TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2009

Wednesday, March 11, 2009
9:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR’S MESSAGE NO. 267.

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”) thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor’s Message No. 267, regarding the appointment of Carol L. Nowak, Ph.D. to the Board of Psychology (“Board”). The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Nowak’s appointment to the Board.

Dr. Nowak is being appointed to the Board as a licensee member. She has been licensed since May 15, 1992, and her license is current, active, and in good standing.

Dr. Nowak has been serving on the Board since July 2008 as an interim appointee. In her eight (8) months on the Board, Dr. Nowak has proven to be an extremely reliable member. Dr. Nowak has familiarized herself with the Board’s laws and rules, is attentive at meetings, asks excellent questions, stimulates thoughtful
discussion, and provides sound recommendations. We believe that Dr. Nowak’s interest in serving on the Board, experience in the profession, and desire to contribute to the community will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Nowak to the Board of Psychology and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.
RE: Support of Carol L. Nowak, Ph.D to the Hawaii State Psychology Licensing Board

I am writing to ask for you to support for the nomination of Carol L. Nowak, Ph.D to the Hawaii State Psychology Licensing Board.

I have known Dr. Nowak for about five years through her work consulting for a non-profit for which I am President of the board on Hawaii Island. Carol has always been authentic, honest, entirely professional, reliable, easy to work with and ethical. There is no question that she has a deep orientation to service of both her clients and her community and she understands the need for high quality psychological services as well systems improvement. I highly recommend Dr. Nowak without any reservations.

Because our non-profit, Hawaii Resources for School Success (registered with the IRS under North Hawaii Women and Children’s Services) was unable to find a psychologist with the necessary training to do the type of multi-disciplinary student assessments which we wanted to provide, Dr. Nowak agreed to fly to the Big Island to provide these services roughly every two months for the past several years. Because of this, I have had extensive interactions with Dr. Nowak and would be very pleased to see her serve the state by being on the Hawaii State Psychology Licensing Board. Her experience with psychology student training and with the John Burns School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, supervising and training of psychiatry residents positions her to have the skills and experience to assess candidates for state licensee. Selfishly I do hope she has time to continue to provide multi-disciplinary educational assessments of underachieving students, because these are so helpful for students, teachers and parents.

Again I highly recommend Dr. Nowak without any reservations.

Sincerely,

Sharon H Vitousek, M.D.
Director, North Hawaii Outcomes Project
February 17, 2009

Dear Senators Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, David Ige, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs:

RE: Letter of Support for Carol Nowak, Ph.D.
Hawai'i State Psychology Licensing Board Confirmation

I have served on the Licensing Board for the past 8 years, with 4 years as Chair. I have a vested interest in ensuring that the psychologists who serve as board members are well grounded in both professional practice and ethical issues that face our profession. I am also interested in working with board members who are fair, respectful and hold public safety first and foremost as their priority.

I first met Dr. Nowak in her role as practicum coordinator for the psychology training program at the Queen’s Medical Center. Over the years, I have heard her present at conferences and have had the opportunity to work closely with her at the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC) where she has been a consultant for the past 12 years. I have always been impressed with her clinical insight, pragmatic skills, professional maturity and sense of humor. The consultation she provides at SATC is extremely helpful to staff in their attempts to work with difficult trauma cases.

Dr. Nowak has my unqualified support as a nominee for the Board as she has much to contribute in terms of her professional experience and expertise as well as her personal attributes. She can be counted on to serve the community well.

Should you have any questions about this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact me at 535-7600 or at eviey@kapioiani.org.

Sincerely,

Evelyn H. Yanagida, Ph.D.
Clinical Program Manager
February 27, 2009

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this letter of support for Dr. Carol Nowak who comes before your committee as a nominee for the Board of Psychology of the Office of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. I have known and worked closely with Dr. Nowak for 18 years, most specifically as psychologists at The Queen's Medical Center and Hale Kipa. Dr. Nowak has not only provided quality clinical services to children, adolescents, adults, couples and families, but also served as a member of the training faculty for the American Psychological Association accredited Psychology Training Program at Queen's. This latter experience makes her especially qualified to sit on the Board of Psychology in the capacity of reviewing and determining the qualifications for candidates for licensure.

In addition to the above training credentials, Dr. Nowak has been a contributor to the psychology community by serving in professional organizations and providing workshops to share her expertise with other mental health professionals. Furthermore, in addition to her private practice of psychology, she has devoted many hours to improving services to children and adolescents with special needs.

As a former member and chair of the Board of Psychology I am fully aware of the responsibilities of the position that Dr. Nowak seeks. This is not a job to be taken lightly, for it requires not only hours of service but also the use of expert knowledge and professional objectivity to arrive at sometimes difficult decisions. Dr. Nowak is a highly ethical psychologist who will render judgments fairly and with the interests of the public at the forefront. I endorse her nomination without reservation.

