

TESTIMONY

GM544

**HTH
Confirmation Hearing
03-14-2012**

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the *Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board*?

I would like to be a member of the Kauai Service Area Board to further my advocacy for people with mental health challenges. Being a consumer, it puts me in a good position to bring the needs of consumers to the Board.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the *Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board*?

I feel that my responsibility is to be active by attending meetings regularly and expressing my opinions to bring the knowledge that I have to go to meetings.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the *Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board*, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the *Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board*.

I am certified as a speaker on the Speaker's Bureau from the Mental Health Transformation Grant and being a consumer for 46 years. I believe I have some knowledge of the challenges and needs of mental illness which will aid me in helping to express the needs of people with mental illness and make decisions as a Board Member.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

During my term of service, I hope to help the community become more aware of the needs of people with mental illness and reduce the stigma of mental illness.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the *Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board*?

I believe that I am understanding of other people's problems and I am a good listener and I work hard on the projects assigned to me. I believe these qualities will help me be a good Board member.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the *Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board*?

I have done presentations at the Kauai United Way, the Rotary Clubs of Kapaa, Poipu and Princeville, King Auto Center, Leadership Kauai, and the Zonta Club, and also have served as MC for the Friendship House's Annual Employers Dinner Awards Banquet advocating for people with mental health challenges. I believe this experience will help in advocating for consumer needs to the board who impact policies for consumers.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the *Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board*? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

No, I don't foresee any conflicts.

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The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 1, 2012

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D.
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol
451 South Beretania Street, Rm. 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Gubernatorial Nominee: Monica Contrades
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board

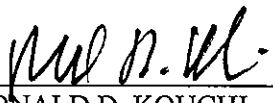
Josh
Dear Senator Green:

I am informed that Monica Contrades has been nominated by Governor Neil Abercrombie for a position on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board. I am in strong support of Ms. Contrades's nomination and am sure she will do an exemplary job as a member of the board if approved by your committee.

I have known Ms. Contrades for many years and believe that her experience and commitment will make her a valuable asset to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration and if there are any questions with regard to the foregoing, please do not hesitate to communicate with

Sincerely,



RONALD D. KOUCHI
Senator - 7th Senatorial District

cc: Monica Contrades

Senator Ronald D. Kouchi
7th Senatorial District - Kauai and Niihau
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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
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. 544, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kaua'i Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee,
MONICA CONTRADES, for term to expire 6-30-2015.**

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

March 14, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports the confirmation of Monica
2 Contrades to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kaua'i Service Area Board (KSAB) for
3 a term to expire on June 30, 2015.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointment of Monica Contrades to serve on the KSAB
6 representing the consumer segment of the community.

7 KSAB appointees represent service area residents who are consumers or non-providers of mental
8 health services, and service area providers with a majority being non-state employees and non-providers
9 of mental health or other health services.

10 **Monica Contrades**, a consumer representative, was born and raised on Kaua'i and is a graduate
11 of the Kamehameha Schools. Aunty Monica, as she is affectionately known, is 70 years "young" and
12 has been a consumer for 46 years. For the past two (2) years, she has been an active member of
13 Friendship House on Kaua'i and is proud to be involved in the Food Unit, where she is able to share her
14 love of baking and cooking with her peers.

1 Since 2009, Aunty Monica has also been involved in the Consumer, Family and Youth Hui and
2 Speakers' Bureau, in which she is able to "share her story" with numerous community groups, such as
3 Aloha United Way, and the Rotary Club of Kaua'i. Aunty Monica believes that to live her recovery is
4 to educate her community about mental illness in order to reduce the stigma associated with it.

5 We respectfully request your favorable consideration on confirming Monica Contrades to serve
6 on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kaua'i Service Area Board.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this nominee.