straightforward and decisive as well as accessible. She would listen to alternatives suggested and would follow up to see that the project was carried out.

I think that with her background in health issues as well as her experience in management and strategic planning that will be an excellent Director of the Department of Health. I am confident that she will be able to manage this department that has multiple issues to deal with that include not only prevention matters but also crisis issues that arise throughout the year.

I have much respect for Dr. Pressler's commitment to public service and I strongly support her nomination as Director of the Department of Health and urge this committee and the Hawaii State Senate to confirm her.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony Presented Before the Senate
Committee on Health

April 1, 2015

by

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 507 Consideration and Confirmation of Virginia Pressler for Director, State of Hawai'i Department of Health

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

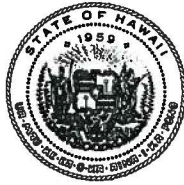
I am pleased to give my strongest support to the appointment of Dr. Virginia Pressler as Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health for a term through December 2018. As Dean of the UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, I have had the privilege to work with Dr. Pressler in her capacity as the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health.

Dr. Pressler is a visionary, collaborative leader who is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Hawai'i's people. She has outstanding expertise in medicine, health systems, business, strategic planning, and government service that makes her a highly qualified individual for the role. Further, she is committed to educating the next generation of health professionals and has shared her expertise with nursing students and through her participation in initiatives over the years.

In particular, I worked closely with Dr. Pressler on the Hawai'i Healthcare Project Steering Committee in her capacity as Co-chair. As a leader and facilitator, Dr. Pressler was a catalyst to engage members around system change in health care. She has a proven track record in Hawai'i to work across disciplines and systems in Hawai'i for the benefit of our community. As the state moves toward furthering our vision to increase quality of healthcare, improved health for our people, and increased economic value and affordability of care, I strongly believe Dr. Pressler is the right person to have at the helm.

I strongly recommend Dr. Pressler's appointment as Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

March 31, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Committee on Health,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination and confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler for Director of Health.

I began my career with the Department of Health in 2001 while Dr. Pressler was the Department's Deputy Director of Health Resources Administration. I was immediately impressed by her calm, yet effective leadership. She is intelligent, thoughtful, and inspiring and has the trust and respect of staff and colleagues. She is dedicated to making a positive impact on the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii.

Dr. Pressler's work experience in the private sector and public health give her valuable insight into the complexities of Hawaii's health and healthcare environment. Her knowledge, experience, and visionary leadership are critical in guiding the Department as it faces unprecedented challenges in transforming public health and healthcare into an efficient and effective system that will meet the needs of our people. Dr. Pressler is exceptionally qualified for this role and her character and integrity unquestionable. The State of Hawaii will be well served to have Dr. Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STONG SUPPORT of Dr. Virginia Pressler for Director of Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danette Wong Tomiyasu". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Danette Wong Tomiyasu, M.B.A.
Deputy Director, Health Resources Administration

April 1, 2015

TO: Senator Josh Green Chair Senate Committee on Health and Members of
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Kathleen G. Stanley
7171 Kukii ST
Honolulu HI 96825

RE: Confirmation of Virginia Pressler as Director of the Department of Health
and Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of the Department of Health

It is my pleasure to support Virginia Pressler's nomination as Director of the Department of Health. I have known and worked with Ms. Pressler since 1985 when both of us served as Deputy Directors in the Cayetano administration. I was impressed with her work at that time and her ability to work across departments. Since then I have kept in touch with Ms. Pressler and know that she has done outstanding work in the health field. Governor Ige is very fortunate that Ms. Pressler has agreed to leave the private sector and return to public service. I urge you and the committee to recommend confirmation of Virginia Pressler as Director of Health.

Also it is my pleasure to support the nomination of Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of Health. During the times I served as Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services Mr. Yamamoto was a valued staff of the Office of Youth Services. I was impressed with his work ethic and dedication at that time and remain impressed with his work as Deputy Director of Health. I have worked on many projects with Keith and find him to be a problem solver and committed to any task for which he takes responsibility. I urge you and the committee to recommend confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as deputy Director of Health.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: Randy.Baldemor@hawaii.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM507 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:43:10 AM

GM507

Submitted on: 3/31/2015

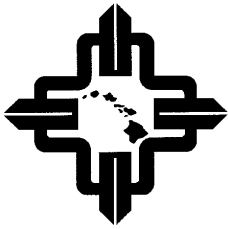
Testimony for HTH on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Baldemor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

**Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair**

April 1, 2015
Conference Room 414
1:15 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol

Testimony Strongly Supporting GM 507, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Virginia Pressler, for a term to expire 12-3-2018

Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporate Board I am pleased to submit testimony in **strong support** of Dr. Virginia Pressler's appointment as Director of the Hawaii Department of Health. By virtue of holding that position, she is a member of our Board. We are excited to have her participation as a Board member as she brings an extensive and valuable experience in healthcare to the table.

