



STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

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Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

GM 733, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawai'i County Subarea Health Planning Council

Testimony of Serafin Colmenares, Jr. Acting SHPDA Administrator

Wednesday, May 13, 2020
9:30 a.m.

1 **Agency's Position:** The State Health Planning and Development Agency supports the
2 nomination and confirmation of Dr. R. Scott Daniels to the Hawaii County Subarea Health
3 Planning Council (HCSAC).

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the
6 HCSAC Gubernatorial Nominee, Dr. R. Scott Daniels.

7 A former Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana, West Africa, Dr. Daniels is currently a
8 Program Specialist with the Department of Health, Hawaii State Office of Primary Care and
9 Rural Health. Dr. Daniels handles the Small Rural Hospitals Improvement Program and the
10 Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, which works with the State's critical access
11 hospitals on bringing about enhanced financial and clinical performance in their facilities. Prior
12 to his work with the Department of Health, Dr. Daniels was a Senior Analyst with the Hawaii
13 Health Information Corporation as well as a former Lecturer with the University of Hawaii,
14 Public Administration Program.

15 Dr. Daniels is active in the local and national community. He currently serves on the
16 Board of Trustees of the National Rural Health Association, is on the Hawaii Trauma Advisory

1 Committee, and is Co-Chair of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health
2 Policy Committee. He also currently serves as the Chair of HCSAC.

3 Dr. Daniels completed his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy at the University of
4 Hawaii at Manoa. He received his Bachelor of Arts with Honors from the University of
5 Montana.

6 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Dr. R. Scott Daniels to the Hawaii
7 County Subarea Health Planning Council.

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?
Healthcare is undergoing a transformation in the United States as it moves from a system of providing sick care to one focused on population health. I believe that I can help in effectively helping the healthcare system in Hawaii county to make that transition and better provide services for the population.
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?
To review, seek input, and make recommendations regarding health planning for the county.
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?
By ensuring and expanding access to healthcare and by working on transitioning healthcare towards a focus on population health, meaning that the system truly works towards creating a healthy population and not just providing sick care.
- (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 have been involved in healthcare for twenty-one years, doing health data analysis and working with small rural facilities on quality and performance improvement. I understand the vision of the Affordable Care Act and have been active in working in communities to help prepare for, and begin moving towards, a health system focused on population health and health equity.
- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
I hope to be a piece in the successful transformation of the healthcare system towards one that focuses on population health and health equity and is able to maintain and possibly expand services through the use of telehealth.
- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.
Thoughtful—I listen to issues and research what I can on them before making decisions.
Patient—sometimes things do not happen as quickly as I would like, but good ideas will eventually be implemented if they are consistently supported.
Focused—there are a lot of changes happening in healthcare, but the end vision is one that better supports people's health. Keeping focused on what the end goal is helps to navigate through the turmoil.
- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

When I was a Peace Corps volunteer, I was often confronted with what a community wanted and what they needed and how to best walk the line to meet the needs and address the wants. Frequently the community would want something that was much too big or ambitious for the needs, for example the village I lived in wanted a clinic that was way too big for their needs. Building it would be expensive in the way they wanted it and getting materials for a building the size they wanted could be difficult. I had to convince them that a smaller clinic would be more appropriate, better meet their needs, and allow for additional improvement projects around the village. I still work with communities today trying to walk the line between what is wanted and what is really needed.

- (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 do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest at this time. If any were to develop, I would recuse myself from decisions that could be seen as conflicting with personal interests.