

GM218



GOV. MSG. NO. 218

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2010

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 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 **MENTAL HEALTH, State Council on:**

Gordon M. Durant

Term to Expire: 6/30/2014

Sincerely,

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

LINDA LINGLE



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Health

GM 218, Gubernatorial Nomination for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health

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

March 5, 2010

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports confirmation of Gordon M.

2 Durant (6/30/204) to serve on the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** Not applicable.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointment of Gordon M. Durant to serve on the SCMH
5 as the O`ahu Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse representative.

6 Chapter 334-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that the governor in making appointments to
7 the council shall ensure that all service area boards of the State are represented.

8 Gordon M. Durant, family representative, is being recommended to continue his tenure on the
9 SCMH as the O`ahu Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse representative. A
10 lifelong resident of Hawai`i, Mr. Durant attended Punahou School and the University of Hawai`i. He
11 held management positions at Jorgensen Steel until his retirement in 1994. He also served as the
12 director and treasurer of Malama o Manoa from 1998 to 2004 and the Hawai`i Historic Association from
13 2003 to 2007. Mr. Durant's interest in the field of mental health was prompted by his son being
14 diagnosed in 1996 with serious and persistent mental illness. This led him to join the National Alliance
15 for Mental Illness (NAMI) in 2000, where he served for eight years as its president. Since that time,

1 both Mr. Durant and his wife have continued to be actively involved with NAMI's Journey of Hope,
2 providing education and support to other families.

3 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of Gordon
4 M. Durant to the SCMH.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this volunteer to the State Council
6 on Mental Health as its O`ahu Service Area Board representative.

From: kuulei [kuuleikiliona@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 04, 2010 7:08 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: GM 218: DURANT

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 218: GORDON M. DURANT
Nominee to the State Council on Mental Health

To: The Senate Committee On Health

From: Ku'u lei A. Killiona, private citizen
& member of the *State Council on Mental Health*

DATE: March 5, 2010
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016

Re: GM 218 - Gordon M. Durant

Dear Senator David Y. Ige and Committee Members,

This testimony is in support of nominee, Mr. Gordon M. Durant, also known to me as "Mike" Durant. I know Mr. Durant through my association with him, over the last few years, when he began serving as a member on the State Council on Mental Health. Currently, he is serving the unfinished four year term of a former council member.

Whenever I decide to do testimony for a nominee of any board or commission, I always ask them their reason(s) for wanting to serve and what vision they have as to their contribution to their particular board. In this case, it is a council. In response to my questions, Mr. Durant referred me to the information he wrote for the Chair and this senate Committee on Health.

I am not clear on Mr. Durant's vision for his contribution to the council. However, I can support his desire and commitment of time and attention that it takes to serve on this particular council. During the years that he is committing to serve on this council there will be major changes ahead that could be very challenging to every member. Such issues will include:

- Significant changes to the delivery of mental health services that will require strong advocacy for consumers statewide.
- Challenges to the council's by-laws which authorize their role to advise the Dept. of Health.

- The ending of the State's Mental Health Transformation Grant that has federal expectations for the council to continue the ideology of the programs set into motion by the Grant.
- And of course, there will be the unexpected.

If Mr. Durant is willing to commit to the known and the unknown that membership on this council will bring, then the least I can do is to support his nomination with testimony.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you on this nominee.

Aloha, ~*Ku'ulei A. Killiona*
kuuleikiliona@hawaii.rr.com