Dr. Pressler is no stranger to the Department of Health having served as Deputy Director for Health Resources Administration in the Cayetano Administration. She ably led key public health programs of the Department stressing the importance of primary prevention and producing many accomplishments including her seminal work on the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement and the Healthy Hawaii Initiative. She now returns to the Department in a position to secure that legacy to further reduce the burden of chronic disease and tobacco related illness and address the myriad of health issues that challenge our state. Familiar with all the varied roles the Department plays from her years as a Deputy, and more recently as a partner in many Department initiatives, she is in a unique position to understand and lead this large and complex organization.

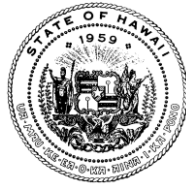
At Hawaii Pacific Health, Dr. Pressler brought her passion for wellness to the business of health care. She encouraged emphasis on prevention and community needs assessments as she understands the social determinants of health. She worked tirelessly promoting policies and programs that help create the conditions for people to be healthy. In the healthcare system, she has been a steadfast advocate for the patient

with the same compassion she was known for as a surgeon, calling for greater access and integration of health services. The term “healthcare transformation” is perhaps overused, but in this case it perfectly describes what she has been doing these past 25 years. Her many accomplishments have led to her recognition as one of the top leaders in our state.

I’ve known Dr. Pressler for over 20 years watching her in varied roles always providing focused visionary and deliberate leadership. Her style is a unique blend of keen intelligence, steely resolve and gentle kindness. Despite her many responsibilities, she is always generous with her time. I’ve benefited many times from her wise counsel, as have many others.

The Governor nominated Dr. Pressler as the best individual to lead the Department of Health for his Administration and we are fortunate she accepted. I assure you she has all the prerequisite experience and skills to navigate the Department forward into the future. Her Deputies, the hard working employees of the Department, and the community will all greatly benefit from her knowledge and compassion. They could not be in better hands. I strongly urge your passage of this measure and swift confirmation by the Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

March 30, 2015

G.M. 507
Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA M. PRESSLER,
for the Director of the Department of Health

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Ms. Ginny Pressler, as the Director of the Department of Health.

Ginny brings a background reflective of what the Department of Health stands for and exhibits personal qualities that will help move the department forward, building positive relationships within the department as well as with our partners in the community. Having previously worked for the Department of Health, Ginny has quickly fortified her rapport with familiar staff as well as with the many new faces that make up our department. This has made her transition into the department smooth and positive.

I have great confidence in Ginny's fortitude and vision to move our department forward with the support of the rest of our team. Ginny is working towards creating a consistent and unified department, giving us the tools to maneuver through systems unique to state government and ensures that our programs within the department are able to meet their objectives.

I look forward to Ginny's leadership of our team, as we strive to move the State of Hawaii forward.

Thank you,

Andrea Takemoto
Acting Administrative Services Officer
Department of Health

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: andy.ancheta@amr.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM507 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:12:47 PM

GM507

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andy Ancheta, MPH	American Medical Response	Support	No

Comments:

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April 1, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health

Re: GM 507: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Director of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Virginia Pressler, for a term to expire 12-3-18

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of the confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler as Director of Health for the State of Hawaii. I was pleased to learn of Governor Ige nominating Dr. Pressler to serve as the State's Chief Health Officer, particularly during this critical time when Hawaii and the nation are forging considerable changes to our healthcare system.

I have had the honor of working with Dr. Pressler both in her capacity as Executive Vice President of Hawaii Pacific Health and in her previous public service as Deputy Director of Health. We have served together on numerous task forces, committees, and workgroups focusing on healthcare issues facing our community. Most recently, I had the privilege of experiencing her leadership as Co-Chair of the Hawaii Healthcare Project, helping to shape the "State of Hawaii Healthcare Innovation Plan."

Dr. Pressler is respected for her professionalism in all the roles she has undertaken. And, she is well prepared to help reinforce the public-private relationships that will be needed to move the health of Hawaii to the forefront. Having also served as the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Dr. Pressler helped to promote the understanding that creating a healthier workplace, especially through preventive health, leads to a more successful business.

