Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Nursing, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAREN BOYER, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.
Report Title: Board of Nursing
Description:
Companion: CPH
Package: Current Referral:
Introducer(s):
My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (“Department”). The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor’s Message No. 4, nominating Ms. Karen Boyer for membership on the Board of Nursing (“Board”) for a term to expire June 30, 2018.

Ms. Boyer’s experience in the field of nursing as a practitioner and as an instructor for new and aspiring nurses covers roughly three-and-a-half decades both in Hawaii and on the Mainland United States. Currently, Ms. Boyer serves as the department chair overseeing multiple nursing specialties at the University of Hawaii’s
Kapiolani Community College (KCC) campus, which is the culmination of her time as a professor and instructor for organizations including KCC and the Queens Medical Center. Having worked several years prior to and concurrent with her teaching experience, Ms. Boyer has a deep understanding of the full professional pipeline for nursing in Hawaii that encompasses education, training, and work as a practitioner. In addition, Ms. Boyer’s training has included experiences working in areas often having difficulty in accessing medical services, such as rural areas, which is an issue in the State. The Department believes this breadth of knowledge and experience makes Ms. Boyer highly qualified for service on the Board.

Ms. Boyer is also aware of the requirements related to service on the Board, and she is willing to put in the time and preparation needed in order to serve. Having been appointed earlier this summer, Ms. Boyer has already had the opportunity to attend Board meetings since her appointment, where she has been prepared for and engaged in the Board’s discussions and actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of Ms. Boyer’s nomination to the Board of Nursing.
Board of Nursing  
State of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 3469  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801  

August 23, 2017  

Letter of Reference for Karen R. Boyer, FNP, MN, RN  

To Whom It May Concern:  

It is with honor to submit this letter of recommendation for Karen Boyer for membership on Hawaii Board of Nursing. I have known Karen for over ten years as the Director of the Associate of Science in Nursing program and currently as Nursing Department Chair. As the Associate Degree in Nursing Director, I worked closely with Karen and personally witness her strong leadership skills as she skillfully managed six diverse nursing programs and supported thirty full-time and part-time faculty members. Under Karen’s leadership, Kapiolani Community College first-time NCLEX pass rate is the highest in the state, consisting exceeding 90%. She was instructional in the nursing program receiving full accreditation from Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) in 2013, the transition of the nursing ADN to a concept-based program, and joining the Hawaii State Nursing Consortium. As a member of the Consortium, ADN students can transfer seamlessly into University of Hawaii Manoa bachelor’s program. Nearly fifty percent of our graduates continue their education either from PN to ADN or ADN to BSN.

Karen is an active member of the community. She regularly attends the Board of Nursing monthly meetings and serves on a number of community committees. She also serves on a number of the college’s committees including Policy Development and actively engaged in the college’s upcoming re-accreditation process.

Karen sets high expectations for the faculty and a stellar role model setting the standard for leaders of the future. Without any reservation, I strongly recommend Karen for membership on the Board of Nursing. With her expertise in nursing and her knowledge of the community, she will be a valuable asset to the Board.

If you have any questions, please contact me at paulette@hawaii.edu or 455-0446.

Sincerely yours,

Paulette L. Williams, DrPH, MSN, RN  
Immediate Past, Associate Degree in Nursing Program Director
Senator Rosalyn H Baker
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania St Room 230,
Honolulu, HI 96813

August 25, 2017

This is to provide a letter of reference for Karen Boyer, RN, MN, FNP in support of her nomination to serve on the Hawai‘i State Board of Nursing. I have worked with Karen in her role as a senior faculty member in the Department of Nursing at Kapi‘olani Community College since 2010 and more recently, since 2015 as the Nursing Department Chair.

As the Department Chair Karen:

- Facilitates and supports student success in the six nursing department programs including ADN, LPN to AS, PN, NÄ, Surgical Technologist and ARCH.
- Oversees clinical placements, the department budget, program assessment and the ADN accreditation process.

As a faculty member in the nursing department, Karen has:

- Taught all courses in the AS Degree program
- Served on numerous committees including Curriculum Course Review, Assessment and Approval as well as the department budget committee.
- Participated on the AS Degree program accreditation self-study reports, the site visits and review processes.

Karen excels at her work. Kapi‘olani Community College (KCC) is privileged to have Karen as the nursing department chair with her focus on graduating nursing students who have higher education as a goal in becoming successful working nurses.

I recommend Karen Boyer, without reservation, for a position on the Hawai‘i State Board of Nursing.

If I can provide any further information in support of her candidacy, please contact me at (808) 734-9569 or by email at ohaqanp@hawaii.edu.

Aloha,
Dr. Patricia O'Hagan, Ph.D.
Dean, EMS, Health Sciences and Nursing
Karen R. Boyer, RN, MN, FNP
BON applicant

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board? I would like to serve on the Board of Nursing to serve the community, the nursing profession, and the state.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board? I believe a primary responsibility it to uphold the Nurse Practice Act including reviewing credentials, scope of practice, and consequences of not following established guidelines. Additional responsibilities include reviewing (and approving) schools of nursing annual reports, developing practice standards, and rules and regulations.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer? I have been a manager many times over in a variety of settings. I believe I was asked to serve in those roles based on my understanding of practice and ethical standards, combined with good decision-making. Leadership roles in nursing require constant concern for the safety of the public.

(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 a RN for 35 years and have served in many roles including staff and charge nurse, unit manager, house supervisor, nursing faculty, ADN Director and Department Chair, and community-based Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner. Decision-making reflecting best practices, the NPA and the safety of the consumer and nurse were at the forefront in this process. Adherence to existing laws, policies and procedures is consistent within my practice and guidance as a department head.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? I would like to assist the other members with reviewing licensure applications, developing needed rules and regulations, and reviewing the continuing competency requirement recently enacted.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board. I am consistent, calm, and conscientious in my review and decision-making. I also take seriously my role in receiving state funding for nursing education. I feel a real responsibility to the tax-payers and students that apply for and enter our programs.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member. While attending a BON meeting in July, a continuing education
credential was being reviewed. I suggested that American Nurse’s Association did not recognize the organization providing the credential as a continuing education provider. Therefore, the credential should not be recognized. The board members agreed and the request was declined.

(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 only possible conflict of interest I could see would be if someone I knew were being investigated for a NPA violation or other criminal offense. If I felt I could not remain impartial to the proceedings, I would ask to be recused from the discussion and decision-making.

Thank you for this opportunity to answer some questions regarding my desire to serve on the Board of Nursing.