Sincerely,

Jean Adair-Leland, Ph.D.
February 26, 2009

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection, David Y. Ige, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee

FROM: Kamana’opono M. Crabbe, Ph.D.

I am honored to submit this letter of recommendation for Carol Nowak, Ph.D. concerning her appointment to the State of Hawaii Psychology Licensing Board. I have known Dr. Nowak for seventeen years dating back to my earliest training as a summer practicum student in 1992 at the Queens Medical Center’s Department of Psychology. As my supervisor she displayed a nurturing quality that supported my development as a graduate student in clinical psychology. She exhibited a highly professional work ethic emphasizing competent therapeutic skills, respect for patients, and quality of treatment services. These core principles continue to guide my own practice to this day as a licensed psychologist in the rural community of the Waianae Coast.

Over the years I have followed Dr. Nowak’s professional career and service to our community in various capacities. I recall her work with at risk youth while employed with the Kailana Program adolescent day treatment group home and with Hale Kipa Youth services as the Program Director. Her responsibility and obligation is unquestionable evidenced by several years of service as a board member with the Hawaii Psychological Association. She exemplified a commitment to promote the discipline of psychology within the broader Hawaii community. Furthermore, I am aware of her support for other early career psychologists like myself and encouragement of cultural diversity within our profession.

Dr. Nowak possesses such dignified traits as honesty, consideration, humility, compassion, concern, and kindness. Therefore, it is with great respect that I submit this letter of recommendation and the committee’s consideration for her appointment to the State of Hawaii Psychology Licensing Board.

Sincerely,

Kamana’opono M. Crabbe, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist
Director of Training

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Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair, Senator David Ige, Vice-Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, mahalo for this opportunity to present my background in your consideration of my confirmation to the Hawaii State Psychology Licensing Board.

I wish to be a member of the Board of Psychology because an appointment to the Hawaii State Psychology Licensing Board would give me the opportunity to give back to the community my diverse experiences and expertise practicing psychology in Hawaii for over 16 years. I welcome the challenge of overseeing the very important licensing process of psychologists in the state, and contributing to the debate related to changes in laws and rules governing the practice of psychology.

I perceive the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board of Psychology to primarily be:
• protect consumers against harmful or unfair practices,
• promote the public's interest in the delivery psychological practices,
• create effective laws and rules governing psychological practice,
• promote policies and actions within the practice of psychology that support healthy competition in the delivery of psychological services to the consumers,
• minimize the impact on costs to the consumers so policies and actions are neither too strict or too lenient towards business,
• allow fair and reasonable licensure into the profession that supports competence and quality of licensees through standards which are fair, just and reasonable.

Given my understanding of the board’s role, I believe that I am qualified for the position because I have a wide ranging background of experiences, working in private practice, for non-profit and profit health agencies and companies, and in teaching, supervising, consulting in psychology for the past 17 years. This background gives me an uniquely diverse perspective when evaluating issues affecting both consumers and practitioners in the field of psychology. Also, I believe I have demonstrated a strong commitment to serving the health and educational needs of the people of Hawaii in both providing psychological services to consumers as well as in training those who provide psychological services to consumers. Some highlights of my experience include:
• **1991-1998** Queen's Medical Center, Department of Psychology, APA-approved, Psychology Residency Training Program, Supervising Psychologist, Practicum Coordinator, and Assistant Training Director, duties included supervision, teaching, consultation, and training.

• **1991-1998** Adjunct Faculty, John Burns School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, supervising and training of psychiatry residents.

• **1991-Present** Adjunct Faculty, Argosy University, supervising practicum students and teaching graduate courses.

• **1992-Present** Private Practice, specializing in psychotherapy and consultation with individuals, couples, families, serving adults, teenagers, and children.

• **1993-1998** Psychological Consultant, Kailana Program, Adolescent Day Treatment/Group Home: A Joint Venture sponsored by the Marimed Foundation, Hale Kipa & YMCA of O'ahu, Kaneohe, HI, providing clinical consultation, supervision and training to the Kailana Program staff as part of their multidisciplinary team.

• **1994-1998** Clinical Affiliate, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Psychology, Clinical Studies Program, supervising practicum students and guest lecturer.

• **1995, 1996 & 1998** Hawaii Psychological Association Board Member, Clinical Representative.

• **1996-Present** Psychological Consultant, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Honolulu, providing semi-monthly consultation to SATC Clinical Staff.

• **1999-2002** Program Director/Clinical Director, Hale Kipa Youth Services, overseeing Residential Treatment Programs for youth under CAMHD contracts.

• **2004-Present** Psychologist Team Member, Hawaii Resources for School Success, North Hawaii Women and Children Services, conducting neurodevelopmental assessments with children experiencing learning differences.

• **2004-Present** Clinical Director, Pacific Autism Center, overseeing behavioral treatment services to children with autism.

