



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of G.M. 0628
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, DIANA FELTON, MD,
for a term to expire 06-30-2021

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

Hearing Date: May 12, 2020

Room Number: 229

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) strongly supports this measure.

2 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure falls within the scope of the
3 Department's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) whose statutory mandate is to assure a
4 comprehensive statewide behavioral health care system by leveraging and coordinating public,
5 private and community resources. Through the BHA, the Department is committed to carrying
6 out this mandate by reducing silos, ensuring behavioral health care is readily accessible, and
7 person-centered. The BHA's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) provides the following
8 testimony on behalf of the Department.

9 The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of Diana
10 Felton, MD, FACEP to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled
11 Substances (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2021.

12 HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not
13 limited to pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational,
14 legal defense, enforcement and corrections segments of the community, pursuant to HRS §329-2.

15 Dr. Felton is currently the State Toxicologist with the Hawaii Department of Health
16 Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office. The HEER office is a division of
17 the Hawaii Department of Health aimed at protecting human health and the environment from

1 threats related to hazardous substances. She works with many state and community partners on
2 issues such as childhood lead poisoning prevention, safe fish consumption, air pollution risks,
3 pesticides, and other environmental health hazards. She collaborates on poisoning prevention
4 with the Hawaii Poison Center and is a member of the Hawaii Advisory Committee on Drug
5 Abuse and Controlled Substances.

6 Dr. Felton is board certified in Medical Toxicology and Emergency Medicine. She
7 received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, attended medical
8 school at the University of California, Davis and completed her emergency medicine residency at
9 Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. Fellowship training was at the
10 Harvard Medical Toxicology Fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital in conjunction with the
11 Massachusetts and Rhode Island Poison Control Center.

12 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration for the nomination
13 of Diana Felton, MD, to serve on HACDACS.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of a committed volunteer
15 whose appointment adds to the cross-section of community interests represented on HACDACS.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None.

GM-628

Submitted on: 3/16/2020 11:39:42 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/19/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shawn Steiman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM628

Testimony in Support

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, DIANA FELTON, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health,

I've known Dr. Felton for about 5 years and I've been incredibly impressed with her ability to explore and explain a variety of medical topics. Considering how well she interacts with me on these topics, someone not in the medical profession, I easily believe she'd be a continued asset to this commission. Simply, if she can discuss medical issues, drugs, and toxicities as easily and fluidly as she does in social situations (where I interact with her), she seems a perfect fit for this. Moreover, she has an ideal background in her education and experience for this position and she's demonstrated her ability to fulfill the role well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shawn Steiman, PhD

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Submitted on: 3/16/2020 10:11:04 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/19/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Wieting	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear CPH committee,

I stand in support of Diana Felton's nomination to HACDACS in the strongest terms. I have known Diana for several years, during which time I've become well aware of her deep commitment to safeguarding public health, both as a physician and in her current role as the State Toxicologist. From my many conversations with her, I know that she cares very much about the health and wellbeing of all stakeholders involved in treating and preventing substance abuse, derived in large part from her extensive first hand experience as an emergency room physician. Importantly, her approach is also grounded in evidence-based thinking and best practices. As someone who knows Diana personally, I would trust that her participation in this advisory role be both collaboratively and ethically persistent. More importantly, as a community member and layperson, I support Diana's nomination because she is a well qualified professional with relevant experience and understanding regarding substance abuse and treatment, who has abiding aloha for Hawai'i's diverse communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Julia Wieting