

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

David Y. Ige  
Governor

Testimony on GM 508  
Confirmation of Keith Yamamoto  
Deputy 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 re-appointment of Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health. Mr. Yamamoto has served as the department's Deputy Director since 2011 overseeing the general administration of the department including the district offices on the neighbor islands. Prior to this he provided leadership and guidance as the Administrator in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division within the Department of Health.

This administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I'm confident that Keith Yamamoto 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 508, KEITH YAMAMOTO, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE FOR DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR, HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**Testimony in Support**

Submitted by Beth Giesting, Health Care Innovation Director

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I strongly support the nomination of KEITH YAMAMOTO to continue to serve as the First Deputy Director for the State Department of Health.

Keith brings a wealth of experience to the job, which is especially valuable to the new Administration. He has previously served DOH as first deputy and as Administrator of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, among other public-serving positions. In addition to his professional resume, Keith continuously contributes to the effectiveness of DOH through his capacity to support, collaborate with, and achieve success working with his director, colleagues, and subordinates.

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

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

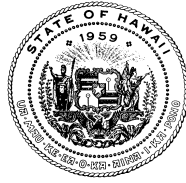
Dear Senators:

With the experience of having worked with Keith Yamamoto in my capacity as the Administrator of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, I am writing to you in support of his nomination as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health. I first knew Mr. Yamamoto when he was a pier Administrator for the Drug and Alcohol Division of the Department of Health. I found him to be a no-nonsense, but common sense administrator who never lost his mission of advocating for the citizens we are tasked to serve. His approach of cutting through the customary bureaucracy to arrive at a practical way of achieving the goals of this service was always refreshing and made him a pleasure to deal with. These instincts only grew when he was appointed to the Deputy Director position. In that role, he was instrumental in advancing a far-reaching and philosophic re-organization of our division around the principles incorporated in the Affordable Care Act.

I heartily support his nomination to continue in that position and look forward to making even greater strides as we continue to try to transform the Department of Health for the changing environment of health care and public health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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 508**  
**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH YAMAMOTO, as the**  
**Deputy 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 Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director for the Department of Health.

Aloha Chair Green and Committee Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Keith Yamamoto.

Keith is one of the few people within the Department of Health with the experience and knowledge to serve the people of Hawai'i as deputy director. He is always on top of what needs to happen and able to adeptly jump in to help resolve issues. I have been very happy to work with Keith on occasion and his commitment to serve is unquestionable and admirable.

Thank you again for providing me an opportunity to testify in support of Keith Yamamoto's confirmation as Deputy Director for the Department of Health.

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 Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of Health.

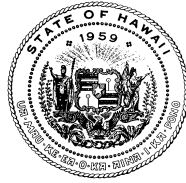
Mr. Yamamoto has a solid career of responsible and dedicated public service leading to his successful performance as Deputy Director of Health during the previous administration. He is the ideal counterpart to the Director of Health, providing extensive, detailed institutional knowledge and in depth experience in the operations of Hawaii's state government. This will provide optimal administrative support for the Department of Health and facilitate a practical framework for successful strategic planning and management for public health in Hawaii.

Mr. Yamamoto is highly regarded and respected by the Department of Health staff for his in depth knowledge as well as his dry sense of humor. He will continue to perform well as Deputy Director of Health. We respectfully request your confirmation of his nomination as Deputy Director of Health. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Glenn M. Wasserman".

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  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony of Lynn N. Fallin, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health,  
in SUPPORT of GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 508  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the  
Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
KEITH YAMAMOTO, 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 Keith  
2 Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH).

3 Keith has extensive experience in administration and management with over 30 years of service in state  
4 government and many years as a very successful small business owner. Keith knows and understands  
5 state government through his work experience at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the  
6 Office of Youth Services and at the Department of Health as the Chief of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
7 Division (ADAD) and as the First Deputy and Acting Director in the previous Administration.

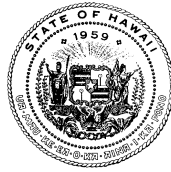
8 As Deputy Director of the DOH Behavioral Health Administration, I have had the opportunity and  
9 privilege of working closely with Keith in his role as First Deputy and as Acting Director. I look forward  
10 to continuing to work with Keith. Using his knowledge and keen understanding of state government,  
11 Keith has advised, problem solved and helped me and many others navigate the complex state system on  
12 very challenging measures. Keith has done the job skillfully, often with a well-timed and important touch  
13 of humor balanced with an understanding of the serious nature of the concern and its' impact to the  
14 individuals and the community we serve.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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**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 508**  
Consideration and Confirmation  
as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, **Keith Y. Yamamoto**

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

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015  
1:15PM

Room: 414

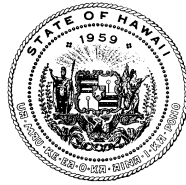
By  
Keith E. Kawaoka  
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have worked with Keith both in the capacity of program manager the last few years and now more recently as a fellow deputy. He has demonstrated the necessary skills set, effective management style, and dedication to assist department programs to do their jobs. Please grant him the opportunity to continue his 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. 508**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH Y. YAMAMOTO, for**  
**Deputy Director of the Department of Health**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Mr. Keith Yamamoto, as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

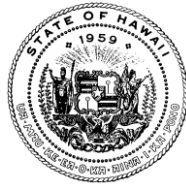
As the Deputy Director of Health, Keith Yamamoto has been my superior for the past three years. His expertise in understanding the civil service system and the budget process has allowed the staff offices in our department to move forward with resolving pressing issues. He has also assisted the Human Resources Office in developing resolutions to numerous challenging human resource concerns. Keith has the ability to communicate with managers on difficult administrative matters, from trepidations regarding reorganizations, to handling conflicts between supervisors, or between supervisors and subordinates.

I believe Keith's ability to effectively communicate, and his motivation to pursue resolution of issues within our department, both large and small, are among his many assets. Keith's understanding of departmental operations and functions along with his dedication to find resolve for matters that affect our department, are strengths that will continue to push our department forward.

I am looking forward to our continued camaraderie as we resume pursuit of departmental goals and objectives.

