

Donna Marie Palakiko, PhD, MS,
MS, RN, APRN
Responses to questions for the
2024 Executive Board Candidates

Aloha mai kakou e na hoa
'O Donna Marie Palakiko ko'u inoa
No Hawaii mai au
Aloha and hello to all of my friends
I am Donna Marie Palakiko and I am from Hawaii

I want to acknowledge that I am writing from my ancestral lands of Hawaii. I am fortunate to live on my ancestral lands where I continue to be a steward. I want acknowledge the lands in which you live and pay my respect to elders past, present, and future.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a candidate for the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association. I thank the organizers for presenting these questions and the opportunity to provide a response.

1) What unique skills or perspective will you bring to Executive Board if elected?

The first question asked what unique skills or perspective will I bring to the Executive Board. As a member of other governance boards and organizer of board, I seek diversity in membership make up whether that be in talents, knowledge, or ethnicity. Therefore I bring my perspective of indigenous knowledge, guided by the wisdom of my kupuna (elders), and the curiosity of keiki (children). As a Kanaka 'ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) wahine (woman) nurse researcher, I see the intersection of culture, wellness, and environment with people to be the focus on the work ahead. I see the importance of representation, skills, knowledge, and wisdom as we work towards a thriving community. Like the Hawaiian proverb, "A'ōhe hana nui ke alu 'ia", no matter the problem we can achieve a solution by working together.

The other part of the question asked about skills. I bring 20 years of leadership, understanding of non-profit organizations, governance, fundraising, budget, programs, policy, and partnering with community organizations to solve wicked issues. I have the ability to work with diverse members and navigate using cultural safety framework and cultural humility. I am able to listen in order to hear and reflect before responding. Skills I strongly feel leaders need at this time to be effective in the work we do.

2. Please suggest how APHA can increase the growth, retention of members and value of membership to current and prospective members including affiliates and student members.

The second question asked about ways to recruit and retain members.

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Increasing growth, retention of members and value of membership to current and prospective members is a question I as the current chair of the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian caucus talk through with my membership committee. What we have discovered is that we need to understand the **WHY** behind peoples actions. WHY join APHA? WHY join a section or a state affiliate or caucus or...?

The WHY then leads to understanding the how and then the what. In simpler terms value-based strategies have long-term impact on engagement. Do our members current and prospective understand why APHA is the premier public health association.

So let's focus on the why as a way to increase membership and retention.

Mahalo
Donna