In these trying times, providing mental health services to our community has become increasingly important and vital to the functioning of a safe and productive society. My personal attributes, education, experience, and expertise give me the skills to succeed. I ask for you to support my nomination to the Hawaii State Psychology Licensing Board. Mahalo.
Vita

CAROL L. NOWAK, PH.D.
Licensed Psychologist

Private Practice

Licensure and Education

Psychologist, State of Hawaii (License # PSY-473, May, 1992)

Ph.D. in Philosophy in Psychology (1991) Saybrook Institute, San Francisco, CA

M.A. in Psychology (1984) Antioch West University, Honolulu, HI

B.Ed. in Secondary Education (1980) University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI

Professional Organizations and Awards

American Psychological Association, Member
APA Divisions (Clinical & Family Psychology)

Hawaii Psychological Association, Member and

Merit Scholarship Award, 1984
Hawaii Veterans Memorial Foundation

Faculty Appointments

Argosy University, formerly American School of Professional Psychology, Hawaii Campus,
Clinical Adjunct Faculty (1992-present)

University of Hawaii, Department of Psychology, Clinical Studies Program, Clinical Affiliate,
(1994-1998)

University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Adjunct
Faculty (1991-1998)

Professional Clinical Experience

Private Practice, Windward Office, 45-024 #1 Malulani Street, Kaneohe, HI (1993-present)
Private Psychology Practice specializing in psychotherapy (individual, couples, families with children, adolescents & adults) and provided consultation services.

Psychological Consultant, Sex Abuse Treatment Center, Honolulu, HI (1996-present)
Provide bi-monthly consultation to the Sex Abuse Treatment Center staff in child and adolescent cases.

Psychologist Team Member, Hawaii Resources for School Success, North Hawaii Women and Children Services, North Hawaii on the Big Island, HI (2004-present)
Conduct neurodevelopmental assessments with children experiencing learning differences.

Clinical Director, Pacific Autism Center, Honolulu, HI (2004-present)
Supervise and oversee clinical services and behavioral treatment services to children with autism, provide consultation to clinical staff.

Clinical Director/Program Director, Hale Kipa Threshold Living Program & Out-Patient Services, Honolulu, HI (1999-2002)
Directed and Supervised CAMHD funded therapeutic services for residential, therapeutic group home and outpatient services to Felix class youth, ages 7-17 including supervision, program development, and administration.

Associate Training Director/Practicum Coordinator, The Queen’s Medical Center, Department of Psychology, Honolulu, HI (1991-1998)
Provided supervision, teaching, and training of psychology residents in APA-approved Psychology residency training program, primary supervisor and coordinator of Family and Pediatric Psychology minor rotations, supervised psychiatry residents & social work interns, provided program development services to Queen’s Medical Center administration, & consultation and training to in-patient units including pediatrics, trauma, intensive care, emergency department and medical/surgical units, conducted psychological assessments and outpatient psychotherapy with families, couples, children, adolescents and adults.

Provided clinical consultation to the Kailana Program staff as part of their multidisciplinary team, provided consultation to administration in organizational development, staff development, and training, supervised assessments including substance abuse assessments and group therapy.

Psychological Consultant, Hale Kipa Youth Services, Honolulu, HI (1998-1999)
Provided clinical consultation to group home staff as part of their multidisciplinary team
Within the adolescent residential treatment programs, supervised psychology practicum students in providing therapy and assessment services.

Guest Faculty, University of Hawaii, Department of Psychology, Honolulu, HI (Spring and Fall, 1995)
Taught Advanced Family Therapy Course to doctoral psychology students.

Family Therapy Extern, Family Institute of Westchester, New York (1990-1991)
Post-graduate training and supervision in out-patient family systems therapy with families, couples, and individuals utilizing a family systems treatment theoretical model.

Family Therapist, Greenwich House Counseling Center, NYC, New York (1990-1991)
Member of a family systems therapy team providing therapy and consultation services to substance abuse clients and their families.

Predoctoral Psychology Resident, The Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu, HI (1989-1990)
Pre-doctoral psychology residency training and supervision in therapy, consultation, and psychological assessment in both in-patient and outpatient psychiatric and medical settings. Full-year, minor rotation in in-patient pediatric psychology providing assessment and psychotherapy to children, adolescents and families. Participation in multi-disciplinary team in outpatient clinic setting.

Clinical Therapist, King Kalakaua Center, Honolulu, HI (1985-1990)
Provided individual, couples, and family therapy with children, adolescents and adults under the supervision of a licensed psychologist, participated in the KKC Women's Prison Project, providing long-term psychotherapy with incarcerated women.

Psychological Testing Examiner, Kahi Mohala Psychiatric Hospital, Ewa Beach, HI (1987-1989)
Conducted psychological and neuropsychological assessments of children, adolescents and adult on in-patient psychiatric units under the supervision of licensed psychologist.

Professional Research


Professional Presentations

Available upon request.
List of References

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