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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**March 30, 2015**

**G.M. 508**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH Y. YAMAMOTO, for**  
**Deputy Director of the Department of Health**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Mr. Keith Yamamoto, as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

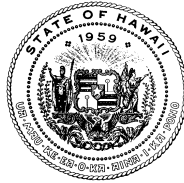
As the Deputy Director of Health, Keith's expertise in understanding the civil service system and the budget process has allowed the staff offices in our department to move forward with resolving pressing issues. He has also assisted the Administrative Services Office in developing resolutions to numerous challenging budget and fiscal concerns. Keith has the ability to communicate with managers as well as line staff on difficult administrative matters. He has been very effective in handling conflicts between supervisors, or between supervisors and subordinates.

I believe Keith's ability to effectively communicate, and his motivation to pursue resolution of issues within our department, both large and small, are among his many assets. Keith's understanding of departmental operations and functions along with his dedication to find resolve for matters that affect our department, are strengths that will continue to push our department forward.

I am looking forward to our continued working relationship as we pursue departmental goals and objectives.

Thank you,

Andrea Takemoto  
Acting Administrative Services Officer  
Department 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 GM 508**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Deputy Director of the**  
**Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH YAMAMOTO**

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 Keith
- 3 Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health. He has demonstrated
- 4 that he is very adept at this position which he has held since April 2011. In addition, his
- 5 extensive work experience at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the
- 6 Department of Human Services has provided him with a solid foundation to take on the
- 7 variety of daily challenges encountered as the Deputy Director.
- 8 I believe that some of Keith's best qualities are his patience and willingness to listen to
- 9 different ideas or perspectives. While it would have been easier to simply place all of
- 10 our division staff on the neighbor islands under their respective District Health Offices,
- 11 he was willing to learn and understand their highly specialized regulatory functions, the
- 12 need for consistency, and most importantly, that the best supervision was provided by
- 13 those knowledgeable of the environmental programs.
- 14 I am grateful that Keith Yamamoto is committed to improving the Department of Health
- 15 and look forward to continue working together with him as the Deputy Director of Health.
- 16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
ON  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 508

April 1, 2015  
1:15 P.M.

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KEITH YAMAMOTO

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

I support the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto to the position of Deputy 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.

Mr. Yamamoto 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, I support his confirmation as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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 508 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH YAMAMOTO, 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 Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH). Although I only recently met Keith, I can attest to his knowledge of the Department, sincerity, positivity, and commitment to serving Hawaii. His commitment extends to his delay of retirement to continue serving in this capacity, and it is clear that he plays a big role in DOH's success.

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 Keith as the DOH Deputy Director and continue to collaborate across departments.

Thank you for your serious consideration of Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Randy.Baldemor@hawaii.gov](mailto:Randy.Baldemor@hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM508 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 10:02:26 AM

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**GM508**

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	DHRD	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai & Members of the Committee: I write in strong support of Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director for the Department of Health. In my experience working with Mr. Yamamoto over the past four years, he has shown himself to be a collaborative, committed and passionate leader, spearheading business transformation within the department. I believe he will continue to make strong contributions to the department and State, if confirmed, and I look forward to the possibility of continuing to work with him. Thank you for your time and consideration. Aloha, Randy Baldemor

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

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 508, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy  
Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH  
YAMAMOTO, 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 support of Governor Ige's nomination of Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Mr. Fuchigami's background and professional credentials, including decades of experience in the hospitality industry, and his tenure as the DOT Airport Division Deputy Director and DOT Interim Director under the previous administration make him well-qualified for this appointment. His expertise in business development, employee relations, and operations management are incredible assets for the DOT as well as the State of Hawaii. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands works frequently with the DOT on a wide-range of projects to improve traffic flow in and around new and existing homestead communities statewide. I am confident Mr. Fuchigami will successfully and effectively carry out the duties and responsibilities of his position and we look forward to working alongside him 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.



April 1, 2015

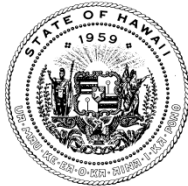
TO: Senator Josh Green Chair Senate Committee on Health and Members of  
Senate Committee on Health

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.



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 508**

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

Senate Committee on Health

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

Mr. Yamamoto earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of Northern Colorado and his Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Hawaii. During his service at the DOH, he led statewide efforts related to prevention, intervention and treatment services.

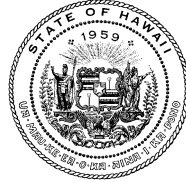
The DOT is pleased that Mr. Yamamoto will continue his work as the First Deputy at the DOH. In his tenure at DOH, he has developed relationships across government and with diverse stakeholders that will assist him in fostering a pragmatic, collaborative approach. He has taken a hard look at the way DOH does business with an eye toward finding efficiencies, working across organizations rather than in silos, and saving resources in light of increasingly constrained budgets.

We know Mr. Yamamoto will continue to carry the same core principles of hard work, vigorous and genuine engagement, modesty and creative problem solving as he has always done. We look forward to developing a strong partnership in cleaning our environment, encouraging exercise, providing disability access and other federal and local mandates that promote our wellness today and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**

P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

MARIA E. ZIELINSKI  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

To: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Health

Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2015

Time: 1:15 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 414, State Capitol

From: Maria E. Zielinski, Director  
Department of Taxation

Re: G.M. 508, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy Director of the Department of Health  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Keith Yamamoto  
for a term to expire 12-3-2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto for Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have known Keith Yamamoto for approximately three years. In my former capacity as Deputy Comptroller I worked closely with Keith to ensure that all required financial statements, workpapers and documentation relating to the State's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) were provided to the auditors and the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) in accordance with the State's required deliverables schedule. Likewise, I worked with Keith on collaboration projects between the Department of Health and the Department of Accounting and General Services.

My experience with Keith has been that he has always looked at existing processes and seeks ways to improve them and make them more efficient. In fact, on my second week serving as the Deputy Comptroller Keith met with me and discussed some of the issues and challenges in processes existing between our two departments. Keith thinks outside the box and seeks innovative solutions.

I urge you to confirm Keith Yamamoto for the nomination of Deputy Director of Health.

TESTIMONY 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. 508

April 1, 2015  
1:15 P.M.

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KEITH YAMAMOTO

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

I support the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Mr. Yamamoto has served the State well as the Department of Health's Deputy Director for the past four years and in numerous other capacities as a public servant for several more decades. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Yamamoto on many occasions in both my current capacity and in a former role as legislative staff.

I have always found Mr. Yamamoto to be open, thoughtful, responsive, and accurate. He is extremely knowledgeable of health and social service programs and has proven to be an effective advocate for the programs, services, and initiatives of the Department of Health.

