

# GM 335

Karin E. Phaneuf

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KARIN E. PHANEUF, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

**KARIN ELIZABETH PHANEUF**

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February 25, 2009

Senator David Y. Ige  
State Capitol, Rm 215  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Ige:

Please find my resume attached for your review. I am very serious about being considered and, hopefully chosen, for the position of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Board Member, Maui Area Service Board.

I am currently employed full time by Arbor Education & Training, a subsidiary of ResCare, an international company specializing in workforce development for low income and disabled adults. I work full time as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor as a contractor for the Hawaii Department of Human Services and have been involved with mental health services, social services, substance abuse treatment and vocational rehabilitation services on Maui since 1993. I am also a PT Federal Employee on the Island of Maui employed by the United States Office of Personnel Management as a Federal Testing Proctor for Enlistment exams at the Maui Armory and at county high schools.

In December I completed the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Master of Science in Technical Management (MSTM) degree. This program was offered on Maui to engineers and county professionals. I was the only woman in the 19-person cohort and am proud to say I kept pace with real rocket scientists.

I have worked with disadvantaged people on the Mainland and on Maui since 1989. My specialty is vocational counseling because I feel that work is therapeutic and that people prosper and grow when they are part of a team and when they feel good about something every day. I feel that being in the RIGHT JOB makes all the difference. I have worked with seriously mentally ill and drug addicted people at every single job I have held. I have a deep understanding of the difficulties and frustrations mentally ill people face each day and have advocated ferociously for fair treatment for many years. My experience includes work at KHAO homeless resource center on Maui, the AIDS Foundation, CARE Hawaii, Goodwill Industries, Maui Community Correctional Center, Maui Community College and now Arbor. I understand my community and the people who live here. I am proud to say that I speak up and write lots of letters when I feel that my voice will help make a difference.

It is an honor for me to be nominated to this Board and I will serve as a serious, dedicated member. Thank you for taking your responsibility in choosing these members so seriously and for asking pertinent questions.

1. Three references:

- a. Deacon Stan Franco/Assistant Chaplain  
Maui Memorial Medical Center  
c/o Saint Theresa's Church  
25 W Lipoa St  
Kihei, HI 96753  
(808) 875-2743 or (808) 879-0045
- b. John Palmer – MCCC/Aloha House Drug Counselor  
2101 Kaohu Street  
Wailuku, HI 96753  
(808) 280-8161

- c. Harold Sambrano – Restaurant Owner & Chef @ KHAO Homeless Shelter  
670 Waiale Drive  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
(808) 281-2898

These three wonderful people have known me for 10-16 years and can give you honest appraisals of my work with homeless, incarcerated, drug addicted and mentally ill persons on Maui.

2. I wish to be a member of the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Maui Area Service Board because I feel my intimate knowledge and experience working with this population make me want to speak up and help when and if I can. Mentally ill people are often unable or unwilling to speak up, they are often afraid of repercussions or simply do not have the ability to say what they want to say the way they want to say it. I want to be a voice when voices are not being heard and help guide those members of our community who are able to speak up but sometimes do not know where or to whom they need to speak. I want to help create programs to help mentally ill and substance abusers and have several ideas I'd love to pitch including one idea to computerize ALL Social Services on Maui so that these people will only have to fill out ONE APPLICATION instead of the zillions they fill out now. I will attach my Master's Thesis for your review which deals with this problem.
3. I perceive my role as a Board Member as one of "advisor" and possibly "watchdog." When situations in the community require scrutiny and evaluation, I consider it my responsibility to scrutinize and give honest evaluations when required and/or requested. I will attach a letter I wrote to the editor of The Maui News (and also to the Mayor) which helped turn around discriminatory housing practices on Maui.
4. Since 1989, my work, skills, understanding and knowledge have been mostly focused on vocational assistance for mentally ill and substance abusers. The truth is, most disadvantaged people have some type of mental or physical disability – many go undiagnosed for many years. I have compassion for this population and have learned a lot over the years. It would be an honor to help formulate some of the policies that will affect the populations I am so dedicated to helping.
5. The BEST THING I could accomplish during my tenure on this Board would be to help citizens of Maui by improving transportation, work opportunities and therapeutic choices. I would love to see some type of "Sheltered Workshop" type of business spring up. Maui, and the neighbor islands, have limited resources compared to Oahu and need access to more. I have lots of ideas and feel that the sky is the limit. Of course, I feel that Maui is the BEST ISLAND and really needs to offer the BEST to its citizens.
6. Three qualities that best describe me and make me stand out:
  - a. Passionate about **ADVOCACY** – and not afraid to speak up
  - b. Able and willing to **WRITE** letters, papers, research, grants, etc...
  - c. Single Mom who experienced many of the same housing and employment challenges that disadvantaged people face – **EMPATHETIC**

When disadvantaged people are in trouble, they gravitate toward strength. I am not a person who will "snooze" at meetings or take my responsibilities lightly. In fact, I think once/month is NOT ENOUGH and would like to see these meetings happen more often. I feel that putting things **IN WRITING** is important and I feel that it **WORKS** when issues need to be resolved. I feel that my ability to **EMPATHIZE** is critical because sometimes people forget how hard it is to come up with simple things like a down payment for an apartment or even just money for a bus ticket.

7. When the Maui County laws violated Fair Housing statutes for mentally ill and disadvantaged people on Maui, I stood up and fought. I understood that the County rules violated federal laws even when the local HUD managers did not understand the problem of "unintentional

discriminatory impact.” I did not let it rest until Mayor Tavares rescinded the rule – which she did in one day once she understood the problem. I go to the root of the problem and if I know something is inherently wrong, I will not stop until I get answers that make sense. I feel that we need more of this chutzpa in our communities!

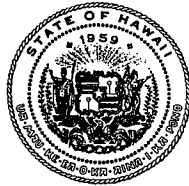
8. I do not foresee any conflicts of interest that may arise from my participating on this Board. I feel that my participation on this Board will be an asset to the community, my company and also to me as a person.

If I have left anything out on the following pages, please e-mail or call and I will submit more information.

Sincerely,

*Karin E. Phaneuf*  
  
Karin E. Phaneuf

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 335, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH AND  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE, MAUI 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 Karin E. Phaneuf to  
2 the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** Ms. Karin E. Phaneuf, provider representative, has over 20 years of  
5 experience in work-related vocational and life skills counseling, of which sixteen years were spent with  
6 employers located on the island of Maui. Her specialty is to assist incarcerated, homeless, or disabled  
7 persons to become employed. Ms. Phaneuf has recently gained a Masters of Science Degree in  
8 Technical Management. She is an experienced grant and technical report writer, and teaches SAT test-  
9 taking strategies to high school students. Currently, Ms. Phaneuf assists persons with a mental and/or  
10 physical disability on welfare, to obtain employment, at Arbor Education and Training. Through her  
11 familiarity with a large portion of Maui's provider community, Ms. Phaneuf has enabled persons with  
12 severe mental illness to recognize their illnesses and access assistance at various stages of their recovery.  
13 Her community service includes membership in the Maui Homeless Alliance.
- 14 Thank you for your positive consideration of this nomination.