

# **GM 712**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service  
Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, STACY KUWATA, 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 711 & GM 712, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the  
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominees,  
CHRISTOPHER HOLSCHUH and STACY KUWATA, for terms 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 strongly supports the nomination of Christopher  
2 Holschuh (6/30/2015) and Stacy Kuwata (6/30/215) to serve on the Hawai'i Service Area Board on  
3 Mental Health and Substance Abuse (HSAB) for terms to expire as parenthetically indicated.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointments of Christopher Holschuh, and Stacy Kuwata to  
6 serve on the HSAB.

7 **Mr. Christopher Holschuh**, a consumer representative, has resided in Hawai'i for twenty-two  
8 years most of which has been on the Big Island. Mr. Holschuh graduated high school from Hawai'i  
9 Preparatory Academy (HPA) on the Big Island. His employment has primarily been in the customer  
10 service industry. While at the clubhouse, he has worked in numerous Transitional Employment  
11 Program (TEP) placements in the community. Mr. Holschuh has been a member of the clubhouse since  
12 2004.

13 In the past, Mr. Holschuh has held the position as Aloha Clubhouse's President. He currently  
14 serves on the Hale Oluea Clubhouse Advocacy Group, and is a strong supporter and participator of

1 fundraising events at Hale Oluea Clubhouse, such as the Hawaii Visitor Hotel Industry Charity Walks.  
2 Mr. Holschuh is a very strong advocate for himself, as well as with other fellow consumers within his  
3 clubhouse and local community.

4 **Mr. Stacy Kuwata**, a consumer representative, is being recommended to serve on the HSAB. A  
5 graduate of Kaimuki High School in 1969 and the Kapiolani Community College in 1971, Mr. Kuwata  
6 has been an active member of the Kona Paradise Club (Clubhouse) on the Big Island for the past five  
7 years. He has served on the Advisory Board of the Kona Paradise Club, as well as the Board of  
8 Directors of the Hale Aikane program, which is non-profit 501(c)3 program. As a member of the  
9 Clubhouse, Mr. Kuwata has participated in several Clubhouse conferences on Oahu and was  
10 instrumental in bringing a consumer perspective to the Big Island Transportation Coalition, which  
11 investigated transportation challenges on the Big Island.

12 Mr. Kuwata is committed in living his recovery by being actively involved in his community.  
13 He has volunteered for five (5) Hawaii Visitor Hotel Industry Charity Walks and served as a volunteer  
14 for three (3) Iron Man Triathlons in Kona, Hawai`i. He is a strong advocate for consumers and willingly  
15 shares his knowledge and experiences with his peers at the Clubhouse.

16 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointments of  
17 Christopher Holschuh and Stacy Kuwata to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai`i Service  
18 Area Board.