Mr. Yamamoto has played an important role in the success of the Department of Health and is committed to achieving the goals of the Ige administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner. Therefore, I strongly support his confirmation as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

**GM508 Testimony of State Laboratories Division in strong support of confirmation of  
Gubernatorial Nominee Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of Health  
Administration, 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 Mr. Keith Yamamoto to continue as the Deputy Director of Health Administration of our Hawaii Department of Health. Mr. Yamamoto has served with distinction over the past 4 years, including surviving the plane crash that took Director Fuddy away from us and holding the Department together during a very difficult time emotionally. His continued leadership inspires our workforce to overcome challenges and ensure success. We, the undersigned strongly urge the swift confirmation of Mr. Yamamoto to continue as our Deputy Director of Health Administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

*Gail Kunimoto*

Gail Kunimoto,  
Public Health Microbiology Laboratory Manager

*Wanda Chang*

Wanda Chang,  
Public Health Chemical Laboratory Manager

*Rebecca H. Sciulli*

Rebecca Sciulli,  
Laboratory Preparedness and Response Program Chief

*Ant D. Khayana*, QA/Training Coordinator

*Janet*, PHAO

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*, Microbiologist

*Quene M. Lee*

*John Legate*

*[Signature]*

*Angelyn Dams*

*Annette Solitari*

*John Ichnio*

*Jeanne Cook*

*Beverly Jara*

*Elsie N. Chen*

*Paula Pardo*

*[Signature]*

*Mel Altman*

*Guomin Yao*

*Dayna Miller*

*Heidi Cook*

*[Signature]*

*Andrea Ackerson*

*May*

*Carri Fig*

*[Signature]*

*Cynthia Chung*

Richard S. S. S.

Small for

James C. Carruthers

Dr. J. C. Carruthers

Prof. N. C.

Vilma H. Lewis  
M. S.

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 GM508**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY**  
**DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,**  
**KEITH YAMAMOTO, 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 Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Health. Keith brings
- 4 a calming personality and in depth knowledge of the inner workings of the Department. His
- 5 experience in the post the last four years will help enable him to effect needed changes toward
- 6 improving efficiency and transparency.
- 7 Keith's commitment to improving the health of the people of Hawaii will serve us well. I urge
- 8 your favorable consideration of his confirmation.





**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 508 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy  
Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee  
KEITH YAMAMOTO, for a term to expire 12-3-2018

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS**  
**GM 508**, relating to Gubernatorial Nominee Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy 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 believe Mr. Yamamoto's past work experiences in various positions in State Government, and current experience as Deputy Director of Health for the past four years, is evident that he is dedicated to public service. He is a man of high character and possesses strong morals and values, and is collaborative in his approach to addressing issues and concerns within DOH. We feel the above qualifies Mr. Yamamoto to continue in his position.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of GM 508 to confirm the nomination of Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Waynette K.Y. Cabral".

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosie Rowe".

Rosie Rowe  
Chair

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [stacy.haitsuka@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:stacy.haitsuka@doh.hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM508 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 5:48:54 PM

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**GM508**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark A. Fridovich	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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March 6, 2015

Senator Josh Green M.D., Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Governor's Message 508 – Mr. Keith Yamamoto

Dear Senator Green:

This letter is in support of the nomination of Mr. Keith Yamamoto for the position of Deputy Director of Health.

I have known Mr. Yamamoto for a number of years and have full confidence that he will be a valuable member of the State Department of Health. Mr. Yamamoto, in addition to having firsthand experience as the First Deputy of Health, has held several key administrative positions in his career.

Mr. Yamamoto possesses the knowledge and experience that will make for a strong and viable Health Department. He works well with others and has all the attributes needed for a team player, yet has the independence to voice his concerns when required.

It is my hope that you and your committee will favorably support Mr. Yamamoto's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Bert Y. Matsuoka

Senator Green and Members of the Committee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Legislature

RE: Nomination  
Keith Yamamoto, Deputy Director, DOH

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee:

I have known Keith Yamamoto for more than twenty years and feel he represents the best qualities that are expected from our public employees. I first met Mr. Yamamoto when he worked at the Office of Youth Services and found him to be honest, direct and hard-working. He approached members of the non-profit community with fairness, and with the clear expectation that our programs provide quality services to our clientele. Mr. Yamamoto was always willing to assist community-based programs as they worked to address many of the social challenges faced by people throughout Hawaii.

Once Mr. Yamamoto moved to the Department of Health, both as Chief of ADAD and as Deputy Director, I continued to have a variety of opportunities to meet and work with him. In my opinion, Mr. Yamamoto distinguished himself as one of the most effective leaders in the department as he effectively helped address some of the most intractable issues faced by government employees.

Mr. Yamamoto is simply the kind of person who should be a Deputy Director in the Health Department in large part because he understands State administration at a level of sophistication that few possess. He also is respected by folks across the human services field based upon the effective work he has accomplished during his career.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Yamamoto as Deputy Director of DOH. If I could be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact me at 808-447-3878.

Mahalo.

Anthony Pfaltzgraff

Senior Vice President, Community Development  
YMCA of Honolulu

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](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lho@hawaiipublicpolicy.com](mailto:lho@hawaiipublicpolicy.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM508 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 31, 2015 4:17:30 PM

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**GM508**

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
Stephen M. Teves	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of the Department of Health. Keith has exhibited tremendous leadership and organizational skills during his many years of public service. Keith is a valuable asset to the Department of Health and please consent to his nomination so he can continue to admirably serve the people of Hawaii.

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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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 Keith Yamamoto for First Deputy Director of Health.

Keith is a proven public health leader and an excellent administrator who has a deep knowledge and understanding of state and department operations. The Department of Health is continually seeking to strengthen its capacity to fulfill its mission to protect and improve the health and environment for all people in Hawaii. The administrative operations and functions are core to the Department in accomplishing its mission. Keith has both the understanding and appreciation of the business needs of state government to work in successful collaboration with federal, state, and local partners. He has strived for and has continually improved the quality and responsiveness of department services to internal customers and to the public. In a rapidly changing environment, continuous quality improvement is not only important, it is a necessity for efficient and effective operations.

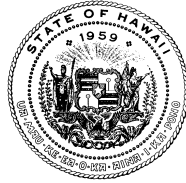
Keith's experience, knowledge, valuable perspective, and strong sense of integrity will serve the Department and the State well as we all work together to transform health and health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of Keith Yamamoto for First Deputy Director of Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danette Wong Tomiyasu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danette" being the most prominent.