As Hawaii looks beyond the Affordable Care Act to transforming our health care system, Dr. Pressler is particularly prepared to take the lead. Your consideration of the confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler as Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Diesman
Vice President, Government Relations

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: joan.chang@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM507 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:30:22 AM
Attachments: [Testimony for Dr Pressler.docx](#)

GM507

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

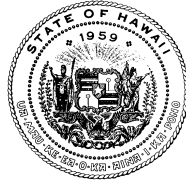
Testimony for HTH on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of
GM No. 508 Keith Yamamoto**

Senator Josh Green, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015, 1:15 pm

Room Number: 414

1 Chair Green and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

2 My name is Gino Merez and I am currently the Department of Health (DOH), Health
3 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Officer. I am submitting testimony in my
4 individual capacity in support of Mr. Keith Yamamoto's confirmation as the Deputy Director of Health
5 for the State of Hawaii. I have had the opportunity of working with Mr. Yamamoto during his tenure as
6 the Chief of the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, and also in his capacity as the current Deputy
7 Director of Health.

8 The DOH is a hybrid entity as defined by HIPAA, which means that certain divisions and
9 programs within the DOH are subject to federal HIPAA laws. It is important to have someone in a
10 leadership position who will support the DOH HIPAA covered entities' endeavors to achieve full
11 compliance with HIPAA laws and regulations. Mr. Yamamoto has exhibited a strong advocacy for the
12 Privacy Rights of DOH clients and has awareness and understanding of the provisions, requirements and
13 principles that results in compliance with this federal law, and all other State and federal laws that
14 control the privacy and confidentiality of DOH client information.

15 It is for these reasons that I highly recommend and respectfully ask you to act in favor of Mr.
16 Yamamoto's confirmation as Deputy Director of Health.

17

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: romala@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM507 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 10:15:49 PM

GM507

Submitted on: 3/29/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Romala Radcliffe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii Senate Health Committee Testimony in support of Dr. Virginia Pressler. As the Director of Health, Dr. Pressler will use the 1994 description that describes what public health is, clarifies the position of public health within the health care system and outlines the functions and services of a public health department. By aligning the work of the department of health with the national standards, Dr. Pressler will ensure that our state will be positioned to readily access federal funding in the future. Dr. Pressler will support Hawaii's Department of Health in the process to become accredited through voluntary public health accreditation. With Dr. Pressler's background in public and private healthcare and with support from the community she is set to lead the department. Romala Sue Radcliffe Administrator Hawaii State Health Planning and Development Agency 1177 Alakea Street, Suite 402 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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GM 507

Confirmation of Virginia Pressler MD as Director of Health

Tuesday, 25 March 2015

STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Senator Green and members of the Senate Health Committee,

Thank you for allowing me a chance to voice my strong support for the nomination of Dr Virginia Pressler as the State Director of Health. I have known Dr Pressler for over 25 years and can think of no better candidate to serve our community in this capacity.

Dr Pressler brings a wealth of knowledge, skills, and abilities and has a perspective that can only be earned through first-hand experience in both the private and public sectors. She has worked in the financial industry and within the medical profession where she has successfully run a private practice, worked in the research setting, participated in Academia and been an integral part of the healthcare system, both in the private and government sectors, as a deputy director of health.

Her professionalism has never been questioned and she has demonstrated a dedication to the health of the entire state at so many levels. As Deputy Director of Health, she successfully initiated and implemented the Tobacco Trust Fund.

Dr Pressler is approachable, humble, rational and a joy to work with and she easily inspires confidence through her actions. I strongly support her nomination and look forward to our community benefiting from her expertise as the director of health.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth A Char, MD

From: [Louis Erteschik](#)
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Subject: GM 507 April 1 1:15PM
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 9:10:28 AM

I am very pleased to support the nomination of Virginia Pressler. I served with her at the Health Dept. during the Cayetano Administration when she was a Deputy Director. She was wonderful to work with. She is intelligent, caring, dedicated and knowledgeable as to the "ins and outs" of the Department. She will make a great Director of Health.

Louis Erteschik
Executive Director
Hawaii Disability Rights Center

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Hawaii Chapter

AAP - Hawaii Chapter

5414 Kirkwood Place
Honolulu, HI 96821

Hawaii Chapter Board

President

R. Michael Hamilton, MD, MS, FAAP
Department of Pediatrics,
Hawaii Permanente Medical Group
2828 Paa Street
Mapunapuna Clinic, 2nd Floor
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone : 808/432-5604
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Email: Michael.R.Hamilton@kp.org

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Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

March 27, 2015

Dear Senator Green, Senator Wakai and members of the Senate committee on Health,

As president of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I would like to express my support for Virginia Pressler as Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my testimony on her behalf.

Sincerely,

R. Michael Hamilton, MD, FAAP

March 27, 2015

Senator Joshua Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Health Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: GM 507: Support for confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler as Director of Health

Chairman Green and Vice Chairman Wakai,

The Hawaii Health Information Corporation appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler as Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health.

