

GM 709

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee,
THERESA MINAMI, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.**



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 709, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, THERESA MINAMI,
for a term to expire 6-30-2015**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

April 13, 2011, 3:00 p.m., Room 229

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the nomination of the
2 Theresa Minami to serve on the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH).
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** Not applicable.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** Theresa Minami, M.A., a state agency representative, is being
5 recommended by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to serve as the social services
6 representative as mandated by Hawaii Revised Statutes 334-10 and the federally mandated position on
7 the State Council on Mental Health. For the past four years, Ms. Minami has been employed by the
8 State of Hawai'i, DHS, Child Welfare Services Branch as an assistant program administrator. Prior to
9 working in DHS, Ms. Minami worked in the DOH, Developmental Disabilities Division, Case
10 Management and Information Services Branch as a DD/MR medicaid waiver liaison and program
11 specialist. During her tenure with DHS, Ms. Minami participated with several interagency and
12 community groups including the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Task Force, Transition Aged
13 Youth Task Force, the Mental Health Transformation and Incentive Grant – Systems Intergration Task
14 Group, and the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence Oversight Body. She has also

1 partnered with other agencies on projects, such as, the Access to Recovery (substance abuse treatment
2 and recovery support services) project, which was awarded to the DOH and funded by the Substance
3 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grant.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Theresa Minami who brings a
5 wealth of knowledge and experience in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, developmental
6 disabilities and domestic violence to the State Council on Mental Health.

To: The Honorable Josh Green, M.D.
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: John Walters

Date: April 12, 2011

Time: 3:00 PM

Subject: Governor's Message No: 709 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Candidate Theresa Minami, to a term to expire 6-30-2015

Good Afternoon Chair Green, Vice Chair Mishihara, and members of the committee. My name is John Walters and I am the Program Development Administrator of the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch. However, I am appearing as a private citizen before this Committee to testify on Governor's Message No: 709.

I strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Theresa Minami as a member of the State Council on Mental Health.

Ms. Minami is an Assistant Program Administrator in our Child Welfare Services (CWS) Program Development Office. She is involved in the development and implementation of CWS policies and programs, provides programmatic support for staff in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities, and participates in collaborative efforts with our community partners including other State agencies and community providers. Ms. Minami has been instrumental in the implementation of the Department's highly successful Differential Response System that has significantly reduced the number of children in foster care through enhanced assessment and the provision of voluntary services to children and families at risk. She has also been instrumental in the development of the Child Welfare Services Practice Model of services to children and families, which highlights engagement of the family and community partners as the cornerstone of the model.

Ms. Minami also has background and expertise from her prior work at the Department of Health – Developmental Disabilities Division. She has gained knowledge on mental health while working at CWS through her participation in initiatives such as the Children’s Mental Health Task Force, the Department of Health’s Access to Recovery Grant, Hawaii’s Mental Health Transformation Grant, and the Invisible Children’s Project.

Ms. Minami has knowledge and experience that will be a positive contribution in this area and the proven ability to work with others to ensure that people have access to services.

Her passion to learn and collaborate to support the children and families we serve make her an ideal candidate and an asset to this Council.

I strongly urge the Senate to confirm Theresa Minami as a member of the State Council on Mental Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

green2 - Kealaonalehua

From: Marya Grambs [Marya@mentalhealth-hi.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 1:06 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Subject: GM709 -- IN SUPPORT Theresa Minima Confm. Hearing -- 4/13 @ 3 pm

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday April 13, 2011
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senators:

On behalf of Mental Health America of Hawai'i, I would like to submit testimony in support of Theresa Minami of the Department of Human Services to be appointed to the State Council on Mental Health.

I have worked with Ms. Minami over several years, and cannot speak too highly of her. She is responsible, smart, concerned, and reliable. She has extensive experience working with families, and was a valued member of our Invisible Children's Task Force (for families in which a parent has a mental illness) and the Transition Age Youth Task Force. She would be a great addition to the State Council!

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

With Aloha,

Marya Grambs, Executive Director
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...Helping Hawai'i Live Life Well
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Note: Please let me know by emailing me if it's not okay with you to be added to our email list to receive occasional emails from us (invitations to our mental health seminars and our May luncheon, job announcements, etc.).