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



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 Wilfredo Tungol and I am currently the Department of Health (DOH), Health  
3 Insurance Portability and Affordability Act (HIPAA) Security 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 under Mr. Yamamoto during his tenure as  
6 the Deputy Director of Health for Administration as he has oversight responsibilities of the HIPAA Office.

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

14 For these reasons, I highly recommend and respectfully ask you to act in favor of Mr.  
15 Yamamoto's confirmation as Deputy Director of Health.

16



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 508**

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

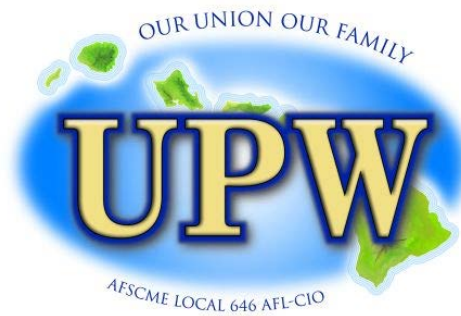
Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Health.

I respectfully urge your **strong support** for the confirmation of **Keith Yamamoto** as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

I have had the pleasure of working with Keith Yamamoto in his position as a Deputy Director of the Department of Health for several years. Keith is a warm and caring individual who understands the people, the programs and the administrative processes of the Health Department. He is familiar with the challenges that Health Department employees deal with on a daily basis and provides support and encouragement to these dedicated professionals.

I respectfully urge your **favorable consideration** of the nomination of Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



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 KEITH YAMAMOTO FOR DEPUTY  
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 Mr. Keith Yamamoto. Mr. Yamamoto served the last four years as the First Deputy Director of the Department of Health and the previous six years as Administrator of the Department's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. He is a certified substance abuse program administrator and worked as a career counselor for the McKinley School-to-Work Transition Center.

The UPW looks forward to working with Mr. Keith Yamamoto. We ask the consideration of the Senate Health Committee in confirming Mr. Yamamoto as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

To: Senate Committee on Health  
Senator Josh Green, MD, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
From: Charlene Young, MPH  
Date: April 1, 2015 - Conference Room 414 - 1:15 pm  
Subject: GM 508 Deputy Director of the Department of Health

I support the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto for Deputy Director of Administration for the Department of Health. I am familiar with Keith's work through my own work with the UH Public Administration's Organizational Learning Institute (OLI). Its goal is to strengthen public organizations by working with management and staff in meeting the challenges of a dynamic public environment and building sustained capacity through learning, skill and tool development.

As an administrator and manager within the Department for many years, Keith brings vast knowledge and experience in budgeting, contracts and human resources. He understands the fundamentals of state government, including the importance of a sound organizational structure and clear core functions in supporting performance and outcomes.

I have found Keith to be a person of integrity who is true to his word. His passion for improving the nitty gritty workings of state government makes him well suited for the position. He is effective at teambuilding and bringing people together in problem solving, trouble shooting and getting the job done. Keith is known to support staff learning and development recognizing its long term benefits, both for the individual and the organization.

Keith has demonstrated capability, reliability and responsiveness in his prior 4-year term in this role. Understanding the challenges of the state government system, Keith doesn't overpromise. Instead, he diligently attends to administrative problems and issues that, unless resolved, may have negative impact on the department's personnel, clients and/or consumers. Keith's careful application of state rules and regulations take into account the human impact. His customary timely response is exemplary to all public employees.

As the first Deputy for the Department of Health, we can rest assured that Keith will apply sound judgment to the hurdles before him. He is a sincere public servant dedicated to improving and streamlining state government processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide favorable testimony.

Statement of  
**Gail Ige**

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Health**

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

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of

**GM 508**

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

**Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai, members of the committee:**

Mr. Keith Yamamoto is a thoughtful, intelligent leader who is clearly passionate about his work in the Department of Health. As acting Director of the Department of Health under Governors Abercrombie and Ige, he has demonstrated working knowledge of the position and his ability to lead, direct and manage. He is an inspiration to many with whom he has contact and offers sage advice with humility and consideration of all parties.

Gov Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. He 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. Mr. Keith Yamamoto 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.

I believe Mr. Keith Yamamoto is an asset to state Government.

Therefore, I **strongly support** the confirmation of Mr. Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy of the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Ige

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [b4thearts@aol.com](mailto:b4thearts@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM508 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 11:35:04 PM

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**GM508**

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
Lisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Senate Committee on Health The Honorable Josh Green, Chair The Honorable Vice Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair RE: Governor's Message 508 Confirmation of Keith Yamamoto Deputy Director of Health Aloha Chair Green, Vice Chair Glenn Wakai and Members of the Senate Committee on Health. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of Governor Ige's appointment of Keith Yamamoto to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Health. I feel that his experience and track record at the Department of Health speaks volumes about his commitment to help the people of the State of Hawaii. I know Keith Yamamoto personally and have experienced him as a very energetic and motivating leader. He is able to see a bigger picture and at the same time is able to plan and execute tasks toward its achievement. He has a way with people that is always positive and he has an uncanny ability to move people to do more than they thought they could. All of his leadership and management skills stem from his genuine love of people, his department and life experiences, and his deep sense of service to a greater good. Mahalo for considering my strong support of Keith Yamamoto.

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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Dixie Thompson  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821  
dixie\_713@hotmail.com  
April 01, 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 508, Nomination of KEITH YAMAMOTO for  
Consideration as Deputy Director of the Department of Health

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 (DOH), I am submitting written testimony on my own accord to express my strong support for the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of the Department 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. ADAD has been afforded ongoing support and encouragement to accomplish the agency's key public health functions: needs assessment, quality assurance and policy development. As the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Keith Yamamoto directs and coordinates the overall administrative staff office activities which provide department-wide services for budget, fiscal/facilities management, personnel, health information systems and planning/policy development.

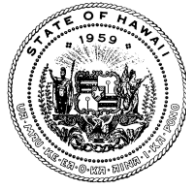
Over the many years of his successful career in business, social services, and State government, Keith has acquired a wealth of experience, knowledge, and skills necessary for the Deputy Director position. He has developed strong, working relationships based on integrity, high standards, and past achievements. He successfully interacts with and encourages cooperation between public, nonprofit and private entities to accomplish successful, beneficial services for the citizens of the State. Having had the opportunity to know Keith as an employer, supervisor, mentor, colleague, and friend for more than twenty years, I am confident that he has excellently demonstrated the requisite knowledge, abilities and skills to lead the Department through future challenges.