HHIC was created in 1994 to develop and manage a database of inpatient administrative and clinical information to assist Hawaii's healthcare institutions in cost control and quality improvement. Over the subsequent years, we have built a secure, high quality data base of hospital inpatient and ER data that provides a broad, up-to-date resource that is useful for other purposes as well. We have worked with Dr. Pressler in a number of capacities over the years to develop data sources that broaden the availability of and use of data to improve health and public health in Hawaii. We find her an outstanding choice for leadership of the State Department of Health.

Dr. Pressler's extensive experience as a medical practitioner, healthcare executive, educator and public servant provide a broad background of practical experience with all the major organizations and issues affecting public health. She is a listener and careful decision-maker who hears the variety of relevant perspectives before making a decision. Of significant importance, Dr. Pressler knows the importance of good data to public policy. As a data organization, we are confident she will use data effectively to carry out the core functions of public health (assessment, policy development, and assurance). She is also an excellent person—it has been a privilege to work with her.

We look forward to working with her in her new role. We strongly urge you to confirm the appointment of this highly qualified professional to fill the position of Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Sybinsky, Ph.D.
President & CEO



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: speedy_bailey@amr-ems.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM507 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM*
Date: Friday, March 27, 2015 11:29:51 AM

GM507

Submitted on: 3/27/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Speedy Bailey	American medical Response	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Testimony for
Committee on Health
Wednesday, April 01, 2015, 1:15 p.m., Room 414

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

**GM 507 Director of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee
Virginia Pressler**

Dear Chair Green and Members of the Committee:

This letter is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 507 which nominates Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Hawaii Department of Health for a term to expire on December 03, 2018. I am Lynn McCrory, and am on the Hawaii Pacific Health Board, where Ginny worked prior to her being nominated for this position. Her strengths are incredibly wide-ranging from strategy, to relationships throughout the healthcare industry and government, to management of complex large systems, to clear and concise public speaking on numerous health related topics, to asking the hard questions when they should be asked, to working as a leader and a team member, to understanding budgets and financial statements, to medical knowledge, and to bringing excitement and energy into every effort that involves her.

The Hawaii Department of Health is a vast complex of health and environmental/resource quality divisions that touches every person in Hawaii. Her attention to detail and understanding of the big picture will assure our community that we have someone who cares deeply about Hawaii and its people. Ginny will make a difference in whatever she does.

We humbly ask that you support for the Hawaii Director of Health position, GM 507 Virginia Pressler. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha

Lynn P. McCrory
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
PRESENTED TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015
BY
JERRIS R. HEDGES, MD

Re: GM 507

**Testimony in support of the nomination of Virginia Pressler, MD, as
Director of Health**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee, mahalo for this opportunity to endorse the nomination of Virginia Pressler as Director of the Hawai'i State Department of Health.

Dr. Pressler is a leader of the first order, and I'm pleased that with her multitude of skills she is willing to serve our State once again in the public sector.

Dr. Pressler service as a Deputy Director of Health from 1999-2000 was brief, but distinguished by positive action. She helped obtain 60% of the \$1.3 billion tobacco settlement fund for public health purposes and initiated the Tobacco Trust Fund, Healthy Hawai'i Initiative, Hawai'i Outcomes Institute and Hawai'i Uninsured Project.

Dr. Pressler also has served at the highest levels of health care administration in the private sector, most recently Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health. While working with her in my capacity as Dean of the University of Hawai'i medical school, I have found her to be sharp, enthusiastic, collaborative and dedicated. She is willing to respectfully listen to points of view which differ from her own, and invite the involvement of all in helping to arrive at solutions.

We are fortunate that once again, Dr. Pressler is answering the call to lead the Department of Health.

Mahalo,
Jerris R. Hedges, MD
Kaka'ako Resident

Gary Gill
2071 Kalili Place
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

March 23, 2015

Testimony in support of Governor's Message #507,
the confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler as Director, Department of Health

Senate Committee on Health
April 1, 2015 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 414

Mr. Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

I am writing to support the nomination and confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler to serve as the Director of the Department of Health. I worked with Ginny for four years of the Cayetano administration during my time then as the Environmental Deputy Director. I also worked with her for more than a month when I served as a hold-over DOH deputy when she recently began her term as interim Director of the Department.

I know that Dr. Pressler's broad experience in many aspects of public health and her knowledge of governance in the State of Hawaii make her an excellent choice to as serve director. Ginny is thoughtful, focused and unflappable. Her no-nonsense approach to leadership will help build on the progress DOH has made in recent years. Both her personal skills and life of experience will serve her well as she directs the department into its next era.

