

HAWAII MEDICAL BOARD
Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: February 12, 2026

Time: 1:00 p.m.

In-Person Meeting Location: PVL Exam Room 330
HRH King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, Third Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Virtual Participation: Virtual Videoconference Meeting – Zoom Meeting
<https://dcca-hawaii.gov.zoom.us/j/86346269431?pwd=ZbV2W8ekQWHknbiYspPGrvTGbpIMvc.1>

Recording Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZyqK5lvS0>

Present: Danny Takanishi Jr., M.D., Chairperson, Honolulu Member
Gary Belcher, Vice Chairperson, Public Member
Andrew “Rick” Fong, M.D., Hawaii Member
Angela Pratt, M.D., Honolulu Member
Elizabeth “Lisa Ann” Ignacio, M.D, Maui Member
Michael Jaffe, D.O., Osteopathic/Honolulu Member
Rebecca Sawai, M.D., Honolulu Member
Robert “Bob” Wotring, M.D. Kauai County Member
Wesley Mun, Public Member
Shari J. Wong, Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Elizabeth Kor, Executive Officer (“EO”)
Young-Im Wilson, Supervisory Executive Officer
Breyanah Panzardi, Technical Support
Cortnie Tanaka, Administrative Assistant

Excused: None

Zoom Guest(s): Jaclyn Tolentino, D.O.
Nessa Seangmany, D.O.
Jim Seraj, M.D.
Timothy R. Taylor, M.D.
Wayne Tran, M.D.

Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was posted to the State electronic calendar as required by Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) section 92-7(b).

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:09 p.m., at which time quorum was established.

Chair Takanishi welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded with a roll call of the Board members. All Board members present confirmed that they were present and alone.

Chair's Announcements

A. Welcome new board member, Dr. Robert Wotring, M.D.

Chair Takanishi introduced and welcomed Dr. Robert Wotring to the Board.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Dr. Ignacio, seconded by Dr. Sawai, and unanimously carried to approve the January 15, 2026, open session and executive session meeting minutes. Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Mun was not present.

Applications for Licensure/ Certification:

A. Applications

It was moved by Dr. Jaffe, seconded by Dr. Pratt, and unanimously carried to enter into executive session at 1:11 p.m., pursuant to HRS §92-5(a)(1), to consider and evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for professional licenses cited in HRS §26-9 and, pursuant to HRS §92-5 (a)(4), to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities. (Note: Board members and staff entered the Zoom Breakout Room).

It was moved by Dr. Jaffe, seconded by Mr. Mun, and unanimously carried to return to the open session meeting at 3:12 p.m. Board members and staff returned to the main Zoom meeting room. Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Mun was not present. All Board members present confirmed that they were present and alone.

(i) Osteopathic Physician & Surgeon (Permanent/Endorsement)

a. Jaclyn Tolentino, D.O.

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Chair Takanishi, seconded by Dr. Jaffe, and unanimously carried to approve Dr. Tolentino's application. Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Mun was not present.

(ii) Physician (Permanent/Non-Endorsement)

a. Nessa Seangmany, D.O.

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Dr. Jaffe, seconded by Dr. Ignacio, and unanimously carried to

defer Dr. Seangmany's application pending further information providing an official honorable discharge from the military and a copy of her military substance use disorder evaluation.

(iii) Physician (Permanent/Endorsement)

a. Jim Seraj, M.D.

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Chair Takanishi, seconded by Dr. Pratt, and unanimously carried to approve Dr. Seraj's application.

b. Timothy R. Taylor, M.D.

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Dr. Pratt, seconded by Dr. Ignacio, and unanimously carried to approve Dr Taylor's application.

(iv) Physician (Permanent/Non-Endorsement)

a. Wayne Tran, M.D.

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Vice Chair Belcher, seconded by Dr. Jaffe, and unanimously carried to approve Dr. Tran's application with the following conditions;

- 1) The Board must receive quarterly reports from the California Medical Board Probationary Unit; and
- 2) Should Dr. Tran relocate to Hawaii for in-person practice, formal arrangements with the Hawaii Physicians Health Program must be executed.

Mr. Mun was able to successfully re-enter the main Zoom room.

b. Robert Matthew Bernstein, M.D

After due consideration of the information received, it was moved by Dr. Fong, seconded by Dr. Pratt, and unanimously carried to approve Robert Matthew Bernstein, M.D.'s application.

B. Ratification List

(ii) February 12, 2026, Ratification List

It was moved by Dr. Sawai, seconded by Dr. Ignacio, and unanimously carried to approve the February 12, 2026, ratification list.

New Business

Chair Takanishi asked if anyone from the public would like to provide oral testimony on any of the items under New Business. No testimony was offered.

A. Continuing Medical Education Waiver/Modification Requests

- (i) Miles Wayne Howard, M.D.

It was moved by Vice Chair Belcher, seconded by Dr. Jaffe, and unanimously voted to grant a three-month extension from the official notification for Dr. Howard to complete his remaining continuing education credits.

B. 2026 Legislative Session

- (i) Confirmation of 2026 Legislative Liaisons

It was moved by Dr. Pratt, seconded by Dr. Ignacio, and unanimously moved to add Dr. Jaffe as a Board's official legislative liaison for the 2026 legislative session.

- (ii) Attached List of Measures

The Board provided a list of 2026 bills, using a color-coded categorization system. Measures in blue include legislation that falls directly within the Board's statutory purview or affects its administrative authority. Measures in red consist of general health-related items that the Board monitors for situational awareness and informational purposes, even though they do not directly relate to the Board's statutory authority.

It was moved by Dr. Jaffe, seconded by Dr. Ignacio, and unanimously moved that the Board reaffirms its position that any individual treating patients located within the State, regardless of the modality (telehealth or in-person), must be licensed by the Board.

It was moved by Dr. Ignacio, seconded by Mr. Mun, and unanimously moved to delegate authority to its legislative liaisons. These liaisons are authorized to work with the DAG and EOs to provide timely testimony on behalf of the Board between scheduled meetings.

C. Comments on Federation of State Medical Board (FSMB) Draft Reports

- (i) Report of the FSMB Ethics and Professionalism Committee on Physician Collective Bargaining and Unionization (Draft)

- (ii) Guidance on Recent Trends in Prescribing and Dispensing (Draft)
- (iii) Report of the FSMB Workgroup on Oversight of Clinical Decision-Making (Draft)

Chair Dr. Takanashi noted the FSMB draft response process, and members were encouraged to submit individual feedback to the FSMB prior to the annual meeting.

- D. February 3, 2026, Department of Commerce and Consumers Affairs News Release regarding February 3, 2026, Department of Commerce and Consumers Affairs News Release

The Board highlighted an ongoing scam phone call campaign targeting medical professionals. The Board advised licensees to verify the source of any inquiries and to never provide personal information over the phone.

- E. FSMB's 2026 Annual Meeting Scholarship Announcement

The Board recognized that active representation in national discussions is essential to ensure Hawai'i can help shape medical regulation and adopt emerging best practices.

For the FSMB Annual Meeting, scheduled to be held in Baltimore from April 30 through May 2, 2026, the Board unanimously selected its official delegates and scholarship recipients. Chair Takanashi was selected as the Voting Delegate. His attendance is particularly strategic this year as he is a candidate for the FSMB Board of Directors. Vice Chair Belcher was selected as the Public Member Scholarship recipient, and EO Kor was selected as the Senior Staff Scholarship recipient.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Taken and Recorded by:

/s/ Young-Im Wilson
Young-Im Wilson
Supervisory Executive Officer

- (x) Minutes approved as is.
- () Minutes approved with changes, see minutes of