Your expeditious and favorable consideration in confirming Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of Health will ensure that the Department has the dedicated, competent leadership necessary to address current and emerging public health issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dixie Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dixie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Thompson".

Dixie Thompson



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. 508**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH Y. YAMAMOTO, for**  
**Deputy Director of the Department of Health**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Mr. Keith Yamamoto, as Deputy Director of the Department of Health.

As the Deputy Director of Health, Keith's expertise in understanding the civil service system and the budget process has allowed the staff offices in our department to move forward with resolving pressing issues. He has also assisted the Administrative Services Office in developing resolutions to numerous challenging budget and fiscal concerns. Keith has the ability to communicate with managers as well as line staff on difficult administrative matters. He has been very effective in handling conflicts between supervisors, or between supervisors and subordinates.

I believe Keith's ability to effectively communicate, and his motivation to pursue resolution of issues within our department, both large and small, are among his many assets. Keith's understanding of departmental operations and functions along with his dedication to find resolve for matters that affect our department, are strengths that will continue to push our department forward.

I am looking forward to our continued working relationship as we pursue departmental goals and objectives.

Thank you,

Andrea Takemoto  
Acting Administrative Services Officer  
Department of Health

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [andy.ancheta@amr.net](mailto:andy.ancheta@amr.net)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM508 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 12:17:10 PM

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**GM508**

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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Consultation, Assessment, Counseling, Support

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970 N. Kalaheo

Ave. Suite A-310-B

Kailua Hawaii, 96734

Phone: 375-3338

Fax: 254-0100

Email [actionwithaloha@gmail.com](mailto:actionwithaloha@gmail.com)

March 30, 2015

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

From: Edward Mersereau, CEO

Re: **GM508: Relating to the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as the First Deputy  
Director for the Department of Health.**

Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Distinguished Committee members,

I respectfully submit testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as First Deputy Director of the Department of Health. I believe that Keith Yamamoto has demonstrated strong commitment to public service in the various capacities in which he has served within the Department of Health. As the Chief of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, he showed a strong ability for strategic planning and advocacy that such leadership roles demand. My experience of Keith in that capacity was that he was committed to improving effective procurement and contracting systems and supportive of effective programs in our community. Under his efficient leadership, ADAD has a positive and collaborative relationship with substance abuse prevention and treatment providers that has carried on since his move to the First Deputy position in 2011.

As the First Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Keith Yamamoto has been helpful to provide leadership and information to the Department of Health as well as healthcare providers in terms of effective integration of our healthcare system. Given his talent and skill in both positions, I believe Keith Yamamoto is well suited to his current position. As such, I strongly endorse Mr. Keith Yamamoto as the First Director of Administration for the Department of Health and very much appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Edward Mersereau, LCSW, CSAC

April 1, 2015

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

**Re: GM 508: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of Health,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Keith Yamamoto, 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 Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of Health for the State of Hawaii.

I have had the privilege of working on various workgroups and projects with Mr. Yamamoto during his tenure as a Division Head and, subsequently, as Deputy Director of Health under the last gubernatorial Administration. Mr. Yamamoto's knowledge of the public health needs of Hawaii and his already proven leadership of this critical State agency will be an asset for the State and the people of Hawaii.

Your consideration of the confirmation of Mr. Yamamoto as Deputy Director of the Hawaii State Department of Health is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Diesman  
Vice President, Government Relations

**From:** [Richard Pratt](#)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM508 --- Keith Yamamoto Confirmation Hearing April 1, 2015  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 8:00:07 AM

---

To: Senate, State of Hawai`i  
  
Committee on Health  
  
Senator Josh Green, Chair

From: Professor Richard Pratt

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of Nomination of Keith Yamamoto

I'm a professor at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa and the founder of the Public Administration Program in which I now teach. I have know Keith Yamamoto for approximately 20 years, first when he entered our program to successfully pursue his MPA degree and subsequently through various professional connections associated with his work as an administrator. He also has been one of a small number of graduates I have invited to lecture in my classes on issues related to organizational improvement and leadership in public organizations

Based on these experiences I strongly recommend that Keith be confirmed to serve as Deputy Director at the Department of Health. He is smart, experienced, resourceful, understands how the system works and at the same time continuously seeks opportunities to improve it, has excellent working relations in and outside of the department, and operates out of a strong public service ethic. We are fortunate to have someone with Keith Yamamoto's qualities for this position.

Please feel free to contact me at [pratt@hawaii.edu](mailto:pratt@hawaii.edu) if there are questions or you would like other information.

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Testimony of Barbara A. Krieg

Senate Committee on Health

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

Conference Room 414

GM 508: Consideration and Confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Keith Yamamoto

To Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee on Health:

This testimony is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the appointment of Keith Yamamoto to the position of Deputy Director, Department of Health.

In my former capacity as Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, I worked closely with Mr. Yamamoto. Throughout the four years we worked together, I observed him to be a smart, hard-working Deputy Director whose actions have been in the best interests of all stakeholders: his department's employees, the recipients of the Department of Health services and the taxpayers of the State.

Mr. Yamamoto has lead the employees of the Department of Health through challenging times. He is a dedicated State employee and an excellent administrator who recognizes the need for change, listens to all opinions and respects the viewpoints of all. He continues to capably lead the Department of Health and to support its employees.

For the reasons briefly summarized above, I strongly support Mr. Yamamoto's appointment and respectfully request his confirmation.



615 Pi'ikoi Street, Suite 203 T 808 589-1829  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-3139 F 808 589-2610  
E [info@halekipa.org](mailto:info@halekipa.org)

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March 25, 2015

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

Re: GM508----IN SUPPORT

### **Support Confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy Director, Department of Health**

Dear Senators Green and Wakia and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow Hale Kipa to provide testimony in support of Mr. Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of the Department of Health. Hale Kipa, a private, non-profit agency serving youth and families, and I, personally, have worked with Mr. Yamamoto for over 20 years in his distinguished career in health and social services. We have always found Mr. Yamamoto to be articulate, bright and astute to the issues the community faces. He has always been approachable and responsive to constituents.