Please support the confirmation of Dr. Virginia Pressler to serve as the next Director of the Department of Health.

Mahalo,

Gary Gill
Former Deputy Director of Environmental Health
Department of Health, State of Hawaii



March 23, 2015

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Senate President,
and Members of the Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senate President Mercado Kim and Members of the Senate:

I am very pleased to support the appointment of Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA as the Director of the Department of Health. Dr. Pressler has significant experience in medicine, health care administration, and government relations.

Her varied skills and prior roles in the health care industry make her particularly qualified for the role. The appointment of Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA as the Director of the Department of Health has my greatest support based on her excellent record of commitment and service to the health of Hawai'i.

Kindest regards,

Laura Reichhardt, MS, A-GNP-C, RN
Senior Administrative Coordinator
Hawai'i State Center for Nursing



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

GM507: DR. PRESSLER CONFIRMATION

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH: Senator Josh Green M.D., Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

- Wednesday, April 1st, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.
- Conference Room 414

The Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports GM507: The confirmation of Dr. Pressler for Director of Health.

Good Morning Chair Green; Vice Chair Wakai; And Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, an organization of more than thirty treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

Dr. Pressler has indicated a willingness to lead Hawaii to address healthcare reform. It is our hope that Dr. Pressler can reform government to be part of a shared vision to reduce our exorbitant costs and improve outcomes. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has given us a proven framework to help Hawaii change. While Hawaii has positive developments already with MedQuest, there is still much to do. With new courageous leaders, such as Dr. Pressler, we can join the progressive states to implement innovative improvements:

1. Expand Access - provide more people with comprehensive coverage. End uninsured.
2. Payment Reform - Develop sufficient incentives for caregivers to employ treatment methods that prevent higher cost illnesses rather than treating illnesses when they become severe - especially for low income workers and uninsured.
3. Preventive care – change systems of care models to treat difficult chronic illnesses earlier with as much care as needed to “prevent” an illness progressing to more advanced stages as a means to improve outcomes. End fragmented systems of delivery.
4. Integrated Practices - Integrate behavioral health into primary care systems. Approach needed care holistically.

The U.S. has the most expensive healthcare system in the world while reporting the lowest outcomes of all other sophisticated healthcare systems. Hawaii is uniquely poised to surge ahead and develop “preventive” care models, provided we take the large steps to fully innovate our delivery systems. Let’s improve our systems with preventive care, ensure access, reform incentives, end fragmentation in Hawaii between care systems and integrate care that is focused on outcomes.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify and are available for questions.



April 1, 2015

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for GM 507: Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER**, for a term to expire 12-3-2018
Hearing on April 1, 2015 at 1:15 PM in Conference Room 414

Good Beginnings Alliance appreciates the opportunity to submit support testimony for the nomination of Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Pressler, MD, MBA, FACS, to serve as Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Good Beginnings Alliance is Hawaii's leading independent, policy and advocacy non-profit organization on children's health, education and safety. We build a united voice to educate and advocate for Hawaii's children.

We have had the privilege of working with Ginny in her prior role as Executive Vice and Chief Strategic Officer of Hawaii Pacific Health. However, Ginny has served in a variety of leadership capacities, including a prior appointment as a Deputy Director for DOH. Ginny's extensive and diverse experience leading several health organizations in the state provides a broad and strong foundation for her to lead DOH, which plays a critical role in providing positive outcomes for our state.

We are confident that Ginny has the required experience and strategic skill set needed to lead such a diverse organization.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge members of the committee to support her nomination to serve as DOH Director.

**Testimony of
Gary M. Slovin / Mihoko E. Ito**

DATE: March 23, 2015

TO: Senator Josh Green
Chair, Committee on Health
Submitted Via HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **GM 507 – Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Virginia Pressler
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room: 414**

Dear Chair Green and Members of the Committee on Health:

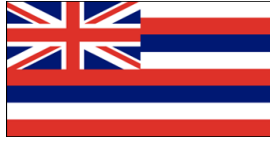
We submit this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Virginia Pressler as the Director of the Department of Health. Ginny is extraordinarily qualified for this position. Ginny combines private sector experience as a hospital executive and surgeon with her time as deputy director of health under Bruce Anderson, which marked an exceptional period in the history of the department. Ginny is collaborative, creative, enthusiastic and competent as well. Anyone who has had the pleasure of working with her knows that she is a good listener and believes in working together as a part of a team. She is truly a dream candidate for this position.

