



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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By

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GM 618 – Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The Hawai'i Medical Education Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, NICOLE APOLIONA, For A Term To Expire 06-30-2025

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM 618 and the nomination of Dr. Nicole Apoliona to serve on the Hawai'i Medical Education Council (Council).

Dr. Apoliona is the Medical Director of the Kula Hospital and Clinic, which is part of the Maui Health System. Dr. Apoliona completed her Family Medicine Residency training at JABSOM in 1997. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor with the JABSOM Department of Family Medicine and Community Health and has a long history of training our medical students and encouraging them to pursue further training and work in rural areas of Hawai'i.

Her medical director role gives her the perspective of challenges in recruiting and retaining physicians on the neighbor islands. She had been a constant advocate for addressing the physician workforce shortage through a system-wide, community-engaged approach. Dr. Apoliona currently serves as a board member of the Pacific Cancer Foundation and previously served as the President of the Hawai'i Academy of Family Physicians.

As an actively practicing physician in Maui County, Dr. Apoliona brings a meaningful perspective related to the community and neighbor island needs. Her leadership and advocacy for medical student and resident education would make her a valuable asset and champion for the medical education community to benefit the people of Hawai'i.

We stand in strong support of Dr. Apoliona's nomination and urge this Committee to confirm her appointment to the Hawai'i Medical Education Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.