



GOV. MSG. NO. 395

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **State Council on Mental Health**:

G. Noelani Wilcox

Term to Expire: 6/30/2012

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE

8 FEB -2 6:33

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**Presentation to the Senate Committee on Health**

**Hearing Date: March 31, 2008**

**G. Noelani Wilcox**

Chair Ige, members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for the opportunity to present background about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health.

I was born and raised in Oahu, Hawaii. I grew up in Kaimuki where I attended and graduated from Sacred Hearts Academy (1971), University of Hawaii-Manoa with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (1975), University of California-Harbor Medical Center with a certificate as a Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner and the University of Hawaii-Manoa, Master of Science Degree, specializing in Psych-Mental Health Nursing (1989).

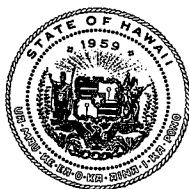
During the course of 31 years as a health professional in this state I have worked in both the private and public sector of government as a hospital staff nurse, public health nurse, nurse case manager, nurse consultant and faculty with the University of Hawaii School of Nursing. Despite the many professional challenges I have encountered and my knowledge of the system of care, nothing prepared me for my son's diagnosis. Through the process of supporting my son and looking for resources to support my son and family, I have learned about how the system works (and doesn't) for children and their families. These experiences have prepared me well to assume this role for which I have been nominated.

The State Council on Mental Health is challenged with community fears regarding mental illness. Stigma often prevents children and their families from reaching out for needed supports to improve functioning and recovery. From my own experience as a mental health professional I know that many of these children grow up to be adults who lack basic educational skills. Although the state has successfully ended the Felix-Waihee Consent Decree, the parsimonious actions of the Department of Education will only cost-shift to our prisons, jails, state hospitals, homeless shelters and emergency rooms.

My hope is that the system of care for children and families begin to recognize that managing risk factors of children makes economic sense and improves opportunities for recovery and children growing into adulthood living full and productive lives. As a parent of a son with mental illness, it is time for this community to live *ola*. There is no Hawaiian word for health only life. As a member of the State Council on Mental Health, I will diligently advocate for giving children with mental illness an opportunity for life.

I welcome the challenges ahead. I ask that you support my nomination to the State Council on Mental Health. Mahalo for your consideration of my nomination.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

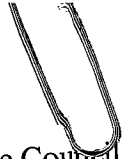
**Senate Committee on Health**

**GM 395, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON  
MENTAL HEALTH**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**March 31, 2008, 1:15 p.m.**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the nomination of G. Noelani Wilcox,  
2 APRN, to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) for a four-year term.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** Ms. G. Noelani Wilcox, APRN, is the mother of a son with childhood  
5 schizophrenia and is currently participating as a child and family advocate interim appointee on the State  
6 Council on Mental Health. Ms. Wilcox was employed by the AMHD from 1998 to 2005 as the Adult  
7 Mental Health Division's (AMHD) Statewide Service Director for Crisis Services, and subsequently in  
8 the AMHD's COSIG (Co-occurring State Incentive Grants) Grant. Consequently, Ms. Wilcox brings to  
9 the Council expertise in a variety of mental health areas, including co-occurring psychiatric and  
10 substance abuse disorders, crisis and emergency services, and, as a caregiver for her son, familiarity  
11 with the child and adolescent public mental health system. Ms. Wilcox graduated from Sacred Hearts  
12 Academy; received her B.S. Degree from the University of Hawaii in 1975; received a certificate for  
13 Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner from the University of California Harbor Medical Center in  
14 1985; and her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Hawaii in 1989. Ms. Wilcox has



1 been an active member of the Council during her interim appointment, providing valued information on  
2 behalf of both children and adolescents and adults.

3 Thank you for your positive consideration of this request.