Mr. Yamamoto is compassionate and genuinely committed to public services and works in collaboration with others in the State to erect beneficial strategies as well as identify ways to eradicate barriers to services. He is objective, a sound thinker and exhibits comprehensive leadership skills. Mr. Yamamoto has demonstrated strength and calmness in adverse situations and will continue to serve as an excellent Deputy Director of Health.

We ask that you confirm the nomination of Mr. Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director, Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, ACSW  
Deputy CEO  
Hale Kipa, Inc.



March 21, 2015

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

Re: GM 508 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH YAMAMOTO, for a term to expire 12-3-2018

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

I am writing to express my strong support of GM 508 for Keith Yamamoto's nomination to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH).

My name is Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

I have known Ms. Yamamoto for the past three years, through his work as Deputy Director of DOH. Mr. Yamamoto has a long and distinguished career in the field of public health, and I have found him to be an excellent administrator who is always open to working collaboratively to solve problems. I am amazed that despite the breadth of responsibilities Mr. Yamamoto has as the First Deputy, he is always calm and friendly, and generous of his time and expertise. Mr. Yamamoto is a tireless advocate of the people of Hawaii, and exemplifies the best qualities of public service. He will be a strong and able complement to Director Pressler.

I urge you to recommend confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as Deputy Director of DOH. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my strong support of his nomination.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi

Audrey Hidano  
1620 Hau Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
March 23, 2015

Testimony to the Committee on Health  
Wednesday, April 1, 2015  
1:15 pm  
State Capitol – Conference Room 414

Re: GM 508 Gubernatorial Nominee, Keith Yamamoto for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health

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

My name is Audrey Hidano and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of Keith Yamamoto whose name is being submitted for consideration and confirmation to be the Deputy Director of the Department of Health. I've known Mr. Yamamoto for about 5 years, having the opportunity to work with him as Deputy Director of Dept. of Health during the past administration. In all of my dealings with Mr. Yamamoto, I've found him to be extremely helpful. He comes with a wealth of experience, knowledge and information from working in State government. Mr. Yamamoto always demonstrates sound judgement and dedication to his work.

I truly believe Mr. Yamamoto will be an asset to the Department of Health. Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony for this Governor's Message.

## Testimony of C. Mike Kido

DATE: March 24, 2015

TO: Senator Josh Green  
Chair, Committee on Health  
*Submitted Via [HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HTHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)*

RE: **GM 508 – Confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Keith Yamamoto**  
**Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 1:15 p.m.**  
**Conference Room: 414**

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Dear Chair Green and Members of the Committee on Health:

I would like to submit testimony in strong support of Mr. Keith Yamamoto for Deputy Director of the State Department of Health. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Yamamoto during my tenure in the Governor's office in 2013-14. I found Mr. Yamamoto embodied the professionalism and compassion for Hawaii's people in my dealing in a wide range of issues from Care Homes, Cesspools and beyond. I believe that Mr. Yamamoto is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change in this administration. Mr. Yamamoto strives to improve Hawaii for our Kupunas and keikis alike.

For these reasons and many others, I ask for your favorable consideration of his nomination as Deputy Director of the State Department of Health.

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



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Pauline.Pavao@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Pauline.Pavao@usw.salvationarmy.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM508 on Apr 1, 2015 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 8:21:28 AM

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**GM508**

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pauline Pavao	The Salvation Army-Family Intervention Services	Support	No

Comments: On behalf of staff for The Salvation Army-Family Intervention Services, we humbly ask for your confirmation on our Honorable Governor David Ige's appointment of Keith Y. Yamamoto as Deputy Director for the State of Hawaii, Department of Health. We have worked directly with Mr. Yamamoto from 1994 thru present in his capacity as Program Development Officer with the Office of Youth Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administrator and in his present position as Deputy Director of Dept. of Health. We have found that in each of these different capacities of work Mr. Yamamoto has displayed innovation, creativity and in essence collaboration in working with agencies in providing healthy communities. Again, we ask your support on confirming Mr. Yamamoto's appointment as Deputy Director as he brings great credibility to the State of Hawaii, Department of Health. Please call me at (808) 959-5855 ext 28 if I can be of further service to the Committee on Health, regarding this appointment. Malama pono.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Gary Gill  
2071 Kalili Place  
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

March 21, 2015

Testimony in support of Governor's Message #508,  
the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as Deputy 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 Keith Yamamoto to serve as the First Deputy in the state Department of Health. I worked with Mr. Yamamoto for 4 years during my time as Deputy Director for the Environment.

I know Keith professionally to be competent, experienced, thoughtful, visionary and effective. The Health Department is a large and complex operation with a wide range of diverse programs and attached agencies. Keith's knowledge of administration, personnel and budget practices and his ability to bring about common-sense improvements to agency procedures make him the right person for the job.

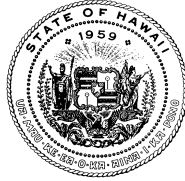
I also know Keith personally. I have been close to him through tough and tragic times. He is resilient, truthful, loyal and good humored through situations both good and bad. I feel fortunate to call him a trusted friend.

Keith will bring a steady hand, careful guidance, openness and continuity to the administration of the Health Department. Please support his confirmation.

Mahalo,

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

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 OF KEITH YAMAMOTO  
REGARDING**

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 508  
CONFIRMATION OF KEITH YAMAMOTO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 1, 2015

Room Number 414

1 First I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Governor David Ige for allowing me this  
2 opportunity to continue to serve as the Deputy Director with the Department of Health (DOH). I have  
3 been the Deputy Director with DOH since April 2011. My responsibilities involve overseeing the general  
4 administration of the department which includes budget, fiscal, facilities management, human  
5 resources, information technology, and compliance. I am also responsible for supporting and guiding  
6 the District Health Offices of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, the Office of Planning, Policy and Program  
7 Development and the Office of Health Status monitoring.

8 Prior to becoming the Deputy Director of Health I served as the Chief of the Department of Health-  
9 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division; I worked for the Department of Human Services – Office of Youth  
10 Services as the Program Development Administrator; and I was employed at the state Department of  
11 Labor and Industrial Relations managing school-based vocational education and career development  
12 programs for at-risk youth.

13 I received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, a  
14 Bachelor of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Services from the University of Northern Colorado, an  
15 Associates of Science degree from Leeward Community College and graduated from Pearl City High  
16 School.

