

**GM 509**

**JONATHAN T. HARRIS**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, JONATHAN T. HARRIS, for a term to expire 6-30-2011.

Presentation Before the Senate of the Twenty-Fifth State Legislature

April 9, 2009

Jonathan T. Harris

State Council on Mental Health

Chair Ige, and members of the Senate of the Twenty-Fifth State Legislature. I would like to take this opportunity to present you with some background information on myself. I would also like to thank you for consideration of my confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health.

I first moved to Hawaii in the year 1967 with my parents and lived in a teacher's cottage in Kapaa. After schooling at McKinley High, I moved to the mainland in 1973 and began working as a construction worker/truck driver. In the late-70's I was hired in a temporary position as a State Patrol Officer at the Parsons State Hospital in Kansas. I moved back to Hawaii in 1985-1986 before returning to the mainland. Most recently, I moved back home here to Hawaii in 1991 to attend college and obtain a degree as a Registered Nurse.

I have worked as a charge nurse at Kuakini Hospital in long term care. I went on to be a dialysis nurse, then a charge nurse at Kaiser Hospital in long term care. I cared for psychiatric patients from time to time in the long term care setting. I then accepted employment with the state and worked as a charge nurse at Hawaii State Hospital in Kaneohe for 4 ½ years. Eventually I transferred to the state licensing branch where I monitored care homes (with psychiatric residents) and special treatment facilities. After completing 10 years of state service, I began working at Kahi Mohala Hospital as a psychiatric charge nurse for 9 months, eventually returning to state service in January 2009 to my present position. I currently serve as a liaison/nurse monitor between the Department of Human Services (DHS), Med-QUEST Division and APS Healthcare, the behavioral health contractor providing services for our Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) members enrolled in DHS health plans.

I have enjoyed working with psychiatric clients and as a member of the State Council on Mental Health, I may be able to share some insight on mental health issues. I have witnessed changes occurring from as far back as 1978 up to recent times and have some experience in dealing with people having mental health issues.

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 509, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON  
MENTAL HEALTH**

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

**April 15, 2009, 2:45 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the nomination of Jonathan T. Harris,  
2 R.N., to the State Council on Mental Health.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** Mr. Harris, a state agency representative, is being recommended by the  
5 Department of Human Services (DHS) to serve as the federally mandated Medicaid representative on the  
6 State Council on Mental Health. For the past year, Mr. Harris has been employed by the State of Hawaii,  
7 MedQUEST Division, Health Care Services Branch as a registered nurse consultant. Prior to this, Mr. Harris  
8 was employed by Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health hospital. From 1996 to 2006, he worked in the  
9 Department of Health's Office of Health Care Assurance, participating in the licensure and assuring the  
10 quality of care of the State's Adult Residential Care Homes. Mr. Harris also served with the United States  
11 Naval Reserve from 1991-1999, completing his work with an Honorable Discharge. In the past, Mr. Harris  
12 has served as a volunteer for the Hawaii Humane Society.

13 Thank you for your positive consideration of this nomination.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
Med-QUEST Division  
Clinical Standards Office  
P. O. Box 700190  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

In reply, please refer to:

Governor's Message No. 509

April 8, 2009

Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair  
Sen. Josh Green, MD, Vice Chair  
Members on Senate Committee on Health  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sen. Ige and Members on the Senate Committee on Health,

I am writing in recommendation of Jonathan ("JT") Harris, who has been nominated for confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health for the term July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

I have worked with JT at the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) since I came in September 2008. He is an experienced Behavioral Health nurse, having had extensive clinical experience in psychiatric hospitals and in quality assurance. In addition, he has worked at the MQD since January 2008 and is extremely knowledgeable about the State of Hawaii Medicaid program.

He is quietly observant and thoughtful, will ask questions appropriately for clarification, and will gently present his concerns. He also does not work in a vacuum; rather, he is in constant communication with the mental health community and with the Clinical Standards Office at the MQD.

I believe that combination of his behavioral health expertise and his experience with Medicaid makes him a valuable representative for the State Council on Mental Health. He will no doubt be able to make unique contributions that will benefit our mental health consumers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthea Wang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthea Wang, MD, MPH  
Medical Director, Med-QUEST Division

c: JT Harris, R.N.