

GM 50

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

Report Title: Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Senate Committee on Board Confirmations,

I am writing to you regarding the nomination of Linda Axtell-Thompson for the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

I have known and worked with Linda on two non profit boards and believe she has the highest set of skills and experience necessary to carry out the responsibilities of PABEA. Both her educational background and experience combined make her an outstanding candidate.

She has extensive experience in health care, bioethics and gerontology. She is an excellent facilitator and her critical thinking contributes to decision making, and strategic planning.

As a 20 year staff member of the Executive Office on Aging- eight years as the Director- and currently in my seventh year as a member of PABEA, I know first hand the kind of member resources that serve the Board mission.

Linda would be a great credit to PABEA, to the Governor and to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Marilyn Seely



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August 27, 2017

Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Board Confirmations
Hawai'i State Legislature
Honolulu, HI 96813

Letter of Recommendation for Linda Axtell-Thompson for PABEA

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I am writing to you in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Linda Axtell-Thompson for membership on the Hawai'i State Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA).

I have known Linda since 2000 when she first became involved with Kokua Mau, Hawai'i's hospice and palliative care organization. Since that time, we have worked together on a number of projects related to aging and end-of-life care. She is knowledgeable and concerned about such issues, both professionally and on a personal level.

Linda will bring to deliberations on such issues an uncommon background of academic training in medical ethics, facilitation, and mediation, coupled with professional experience in healthcare management, strategic planning, and policy analysis. This diverse array of academic study and real-world experience give Linda a rich background for meaningful participation in policy discussions on elder affairs.

I am happy to recommend Linda for consideration for PABEA. Please let me know if I might provide any further information on her qualifications. I can be reached by phone at 808-330-1759.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathryn L. Braun'.

Kathryn L. Braun
Professor and Director, OPHS
Chair, DrPH Program

Testimony to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Tuesday, August 29, 2017; 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229 State Capitol

GM 50: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs, Gubernatorial Nominee, LINDA AXTELL-THOMPSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Dear Chair Baker and Vice-Chair Tokuda:

My name is Wes Lum and I am writing in support of Dr. Linda Axtell-Thompson to the Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA), for a term to expire June 30, 2021.

Dr. Axtell-Thompson's professional experience includes over 25 years in healthcare planning and policy analysis, followed by several years of graduate and undergraduate teaching at local universities in healthcare administration, nonprofit management, and healthcare/management ethics.

Her commitment to sound policy and ethical standards/practice for programs and activities pertaining to issues of aging, dementia, and end-of-life care are demonstrated by her continued involvement with Kokua Mau, Pali Momi Medical Center bioethics committees, and the development and implementation of Hawaii's State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

I've had an opportunity to work with Dr. Axtell-Thompson on these issues and am impressed by her unwavering commitment to protect the ethical rights and to support the proper care of Hawaii's most vulnerable older adults.

For these reasons, I support Dr. Linda Axtell-Thompson's confirmation to PABEA. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii State Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs
Questionnaire by Linda Axtell-Thompson 08/27/17

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

My desire to serve the community is shown through many years of working in the local nonprofit sector, and I view public service in the same light. I have a strong interest in assisting with policy discussions and ethical deliberations for programs and activities pertaining to issues of aging, dementia, and end-of-life care. This interest reflects my personal and professional concerns for protecting the ethical rights and supporting the proper care of our vulnerable elder citizens.

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

My understanding is that members of PABEA review, discuss, and recommend policy related to programs and concerns of the elderly population of our community. It is assumed that the ideas and suggestions from PABEA will be taken into consideration in planning, funding, and implementing public policies and public programs in elder affairs.

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

My background in both management and bioethics provide a useful perspective in policy discussions of elder affairs and consumer protections. The management background (nonprofit MBA degree and 25+ years in healthcare strategic planning) provides understanding and appreciation of business and/or fiscal considerations, while the ethics background (master's and doctorate degrees in bioethics) provides theoretical grounding, nuanced assessment, and useful tools in ethical deliberation of complex issues.

(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.

My professional experience includes 25+ years in healthcare planning and policy analysis, followed by several years of graduate and undergraduate teaching at local universities in healthcare administration, nonprofit management, and healthcare/ management ethics. My educational training includes a doctorate degree in bioethics and a master's degree in nonprofit management. My professional and personal interests in ethical issues related to aging, dementia, and end-of-life care are reflected in my volunteer community activities as outlined in Q7 below.

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

I look forward to participating in and contributing to policy discussions on issues and programs related to elder affairs. I hope that my involvement will help in some way to improve the circumstances and opportunities of our community elders.

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

Thoughtful: I tend to dive deeply into the issues at hand, trying to learn about and understand holistically until I am satisfied with the group's collective understanding of multiple

perspectives. This helps to ensure that issues and implications are thoroughly explored before recommendations are made.

Balanced: I am by nature a centrist and a collaborator, seeking to explore and understand contrary and multiple views, and looking for middle grounds and viable options that could lead to positive outcomes for all involved. Training in facilitation and mediation contribute to this approach of seeking broad input to discussions and deliberations.

Creative: I try to approach problems and issues with a mindset of exploration and possibility, looking for ways to say “yes, it can work” instead of reasons to say “no, it won’t work”.

Creative problem solving is a useful trait in assessing policy proposals for reasonable implementation.

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

My community activities mirror my professional and personal interests in ethical issues related to aging, dementia, and end-of-life care, with continuous volunteering over numerous years for Kokua Mau board of directors (Hawaii’s hospice and palliative care organization), Pali Momi Medical Center bioethics committee, University of Hawaii and Chaminade University human research ethics committees, and the planning task force and implementation collaborative for the Hawaii State Plan for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias. I also serve as a volunteer facilitator in the Kupuna Pono family conferencing program run by the Mediation Center of the Pacific.

(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?

In addition to part-time teaching at University of Hawaii West Oahu and Chaminade University of Honolulu, I am self-employed in nonprofit strategy consulting and professional ethics training. It is conceivable that some aspect of those topics might be under consideration by PABEA. If that situation were to arise, I would self-identify the potential conflict of interest and recuse myself from the relevant deliberations and/or recommendations.