

GM 329

Thomas J. McCormack

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, THOMAS J. MCCORMACK, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Dear Chairman Ige and Members of the Health Committee:

I want my testimony to be brief and to the point. I'll start by telling you a few things about myself.

I am a college graduate with a B.A. in English summa cum laude from the University of Massachusetts (Boston). I attended graduate school at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. I am going to be 58 years old on March 10th. I have been disabled since 1983 with a mental illness.

I have experienced various kinds of treatment since becoming mentally ill. I was in the State Hospital in Rhode Island for eight months. Subsequently, I was a resident in a supervised apartment setting in Providence. I have also been a client (consumer) of Community Mental Health Centers in Rhode Island and Hawaii. Here at the Diamond Head Community Mental Health Center in Honolulu. I live in Waikiki.

I was also in group homes for about 6 years, and have also been a Honolulu Clubhouse member for several years. I took part as a planner of statewide Clubhouse conferences, and have also traveled to Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island as a representative of the Honolulu Clubhouse. I also presented a paper at a national Clubhouse conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Presently, I am in private psychiatric treatment and take medications for my illness. I have been familiar with many medications over the past 25 years.

As part of my work on the Service Area Board For Oahu, I have developed a strong interest in the plight of the homeless mentally ill. (In the past decade, Bellevue Hospital in New York City discovered in a study that 97% (!) of the homeless clients were mentally ill). I was homeless in Honolulu in 1986, and my sympathy and empathy for the homeless leads me to question what the Adult Mental Health Division is doing for the homeless. In my opinion, contracts providing help for the homeless spend too much on salaries for mental health professionals, and too little on outreach, discovery, and help for the homeless. If the homeless can just be linked to basic social services, like welfare, food stamps, Social Security, and community mental health centers, then their burdens will be greatly eased. There should also be shelters run by the Adult Mental Health Division.

In addition, as a member of the Board (on which I have served two terms with excellent attendance), I want to know more about the Access Line and peer treatment (or "coaching" as they call it). Is it working well? Is a telephone line enough, or should we have a better system of handling new clients, bearing in mind that most of the mentally ill population goes untreated?

Thomas McCormack
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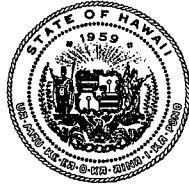
In sum, I think my education and experience as a consumer, and also as a Board member, warrants my return to the Board for another term. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas McCormack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas McCormack

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 329, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE, OAHU SERVICE AREA BOARD**

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

March 4, 2009; 2:45 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the nomination of Thomas
2 McCormack to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** Mr. Thomas McCormack, consumer representative, has been a mental
5 health advocate for a number of years. He has been a long-term member of the Oahu Service Area
6 Board on Mental Health (2000-2004) and is being recommended for a second term. Mr. McCormack's
7 constituency relates to his active, ongoing membership in the Honolulu Clubhouse. Mr. McCormack
8 received his BA from Boston University and the University of Massachusetts in 1977. He completed
9 one year of graduate school at Brown University where he was nominated for the prestigious
10 Untermeyer Fellowship in Poetry. Mr. McCormack is also associated with the National Alliance for the
11 Mentally Ill with whom he has volunteered for legislative advocacy.

12 Thank you for your positive consideration of this nomination.

G. M. (Mike) Durant

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February 25, 2009

Boards and Commissions
Office of the Governor
Hawai'i State Capital
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Reappointment of Thomas McCormack to the Oahu Service Area Board

Dear Sir or Madame,

I support the reappointment of Thomas McCormack to the Oahu Service Area Board. I have served with Thomas for the past 3 years and he has been a dedicated and effective member. His experience as a consumer of mental health services is very valuable to this board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. M. Durant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

G. M. Durant

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TESTIMONY OF RANDOLPH C. HACK IN SUPPORT OF THOMAS
McCORMACK'S NOMINATION TO THE OAHU SERVICE AREA BOARD ON
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
(Governor's Message Number 329)

To Chair Senator David Ige and Senate Health Committee Members:

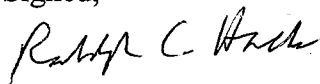
I hereby recommend Senate confirmation of Thomas J. McCormack's nomination for another term on the Oahu Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. He has served well during his tenure and has an excellent attendance record. He also served as Chair. He knows its strengths as well as its challenges.

Mr. McCormack is very articulate, intelligent, and well educated. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from University of Massachusetts, Boston, and did graduate work at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island with an exemplary academic record. He is a kind yet aware person who knows well the problems faced by people with mental illness.

Mr. McCormack was an active member of the Honolulu Clubhouse and Clubhouse movement and attended an International Clubhouse Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee at his own expense. Clubhouses are psychosocial rehabilitation settings for people with mental illness that are well-regarded and positively recognized by the mental health community in many states and countries around the world. He also represented the Honolulu Clubhouse at statewide Clubhouse Coalition meetings and attended a Western Regional Clubhouse Meeting on Kauai.

This nominee is well-qualified to serve on the Oahu Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and I support confirmation strongly. My current position as Vice-Chair of the State Council on Mental Health to which the Service Area Board reports gives me the knowledge to support him in this capacity as well as that of a private citizen.

Signed,



Randolph C. Hack