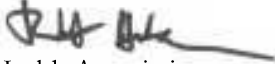




February 24, 2014

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair, Senator Roz Baker, Vice-Chair, and Senate Health Committee

From: Robert Hirokawa, Dr.PH 
President, Hawaii Public Health Association

Subject: **Strong Support for GM 578**
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, LINDA ROSEN

Aloha Senator Green, Senator Baker and Members of the Senate Health Committee,

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA), Board and our 600+ membership statewide, I wish to express our strong support for the confirmation of Dr. Linda Rosen as our new Director of Health. As the oldest and most respected public health professional association in the state, HPHA requested that Governor Abercrombie appoint a PH-educated and experienced professional to lead the DOH, and we were pleased to see such a highly-qualified individual selected.

In addition to Dr. Rosen's 13 years of leadership in various positions within the Hawaii State Department of Health, she has earned her medical degree from the Baylor College of Medicine and a master's degree in public health from John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. As Chief of the DOH Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention System Branch, Dr. Rosen has overseen the development of our highly-acclaimed comprehensive emergency medical services system, including 911 ambulance services and trauma system development. She is highly regarded within the DOH as a tough but fair administrator, who is clearly evidence-based in her approach to problem-solving on public health issues.

Hawaii faces many challenges to its public health system, including threats to our health and environment, an evolving public health workforce and departmental accreditation, among many other issues. We believe that Dr. Linda Rosen will serve as a strong and capable administrator for public health, capably addressing the challenges the Department faces, collaborating well with staff and community, and providing vision for the largest public health workforce body in the state. We look forward to collaborating with Dr. Rosen and her staff on continuing to build a public health system that addresses Hawaii's changing needs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important leadership issue.

Attachment: HPHA Factsheet



FACT SHEET

About Hawaii Public Health Association

HPHA is an association of community members, public health professionals and organizations dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy.

Vision

Our vision is health equity in Hawai'i and the Pacific and a strong public health workforce able to effectively respond to health challenges.

Values

- HPHA believes that health is a basic human right, and consequently seeks to be a voice for social justice.
- HPHA recognizes the value of diversity and that specific problems and solutions arise for poor, rural and indigenous populations.
- HPHA believes that decisions based on evidence-based principles form the core of public health practice.
- HPHA is determined to be autonomous, independent and transparent.

HPHA strives to promote health equity and overall well-being by:

- providing leadership and education on public health issues
- promoting advocacy and supporting coalitions for healthy communities, populations and environments
- fostering networks and training opportunities for public health professionals

Leading the Way for Public Health in Hawai'i

HPHA works to ensure good public health within our state, and provides a strong link between Hawaii's public health professionals and the American Public Health Association with which we are affiliated, as well as to other State Public Health Associations and organizations. We work to ensure the highest quality public health workforce; build a strong collective voice for sound public health policies; protect funding for core public health services, and increase awareness and community action to address the root causes of persistent health inequities in our society. We are a large network of public health professionals and partner organizations that recognize that individual health is strongly influenced by the social conditions in which a person is born, lives and works.