

Testimony of the Board of Psychology

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 683, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DON PEDRO,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2020**

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Don Pedro's reappointment to the Board.

Dr. Pedro's appointment to the Board was confirmed on April 6, 2017, and he continues to serve well. He has been licensed as a psychologist in Hawaii since December 2011, and his license is current, active, and in good standing.

Dr. Pedro is currently the forensic section head of the Hawaii State Department of Health's Adult Mental Health Division. He also serves on the I Ola Lahui-Rural Hawai'i Behavioral Health Board of Directors. In addition, Dr. Pedro lectures at both the University of Hawaii-Kapi'olani Community College and Hawaii Pacific University and maintains a part-time private practice that provides clinical training to predoctoral and postdoctoral psychology interns.

Dr. Pedro understands the duties involved in granting, suspending, and revoking licenses, promulgating administrative rules, and enforcing provisions governing the State's regulation of psychologists. He understands the expectation that board members regularly attend and participate in the Board's functions. Importantly, Dr. Pedro continues to express a strong interest in participating in policy and consumer protection issues at the board level.

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The Board believes that Dr. Pedro's combination of experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to public service continue to make him a strong choice for reappointment to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

May 8, 2020

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce Consumer Protection
and Health

Email: senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Rosalyn H. Baker,

I hope this letter finds you and your staff well. Thank you for your email notification of my nomination to the Board of Psychology. I am including my response to the questionnaires that was provided and attaching my letters of support from friends to be submitted to CPHTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Pedro', with a stylized, cursive script.

Don D. Pedro
Clinical & Forensic Psychologist

Dr. Don Pedro's responses for his consideration to the Psychology Board of Hawai'i.
Date: May 8, 2020

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

My interest in continuing as a Board member is to be an active participant in the regulation and monitoring of behavioral health services provided to the people of Hawai'i, and to also ensure quality and appropriate services to those in need. As a recipient of the Board's services, I know first-hand the direct benefits of its influence. It would be an honor to serve with the Board in its governance, oversight, and monitoring of services to protect the people of Hawaii.

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

The roles and responsibilities of a Board member include, among other things, determining if one's qualifications for sitting for the psychology licensing exam, and for licensure itself, are sufficient. The Board also determines the passing score for the licensing exam. It also keeps a record of any action taken on an a licensure applicant. It now includes the monitoring of completed continuing education certifications. Finally, the Board oversees proceedings if a request or requirement of a hearing is in order regarding licensure in psychology. This Board's primary role is to ensure ethical and competent clinical care is provided to all those served by licensed clinical psychologists.

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

Consumer interests can be protected by promoting and ensuring quality of mental health services. Obtaining additional training on new techniques of applied behavioral health and continued education based on updated research in psychology will aide in the protection of the consumers we serve. Attending conferences as well, in understanding the nuances and challenges of providers helps the clinician better understand effective ways to protect the people of Hawai'i.

(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 believe I am qualified for this position for the following reasons: 1) I can work to build consensus, 2) I can work with, and support, administrative and clinical staff, 3) I possess strong communication skills and can work with diverse groups and ideas in a constructive way, 4) I also have the experience in the field that contributes to the discipline that can affect the Board's decisions.

In my role as the Forensic Section Head-Oahu Branch for the Adult Mental Health, I oversee community forensic programs and supervise psychologists providing forensic consultation and services. This role affords me the knowledge and experience to ensure ethical and clinical decisions are provided to the people of Hawai'i. In my private practice I am also allowed to practice clinical skills that are relevant to topics that are reviewed for ethical considerations.

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


My commitment will be to exercise the duties and responsibilities as a Board member with integrity, collegiality, and care. I acknowledge that my primary role as a Board member are 1) to contribute to defining the organization's mission and governing the fulfillment of that mission, and 2) to carry out the functions of the office as a Board member as stated in the bylaws.

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

Three qualities that best describe me include: 1) collaborative, 2) openness, honesty and transparency, 3) subscribes to and practices high moral standards. These qualities I feel will contribute to the Board's decision-making in ensuring objectivity on my part as a Board member in the regulation and oversight of the Board's duties.

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

As a provider of services, I have had to consult with colleagues and the Board of psychology regarding sensitive issues of other providers in making ethical decisions and for continuity of care. Though the challenges faced involved other disciplines including our own profession, I was able take the feedback from the Board and manage different stakeholders in coming to a resolution; I believe I maintained the required collaboration of different stakeholders and ultimately continued to provide care for a patient. I believe that my collaborative skills and ability to remove personal emotion attached to decision making will provide the Board with additional benefits in decision making.

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- (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?**

The State of Hawai'i is rather small in both population and providers of services. Many of our colleagues may be friends or family members; the same goes for people we serve. As such, it is important to remain objective by consulting with other colleagues when objectivity may be impaired, and remaining not only transparent but be able to create and maintain ethical boundaries. Understanding the different roles that may arise within a small community, is critical to remain objective and ethical in overcoming any foreseeable conflicts of interests. Another way to overcome possible conflicts of interest is to inform the Board of any ethical dilemmas and recommending I recuse of the decision making to ensure non-bias.