For these reasons it is our pleasure to support her candidacy.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito

999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 539-0840



CAPITOL CONSULTANTS OF HAWAII, LLP
222 South Vineyard Street Suite 401, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Office: (808) 531-4551 Fax: (808) 533-4601 Website: www.808cch.com

March 9, 2015

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 414
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM507 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIRGINIA PRESSLER, for a term to expire 12-3-2018.

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Radcliffe and I am in strong support of Dr. Virginia Pressler as the Governor's nominee to be Director of the State Department of Health.

As a union official and as a member of both the "old" Health Fund Board and the "new" EUTF, I have been active in matters related to the Health Community in Hawaii since 1976, and have known Ginny Pressler for at least the last dozen years.

She is, by any measure, one of the top health care professionals in Hawaii and in the US. Her credentials to be Director of the Department include high level university work, private sector work, and a long and distinguished record of achievement in the not for profit world. Her resume is, in a word, outstanding.

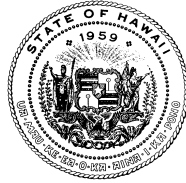
Most importantly, I know her a people person, a problem solver, and a leader. She gets things done.

At a time when Hawaii is facing a myriad of difficult political decisions about our health system, it is comforting to know that Ginny Pressler will be in charge of the State Department of Health. She is definitely the best person possible for the job.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of Dr. Virginia Pressler.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Radcliffe
President



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**TESTIMONY OF Virginia (Ginny) Pressler, MD
REGARDING**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507
CONFIRMATION OF Virginia Pressler, MD
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 Aloha Chair Green and members of the Committee on Health. Thank you for this opportunity to testify
2 regarding my desire to serve the state of Hawaii as Director of Health. I welcome this opportunity
3 because of my respect and admiration for Governor David Ige and the team he is putting together. I
4 believe we have a unique opportunity to work collaboratively with the state legislature to improve the
5 economic and public health of the state.

6 I am not new to state government, having served as deputy director for the State Department of Health,
7 Health Resources Administration (HRA) from January, 1999-2002. During that time I quickly learned to
8 love the dedicated and resilient individuals in the department and to fully appreciate the important role
9 of public health in its many facets. The beautiful people of Kalaupapa, the developmentally disabled,
10 the children with special health needs, the broad diversity of cultures and ethnicities, each with unique
11 public health needs, are indelibly imprinted in my mind. The importance of prevention in protecting the
12 oral, mental and physical health of our population is undeniable. The role of disease surveillance and
13 control allows early intervention to prevent epidemics. Vector control, food inspection, clean water,
14 solid waste management, and protection of our precious environment are essential. Behavioral health
15 is only recently being fully recognized as a major determinant of morbidity and mortality not only in
16 terms of personal well-being but in terms of societal issues with substance abuse, homelessness and
17 public safety. During my tenure as HRA deputy director I was fortunate to successfully initiate the
18 Tobacco Trust Fund, the Healthy Hawaii Initiative, the Hawaii Outcomes Institute, the Hawaii Uninsured

1 Project and successfully closed the State Developmental Disabilities Institution and implemented
2 community based self-determination.

3 As social determinants of health have become more recognized the intersection among health,
4 education and social services make collaboration across departments and between public and private
5 sectors increasingly critical. Community health needs assessment and community planning opens new
6 possibilities for redefining the role of public health and medical care and the overlap with social services.

7 My background and training provide me with the experience and expertise to effectively serve in the
8 role of Director of Health. My family has been in Hawaii since 1914. My mother was born on the Big
9 Island. My father who was from St. Louis was stationed in Hawaii during World War II. He and my
10 mother were married during the war in St. Louis where my four siblings and I were born. Thankfully we
11 moved back to Maui where I was fortunate enough to attend Kaunoa School, Baldwin High School and
12 Seabury Hall. I learned to love and appreciate the neighbor islands before braving the cold weather in
13 Ithaca New York where I attended college at Cornell University.

14 Although I enjoyed Cornell I could not wait to return to my beloved Hawaii where I started my career as
15 a management trainee at Bank of Hawaii and obtained my MBA at the University of Hawaii. Looking for
16 a more meaningful, mission driven career I switched to medicine and graduated from the John A. Burns
17 School of Medicine (JABSOM) followed by residency in the University of Hawaii Integrated Surgical
18 Residency Training Program. During a 14-month research fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital
19 in Boston, I met my husband and persuaded him to return to beautiful Hawaii with me. I worked in a
20 private practice in general surgery at the Queen's Medical Center and was an associate professor of
21 surgery at JABSOM as well as Director of Surgical Education at The Queen's Medical Center. I became
22 specialized in breast cancer and realized the dysfunction and fragmentation of our U.S. medical (non)-
23 system.