1 Over the past thirty years of state government service, I have had the opportunity to work for several  
2 subject matter departments (Health, Human Services and Labor and Industrial Relations) and at  
3 different operational levels (program, office/branch, division and department). This experience has  
4 provided me with a diverse background and experience which greatly assist me in my current duties as  
5 the Deputy Director of Health. Understanding the state system and learning to navigate the  
6 bureaucracy in an effective manner is, in the short-term, necessary to continue to address the current  
7 “business” needs of the department; and, in the long-term, this understanding helps establish the initial  
8 basis to effect changes and improvements. I strongly believe that you need to first understand the  
9 system that you hope to change before attempting to implement improvements that are both  
10 substantive and sustainable over time. Many of us in state government understand that some of our  
11 current policies, procedures and practices have strong historical roots that no longer meet the evolving  
12 needs of state government operations. As such, it is vital that we continue to view our work as  
13 “transformational” in nature and look at “reinventing” government as a primary and core philosophical  
14 framework to improve operational efficiencies.

15 During the past several years, the DOH has initiated several innovative projects and initiatives that have  
16 significantly improved administrative functions. These initiatives include: the Contract Genie Program to  
17 assist in developing health and human service contracts; use of the Microsoft SharePoint Program for  
18 filing and tracking all DOH service contracts; the Re-organization Pilot Project with the Department of  
19 Budget and Finance; the Recruitment Pilot Project regarding DOH specific positions with the Department  
20 of Human Resource and Development; the Federal Fund Balance Initiative to assist with reconciling daily  
21 account balances for the large number of federal grant initiatives; the Office of Health Status  
22 Monitoring, Vital Records Tracking System; the departmental On-Line Exit Interview Survey; and the  
23 department-wide Electronic G-1 (Leave) System.

24 If afforded an opportunity to continue to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Health, one of  
25 my primary objectives would be to fully implement and establish permanent operational structures  
26 regarding the various administration improvement projects and initiatives that were implemented over  
27 the past several years. I would also like to initiate additional projects within DOH regarding  
28 improvements and efficiencies regarding the development and promulgation of administrative rules;  
29 establishing a system of training and technical support to assist DOH staff regarding the various types of

1 procurement (health and human services as well as goods and services); as well as initiate efforts to  
2 streamline and increase efficiencies regarding various human resources functions including establishing  
3 or amending position classifications, up-dating positions descriptions, improving recruitment and  
4 retention efforts, as well as improving overall employee morale by implementing a range of staff  
5 recognition initiatives.

6 I would like to acknowledge the three other deputy directors (Behavior Health, Environmental Health  
7 and Health Resources) at the Department of Health that make up a comprehensive and dynamic  
8 leadership team under the direction and guidance of Dr. Virginia Pressler, our next Director of Health.

9 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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 20, 2015

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

Dear Committee on Health,

It is a great pleasure for me to strongly support the nomination of Keith Yamamoto for First Deputy Director of Health.

Having worked with Keith for the past three months I am not sure how I would function without him. Keith and I are a perfect match for running the Department of Health. Keith takes care of the administration of the department and loves the details while I attend to the policy and strategy for public health. Not only does Keith enable me to function effectively but he has been extremely proactive in streamlining our administrative functions.

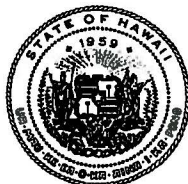
Keith is constantly finding better, more efficient ways to get our work done. The Contract Genie Program, the Microsoft SharePoint Program, the Reorganization Pilot Project, the Recruitment Pilot Projects, the Federal Fund Balance initiative, the Office of Health Status Monitoring, Vital Records Tracking System, the Departmental On-Line Exit Interview Survey, and the Department-wide Electronic G-1 (Leave) System are some examples.

I look forward to working with Keith for many years to come. Please support his nomination.

Sincerely,

Virginia Pressler, M.D.  
Director of Health

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-508**  
**Testimony in Support of**  
**KEITH Y. YAMAMOTO as DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH**

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I endorse the reappointment of Keith Y. Yamamoto as Deputy Director of Health. Keith has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills throughout his distinguished career in public service. Keith's resilience and unwavering commitment to and demonstration of excellence have been the cornerstones of his guidance of the Department of Health through the budgetary and administrative challenges of the past four years. Previously, as the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administrator in the Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division from 2005 through 2011, Keith provided excellent oversight of the statewide operation of prevention, intervention and treatment services. During his tenure as Children and Youth Program Development Officer in the Office of Youth Services-Program Development Office, Keith significantly enhanced programs serving the youth-at-risk population across the state through the establishment of effective collaborative relationships with public and private sector agencies.

On a personal note, Keith has been my supervisor in Oahu for four years. I truly could not have asked for a more competent, kind, hard-working, fair yet exacting boss. Keith has been a tireless supporter of equity and fairness for the neighbor islands in a usually Oahu-centric bureaucracy, and I honor him for that. In my 43 years of public health experience, he ranks among the top 5% of a rather distinguished list of colleagues whom I have been honored to work with.

I am privileged to support Keith Yamamoto in his abiding quest to improve public health at the local and state levels, and look forward to continuing to work closely with him to positively impact the health and well-being of the people of Hawaii. He has my unequivocal and enthusiastic support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dileep G. Bal, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.", is written over a horizontal line.

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

**Cyril K. Goshima, M.D., Inc.**  
**3221 Waialae Avenue, Suite 382**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96816**  
**Tel.: (808) 737-7947, Fax: (808) 732-9463**

March 8, 2015

For: Confirmation Testimony, Deputy Director of Health, Mr. Keith Yamamoto

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony for Mr. Keith Yamamoto for the position of Deputy Director of Health.

I have known Mr. Yamamoto on a number of different levels, but most recently in his role as the previous head of the Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, as well as his role as the Acting Director of Health. Besides being a physician of Internal Medicine in private practice, I am also an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the John A. Burns School of Medicine and it is through that capacity I have worked with Mr. Yamamoto on the subject of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for Alcohol Abuse. We worked with the Department of Health on a grant to bring SBIRT to the State of Hawaii. Unfortunately we were not successful on two attempts. I was able to witness first hand his leadership, organizational, as well as communication skills with a number of governmental agencies as well as with the University of Hawaii and the private sector. He is an excellent administrator who knows how to merge his public health knowledge with the knowledge of the working of the state government to get things done for the benefit of the people of Hawaii. I have the utmost confidence in his ability to continue in his role as the Deputy Director of Health working closely with Dr. Virginia Pressler. I know that should he be required to be the Director of Health in Dr. Pressler's absence he would be able to fulfill those duties confidently and well.

