

GM 713

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kaua'i Service Area
Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, BEN H. NELSON,
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 713, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kaua`i Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee,
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**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 Reverend Benjamin H. Nelson, III (6/30/2015) to serve on the Kaua`i Service Area Board on Mental
3 Health and Substance Abuse (KSAB) for term to expire as parenthetically indicated.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointment of the Rev. Benjamin H. Nelson, III to serve
6 on the KSAB.

7 The Rev. Benjamin H. Nelson, III, a community representative, is being recommended for his
8 first four-year appointment to the KSAB. Originally from Mississippi, Rev. Nelson pastured churches
9 in Texas and Tennessee, and is currently the Rector and Senior Pastor of the All Saints' Episcopal
10 Church in Kapa`a, Kaua`i since June 2008. He has a Master of Divinity and is currently seeking a
11 Doctor of Ministry Degree. Rev. Nelson has a special interest in people with mental illness living in
12 recovery and is a strong advocate in educating the public to reduce the stigma of mental illness. He is
13 very passionate about this population, as his passion was honed during his formative years in a family
14 culture of outreach to the mental health community. Rev. Nelson's involvement from the faith-based

1 perspective will be invaluable to the Service Area Board as he seeks to continue in supporting this
2 population on Kaua`i. Rev. Nelson represents the community segment of the KSAB membership.

3 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of Rev.
4 Benjamin H. Nelson, III.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this nomination.