24 Given the opportunity in the early nineties to "reengineer" health care I left my private practice to "fix"
25 health care. I started as a Vice President, assistant to the President, of The Queen's Health System and
26 became President and CEO of the Queen's/ HMSA Premier Plan (a newly formed HMO). I was on a
27 mission to change the way health care was delivered but we did not yet have electronic medical records,

1 quality metrics, or a means to change reimbursement methodologies. I think we were a bit ahead of the
2 curve.

3 Public health was next as I accepted an appointment as HRA deputy director as described above. In
4 2002 with the merger of Wilcox, Straub, Pali Momi and Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and
5 Children to form Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH) I realized a new opportunity to make a difference in the
6 private sector. I am extremely proud of our accomplishments at Hawaii Pacific Health over the past 13
7 years. I finally believe that our health care system is headed in the right direction. I felt comfortable
8 leaving HPH at this time, knowing that HPH has excellent leadership and will continue on path to
9 improve health care for all.

10 So now, if my nomination as Director of Health is approved, I look forward to eight years working with
11 Governor Ige and the new administration and the legislature to help work collaboratively across
12 departments to address the intersection of public health and medical care and social services and
13 education and environment. I specifically wish to see a statewide interdepartmental/interdisciplinary
14 mental health strategic plan that addresses integration of behavioral health into primary care,
15 preventative care, transitional care for substance abuse disorder, comprehensive wrap around care for
16 super users, and access to care for all including Quest members and uninsured. I wish to see the Hawaii
17 State Hospital in Kaneohe implement its master facility plan. I am committed to successful
18 implementation of medical marijuana dispensaries. I am committed to completing successful
19 negotiation with the Navy on Red Hill. I am also committed to the \$3 million maintenance of effort for
20 the home visitation program for which we just received \$9 million in Federal Funds to make sure every
21 child has a healthy start. Finally I will support our continued efforts to make our department paperless.

22 I wish to acknowledge Keith Yamamoto who is my partner at DOH. He and I make an excellent pair as I
23 love the big picture and he loves the detail. We work exceedingly well together. I also wish to recognize
24 the other deputies and staff at DOH. Together, we make a highly effective and dedicated team. Thank
25 you for this opportunity to serve the state and people I love so much.

26

27



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**TESTIMONY OF KEITH YAMAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
REGARDING**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507
CONFIRMATION OF DR. VIRGINIA PRESSLER
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015

Room Number: 414

1 As the First Deputy Director of Health I have had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Pressler since
2 her appointment by Governor Ige on December 12, 2015. During this short period of time I have been
3 impressed with Dr. Pressler's energy and willingness to engage in the many issues and initiatives facing
4 the Department of Health. While she remains open and available to engage in many current and
5 emerging public health issues that may impact the department, she also clearly supports and
6 encourages the opinion and perspectives of DOH staff to assist in providing clear and accurate
7 information. She is an administrator with a very clear and decisive leadership style and is able to reflect
8 on her extensive background in the health care field to best guide the Department.

9 Dr. Pressler previously served as Deputy Director for the Health Resources Administration from 1999-
10 2002. During that time she was instrumental in obtaining sixty percent of the \$1.3 billion tobacco
11 settlement fund for public health purposes and initiated and implemented the Tobacco Trust Fund,
12 Healthy Hawaii Initiative, Hawaii Outcomes Institute and the Hawaii Uninsured Project.

13 I am confident that Dr. Pressler's extensive experience and background in the health care and public
14 health field makes her an ideal candidate for the Director of the Department of Health. Dr. Pressler as
15 the Director will guide and support the departmental leadership team and brings to the group her

- 1 knowledge and expertise which clearly supports and complements the skills and abilities of the various
- 2 subject matter deputy directors. I strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Virginia “Ginny” Pressler as
- 3 the new Director of the Department of Health.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

AND BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 507

April 1, 2015
1:15 P.M.

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, VIRGINIA PRESSLER

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

We support the confirmation of Virginia Pressler to the position of Director of the Department of Health.

Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We will strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our kupuna, ourselves, and our children.

Ms. Pressler is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner. Therefore, we support her confirmation as Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 20, 2015

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chair Green and Committee members,

I write in strong support of Dr. Virginia (Ginny) Pressler's nomination for Director of the Department of Health.

A quick review of Dr. Pressler's resume clearly shows that she has the requisite substantive background for the job. She has been a highly successful surgeon, and a skilled administrator in both the public and private health sectors. In that sense, Ginny is uniquely positioned to develop invaluable partnerships and collaborations. Related, she has the credibility to bridge the challenges across the various health sectors.

