

# GM 10

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Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, SARAH YUAN, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



TERRI BYERS  
DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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**Testimony in SUPPORT**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder**  
**Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sarah Yuan**

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER

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

Hearing Date: August 29, 2017

Room Number: 229

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA) supports the nomination of Dr. Sarah Yuan to
- 2 the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).
- 3 **Comments:** Dr. Sarah Yuan is currently an Associate Specialist at the University of Hawaii Center on
- 4 the Family, and is well-known for developing Hawaii's Aging Data Center. Dr. Yuan holds a PhD and
- 5 MA in Sociology, Certificates in Sampling Program for Survey Statisticians and in Population Studies,
- 6 and a Master's degree in Applied Social Research. An award recipient for the 2017 Excellence in
- 7 Extension Award of the U.H. College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and 2010 Hawaii
- 8 Pacific Gerontological Society's Research and Teaching Award, Dr. Yuan has over 40 peer-reviewed and
- 9 technical publications. She specializes in medical sociology, demography of aging, homelessness,
- 10 community needs assessments, and program evaluation, among other things. For these reasons, EOA
- 11 supports the nomination of Dr. Yuan.
- 12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Responses by Sarah Yuan**  
**Relating to Nomination to the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs**

8/25/2017

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I want to contribute to enhancing the well-being of older adults in our state.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

I see the role and responsibilities of a PABEA member as working with other board members to advise the director of the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) in the following areas: (1) the identification of issues and alternative approaches to solutions; (2) the development of position statements and papers; (3) advocacy and legislative actions; and (4) program development and operations.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I hope to use my expertise in research and statistics to bring empirical data and credible information to the discussion and to inform decision-making. I believe I can contribute to the data-driven decision-making process that will improve programs and services in both public and private sectors that serve consumers.

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I am well versed in a range of issues pertinent to the well-being of older adults. I obtained a Ph.D. degree in Sociology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) in 2006, with special concentration in the demography of aging, medical sociology, and survey methodology. I am a tenured faculty member at the UHM. I have conducted various applied research on aging, including Medicaid program for long-term care; long-term care financing issues; intergenerational interactions, obligations, supports, and economic transfers among ethnically diverse families in Hawai'i. My current research also includes homelessness and substance abuse prevention.

In addition to my work at the University, I have served the broader community with my expertise in data and applied research. From 2013–2017, I served PABEA in various leadership positions, including one year as the chair of the Legislative Committee and two years as the first Vice Chair of the board. From 2007–2016, I served five consecutive terms as one of two Co-chairs on the Presentations Committee of the Biennial Conference of the Hawai'i Pacific Gerontological Society, attended by 300–400 people on average. In June of 2010, I completed my three-year volunteer role as a member of the Long-Term Care (LTC) Services Subcommittee for Health Services and Facilities Plan of the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA), Department of Health.

The committee was highly successful in completing the LTC chapter of the State Plan. From 2004–2008, I served as a volunteer member of the Evaluation Committee to the Maui Long-Term Care Partnership Project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to help enhance PABEA's impact through advising EOA on programs and services, and to be an effective advocate for our kupuna, especially those who are vulnerable.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

Analytical, hardworking, and a lifelong learner

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

I served on PABEA for four years and had the privilege to work with some very experienced and committed advocates. I have learned to be more perseverance from these great role models.

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I don't foresee any conflicts of interest that could arise during my service on the Board. There was no COI during the last term I served on PAEBA.