Thank you for the opportunity to lend my support for the confirmation of Mr. Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of Health.

Sincerely,

Cyril K. Goshima, M.D.  
Internal Medicine  
Private Practice  
Director, Hawaii AIDS Education and Training Center  
Assistant Professor, John A. Burns School of Medicine



To: The Honorable Josh Green  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 414

From: Pankaj Bhanot

Date: March 19, 2015

Time: 1:15 P.M.

Subject: Governor's Message No. 508: Nomination of Deputy Director of the Department of Health for a Term to Expire on December 3, 2018

Good Afternoon Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Health, my name is Pankaj Bhanot and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services. However, I am appearing as a private citizen before this Committee to testify on Governor's Message No. 508.

I strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH).

The Department of Health's mission is to protect and improve the health and environment for all people in Hawaii and is based on the philosophy that Health (optimal state of physical, mental, social and environmental well-being) is a right and responsibility of all of Hawaii's people. Keith is committed to the mission and the philosophy and solidly believes in the goal of assuring basic physical and mental health care of all Hawaii residents and preventing pollution and preserving a clean, healthy and natural environment.

My friendship and professional association with Keith began in September 1999, when I joined the Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division, Department of Human Services. At that time Keith was serving as the Children and Youth Program Development Officer of the Office of Youth Services (OYS). Our friendship and professional association grew stronger in 2003 when BESSD and OYS partnered with each other and the Department of Health and Department of Education to implement the *Laulima in Action* plan, first comprehensive teen pregnancy prevention plan for the State of Hawaii. It was also the first effort to prevent teen pregnancies using the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Keith's strong background in programs and policies regarding the at-risk youth and amazing knowledge of the State system was invaluable as we worked together to implement the *Laulima in Action* plan.

During the next few years (2004-2005), Keith and I partnered once again to implement TANF-funded after-school programs for the at-risk youth on a statewide basis. The outcomes of these programs were simply remarkable as the school attendance and graduation rates increased and teen pregnancies decreased.

In June 2005 (through March 2011), Keith became the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administrator of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division at the DOH and provided overall leadership and

guidance regarding the statewide operation of prevention, intervention and treatment services overseen by the division. We partnered once again to redesign and implement the substance treatment services program for the TANF recipients. Keith was also instrumental in guiding BESSD/DHS to understand and develop the residential and out-patient modalities to address the substance abuse issues faced by the TANF recipients. Keith and his staff also assisted with the drafting of the scope of services for the substance abuse treatment services request for proposals (RFP).

Since April 2011, Keith is serving as the Deputy Director of the DOH overseeing the general administration of the department which included budget, fiscal, facilities management, human resources, information technology, and compliance. Keith has made a significant contribution in managing and administering the DOH.

Keith graduated from Pearl City High; received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Colorado; received a Certificate in Public Administration and Master of Public Administration from the University of Hawaii. Keith is also a Certified Substance Abuse Program Administrator.

Keith's 30 plus years of public service experience, solid educational background, and strong commitment to Hawaii and its residents is evident in the manner he carries himself in his personal and professional life. I sincerely believe that Keith is ideally suited to serve as the Deputy Director of the DOH and recommend him unequivocally for the Deputy Director of the DOH.

Please confirm my friend and colleague Keith Yamamoto as the Deputy Director of the DOH.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**GM508: Relating to the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as the First Deputy Director for the Department of Health.**

- COMMITTEE ON HEALTH: Senator Josh Green M.D., Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, April 1st, 2015 at 1:15 p.m. in Room 414

*Good morning Chair Green, Vice Chair Wakai and Distinguished Committee members: My name is Alan Johnson. I am the CEO of Hina Mauka, a non-profit, substance use disorder treatment and prevention agency serving Hawaii residents statewide.*

**Testimony by Alan Johnson:**

**Strong Support for the confirmation of Keith Yamamoto as the First Deputy Director of the Department of Health.**

I believe that Keith Yamamoto has demonstrated excellence in performance along with exceptional character, outstanding management talents, engaging communication skills and outcome-focused strategic planning. In addition, Keith has proven his enduring commitment to public service.

As the First Deputy Director of the Department of Health (DOH) since 2011, Keith Yamamoto has been helpful to provide leadership and information to the Department of Health as well as healthcare providers in terms of planning, budgets, and costs. Mr. Yamamoto is available and accessible to providers in an open way that is ethical and productive while careful to communicate appropriate information. I first met Keith Yamamoto when his position was the Children and Youth Program Development Officer in the early years of 2000. I remember him because he showed a compassionate, caring attitude when he advocated to adolescent providers to expand programming as a means to improve outcomes for kids involved with the Office of Youth Services (OYS) correctional programs.

I came to know Keith Yamamoto very well during his tenure as the Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ADAD) Administrator from 2005 to 2011. My experience of Keith was that he was most ethical and open minded with respect to improving effective procurement and contracting systems, determining what rates would support effective programs, and advocating for an adequate budget. Under his efficient leadership, ADAD has an excellent collaborative relationship with substance abuse prevention and treatment providers. With Keith Yamamoto's support, Hina Mauka continues, today, to provide

effective services to about 1,500 adults and over 800 adolescents per year. The clear majority of people have, who received treatment, demonstrated lasting recovery, reunited with loved ones and achieved productive, meaningful lives. On behalf of all of our community in Hawai'i, we are most grateful for Mr. Yamamoto's ongoing support.

One of Keith Yamamoto's endearing qualities is that he is always looking out to help others, whether it is something small or a big project. One of the best ways that Mr. Yamamoto assists others is through his expertise for planning, which gets down to the smallest detail. You can rely on Keith that his contributions will be intelligent, very thorough and most focused to the issue at hand. His integrity is impeccable as you would expect with a First Director of Administration. And he does so without expecting any recognition other than a good deed well done. His many contributions are often overlooked because he is most humble, ever the servant.

Given his talents and skills, such as a caring attitude and efficiency with planning and budgeting, Keith is most suited to his current position. As such, I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. Keith Yamamoto as the First Director of Administration for the Department of Health and very much appreciate the opportunity to testify today.