Beyond Dr. Pressler's professional experience and skills, she has the needed personal attributes to be a highly effective Director of the Department of Health. Ginny is a member of the YMCA of Honolulu's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. I have worked directly with Ginny. She has a strong work ethic, a keen sense of what is right and wrong, is highly articulate, thoughtful, and compassionate. Equally important, as someone born and raised in this Hawaii, Dr. Pressler has a deep appreciation and love for these Islands.

I am certain that if appointed to be our Director of the Department of Health, Dr. Pressler will make us all proud.

She has my unequivocal support.

Sincerely,

Michael Broderick
President & CEO

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KAUAI DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICE
3040 UMI STREET
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766

DILEEP G. BAL, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.
DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER

February 23, 2015

GM-507
Testimony in Support of
DR. VIRGINIA PRESSLER as DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Kindly accept this letter as my testimony in strong support of Gov. Ige's appointment of Dr. Pressler as the State of Hawaii's Director of Health.

In my capacity as the Kauai District Health Officer, I had the honor of working closely with Dr. Pressler when she served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawaii Pacific Health. In that office she was responsible for service line development, philanthropy, government relations, and strategic business development, in addition to being the Chair & President of Hawai'i Pacific Health Partners.

Dr. Pressler also compiled an impressive record working within the Department of Health, serving as the Deputy Director for Health Resources Administration from 1999 to 2002. She was instrumental in obtaining sixty percent of the \$1.3 billion tobacco settlement fund for public health purposes, and initiated and implemented the Tobacco Trust Fund, the Healthy Hawaii Initiative (START.LIVING.HEALTHY campaign), the Hawaii Outcomes Institute, and the Hawaii Uninsured Project.

On a personal note I have known Ginny Pressler for nearly 20 years because we are both active volunteers of the American Cancer Society, of which organization I used to be the National President. She is a superbly trained physician, businesswoman and most of all a tireless public health advocate for social justice for our disadvantaged populations. I know of no one else I would prefer to lead our department than Ginny Pressler. I welcome having her as my new boss.

Approving Gov. Ige's appointment of Dr. Pressler will assure administration of the Department of Health by a dedicated and effective public health champion. Thank you for your attention to this strong and unequivocal affirmation of support for Dr. Pressler.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "D. Bal, M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dileep G. Bal, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.
District Health Officer
Kauai District Health Office

***American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
District VIII, Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa) Section***

Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG, Chair
94-235 Hanawai Circle, #1B
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797



April 1, 2015
1:15 PM
Conference Room 414

TO: Senate Committee on Health
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

FROM: Lori Kamemoto, MD, MPH, FACOG – Chair
Greigh Hirata, MD, FACOG – Vice Chair
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Hawaii (Guam & American Samoa) Section

**RE: GM507 – Consideration for confirmation as the Director of the
Department of Health, Virginia Pressler**

**POSITION: Strongly Support Dr. Pressler's appointment to Director of the
Department of Health**

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section (Hawaii ACOG) strongly supports the appointment of Dr. Virginia Pressler to the position of the Director of the Department of Health.

As an administrator and clinician, Dr. Pressler has been a strong supporter of Hawaii's health, and is a highly respected member of the medical community. She has been a consistent champion and advocate for Women's Health. Her past experience as an executive at the largest maternity hospital in the state has given her unique qualifications to fulfill this role. She will be an excellent Director of the Department of Health.

Hawaii ACOG strongly supports Dr. Pressler as our Director of the Department of Health, and urges you to confirm her appointment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



**American Heart Association testimony in SUPPORT of Virginia Pressler's
confirmation as Gubernatorial Nominee to serve as
Director of the Department of Health**

The American Heart Association **SUPPORTS** the nomination of Virginia Pressler, M.D., M.B.A., FACC, to serve as director of the Hawaii Department of Health.

Dr. Pressler is a strong choice to serve in that position, having previously served the state as a deputy director of the Department. Most recently she worked with multiple hospitals serving our state as executive vice president and chief strategic officer with Hawaii Pacific Health. In addition to having medical training as a surgeon, Dr. Pressler also has a business background having earned her M.B.A. and worked as an executive at Bank of Hawaii. All of those skills will help her in her role in administering one of the state's largest and most diverse departments.

In addition, Dr. Pressler is a strong supporter of community health efforts. She has served on the American Heart Association's Hawaii Board of Directors, as a volunteer with the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawaii, and most recently co-chaired the State's Obesity Task Force. These are just some of the examples of her long list of service in our state.

We can think of no better candidate to fill this challenging and important role. We encourage legislators to support her nomination and confirm her as the State's Director of the Department of Health.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald B. Weisman
Hawaii Government Relations Director