

GM417

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

**G.M. 350, G.M. 417, G.M. 441 & G.M. 442, Gubernatorial Nomination for
Consideration and Confirmation to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service
Area Boards**

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

April 13, 2010, 2:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports the confirmation of **G.M. 350**,
2 Colleen O'Sullivan, R.N. (6/30/11) to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service
3 Area Board (HSAB); **G.M. 417**, Ellen Alissa Heid (6/30/14) to serve on the Mental Health and
4 Substance Abuse, O'ahu Service Area Board (OSAB); **G.M. 441**, Eloise Joey Enos (6/30/14) and
5 **G.M. 442**, Peter Gonzalez (6/30/11) to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service
6 Area Board (MSAB) for terms to expire as parenthetically indicated.

7 **Fiscal Implications:** Not applicable.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointments of Colleen O'Sullivan, R.N.; Ellen Alissa
9 Heid; Eloise Joey Enos and Peter Gonzalez to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service
10 Area Boards on Hawai'i, O'ahu and Maui respectively.

11 Pursuant to Chapter 334-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes on Service Area Boards, the members of
12 the Service Area Board are service area residents, who are consumers or nonproviders of mental health
13 services and service area providers with a majority being non-state employees and nonproviders of
14 mental health or other health services.

1 **Colleen O’Sullivan**, community member, is being recommended for her first four-year
2 appointment to the Hawaii Service Area Board (HSAB). Ms. O’Sullivan currently works as the Clinical
3 Administrator at North Hawai`i Hospice and has lived and worked on the Big Island for the past 20
4 years. A significant portion of Ms. O’Sullivan’s work history has been related to the behavioral and
5 mental health field on the island of Hawai`i. Specifically, she has worked with the high-acuity Felix-
6 eligible youth in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, the zero-to-three aged group in the
7 Healthy Start Program, and in the Psychiatric Unit of the Kona Community Hospital as a Clinical RN.
8 Ms. O’Sullivan’s experience working with children and families ranging from zero-to-three up to the
9 end of life, allows her to bring a child and family centered perspective to the HSAB in advocating for
10 health and substance abuse services on the island of Hawai`i.

11 **Ellen Alissa Heid**, a consumer representative, is being recommended for reappointment to a
12 second term on the Oahu Service Area Board (OSAB). Currently the chairperson of the Board, Ms.
13 Heid has served with compassion and enthusiasm in advocating for people not only with mental illness
14 but also people living with HIV/AIDS. She is committed to live her recovery by not only dealing with
15 her own mental illness, but by being a lightning rod in helping to improve the mental health system in
16 Hawaii. Thus, with this passion and desire, Ms. Heid pursued and attained Masters Degrees from the
17 University of Hawaii at Manoa in Social Work in 2006 and in Political Science in 1992 with a focus on
18 Civil Rights and Civil Law. Although Ms. Heid has worked on a paid part-time basis, where she
19 focused her energies in financial counseling for consumers with mental illness and in the housing field;
20 her volunteer activities have been exemplary, not only locally but also nationally. Some of her volunteer
21 activities have been at United Self Help, Helping Hands Hawaii, Steadfast Housing, the Mental Health
22 Services Research, Evaluation, and Training Program, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and with the
23 National Association of State Mental Health Program in Washington, D.C.

1 **Eloise Joey Enos** from the island of Moloka`i is being recommended for an appointment to the
2 Maui Service Area Board (MSAB). A lifelong resident of Hawai`i, Ms. Enos received a Bachelor's
3 Degree in Criminal Justice. She is fluent in the Hawaiian language and currently works as a substitute
4 teacher at Kualapuu School on Moloka`i. Ms. Enos is a caregiver for her brother who was diagnosed
5 with serious and persistent mental illness at an early age, which led to her involvement with NAMI and
6 her attendance at several conferences on Oahu through the Department of Health's Mental Health
7 Transformation Incentive Grant. This experience has made Ms. Enos a valuable educational resource
8 for families on Moloka`i who face similar challenges. Through her work with youth from Middle
9 School and High School, Ms. Enos has a deep understanding of the needs and special issues facing these
10 youth who live with mental illness, and she has become a strong advocate for this population to have a
11 "voice" on the MSAB.

12 **Peter Gonzalez**, consumer representative from Moloka`i, is being recommended for his first
13 year appointment on the Maui Service Area Board (MSAB). Mr. Gonzalez is a Hawaii Certified Peer
14 Specialist and spent three years on the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH), where he advocated for
15 services for consumers on Moloka`i. In 2009, Mr. Gonzalez resigned from his position on the SCMH to
16 focus on his own mental health challenges. He has since renewed his relationship with his
17 psychotherapist and has better insights into his recovery. Mr. Gonzalez has also developed a passion
18 coupled with knowledge about mental illness by being invited to several mental health conferences on
19 the mainland. He continues to pursue his goal of attaining his Associate's Degree.

20 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of Colleen
21 O'Sullivan, Ellen Heid, Eloise Joey Enos and Peter Gonzalez to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse
22 Service Area Boards.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of these volunteers to become Service
24 Area Board representatives on their islands.