

GM 710

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service
Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALICE L. BRATTON,
for a term to expire 6-30-2015.**

green2 - Kealaonalehua

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:53 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: keli.acquaro@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for GM710 on 4/13/2011 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 4/13/2011 3:00:00 PM GM710

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keli Acquaro
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: keli.acquaro@doh.hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 4/12/2011

Comments:

Alice has been an effective support to both parents of children with mental health needs and to the child serving system as a whole. She is dedicated and constructive in her approach, and could ensure that children and families are represented and have a voice in the system. She would be an asset to the Hawaii County Service Area Board.

green2 - Kealaonalehua

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 11:38 AM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: wc_spurs@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM710 on 4/13/2011 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 4/13/2011 3:00:00 PM GM710

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Willie
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: wc_spurs@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/12/2011

Comments:

I support the confirmation of Alice Bratton to the Hawaii County Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

I began working with Alice L. Bratton in Japan in 1982. Together, we oversaw a myriad of training programs. We worked with teachers, students, businesspeople and health professionals. Since arriving in Hawaii thirteen years ago, we have raised foster children and worked in crisis counseling. Following the earthquake in the fall of 2006, we became involved in Ohana Quake Outreach, a FEMA/SAMHSA program run through Hawaii Adult Mental Health. Alice was the group leader for Kona and Waimea. I became Program Manager when we went from an Immediate Services to a Regular Services Program and Alice was one of our shining stars. I have seen her further blossom in her various capacities that are natural extensions of her job as Kona and Waimea Parent Partner for Hawaii Families as Allies. She has made so very many contacts and helped parents and children all along the West Coast of the Big Island. Alice has always risen to leadership positions. When we were in Japan, she chaired an international conference of teachers. Here in Kona, she is a valued trustee on the Board of Kona Beth Shalom, our local Jewish congregation, for which I serve as President.

Yours sincerely,

Shari J. Berman

Presentation before the Hawaii State Legislature on Gubernatorial Nomination of

Alice L. Bratton

to the

Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service Area Board,

April 12, 2011

Chair Green, members of the Senate Committee

I thank you for this opportunity to present background about myself for your consideration of my confirmation to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service Area Board.

I am originally from the Midwest. However, I have been a resident of Hawai'i for the past thirteen years. Prior to moving back to the United States, I worked in Japan for almost twenty years. I received my Bachelor of Social Work Degree from Indiana University and did my graduate studies in English as a Second Language education at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT. Following three years of working in psychiatric hospital and group home settings, I decided to travel abroad.

During my two decades in Japan, in addition to co-managing a language services business that trained and dispatched teachers to public school and private companies, I maintained a private counseling practice. I delivered no fewer than 80 professional presentations as a teacher, trainer and textbook author. In 1999, after living in Hawaii for a year, I began foster parenting. We opened our home to some of the most psychologically challenging children. Within three years, I was training other parents to work with difficult children. In 2009, I officially returned to Social Work and began working with Hawaii Family as Allies as a "Parent Partner."

Since that time, I have had an office in both the Kona and Waimea Family Guidance Centers of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Department. I have taught parenting classes and worked with dozens of parents of children with mental health and behavioral issues. I have also helped parents learn to advocate and create more peaceful home environments for themselves and their children. I currently sit as co-chair of the Kona Children's Community Council. While I have been able to reach out to many parents in our community and start to help them help themselves, there is so much more work to be done. In all too many cases, it is an uphill battle with "the system." Our government departments need to become more

responsive to the mental health needs of Hawaii's youth.

I welcome the challenges ahead. I believe that my personality, background, education, experience and community connections give me the tools necessary to participate in finding the much needed solutions.

I ask for you to support my nomination to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii's Service Area Board

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alice L. Bratton ,