

TESTIMONY

GM545

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

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. 545– G.M. 548, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominees,
MICHAEL ZARATE, SUSAN KING, ALFRED ARENSDORF, and KEVIN BLOCK.**

**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 confirmation of Michael Zarate
2 (6/30/2013), Susan King (6/30/2016), Alfred Arensdorf, (6/30/2016), and Kevin Block, (6/30/2015) to
3 serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board (MSAB) for terms to expire
4 as parenthetically indicated.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointments of Michael Zarate, Susan King, Alfred
7 Arensdorf, M.D. and Kevin Block to serve on the MSAB.

8 Pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes on Service Area Boards, the
9 members of the Service Area Board are service area residents who are consumers or non-providers of
10 mental health services and service area providers with a majority being non-state employees and non-
11 providers of mental health or other health services.

12 **Michael Zarate**, of Hana, is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Human Services, while
13 actively involved in the Maui community. Mr. Zarate is a Native Hawaiian Practitioner in the Malama
14 Na Pua traditional Health Center in Wailuku, and is employed by Aloha House as a Peer Specialist. He

1 has extensive experience working with the local population and has served on many boards and
2 commissions in both the private and public sector. Mr. Zarate's understanding of the needs of his
3 community will be an asset to the MSAB deliberations and in making policy recommendations.

4 **Susan King** is described as a natural leader with a gift for connecting with her peers in an
5 empathetic and sincere way. She is comfortable with sharing her personal recovery through the
6 Speaker's Bureau on Maui and is willing to share her challenges and successes with her peers and the
7 community. As a Maui Consumer, Family and Youth Hui (CFY) leader, Ms. King co-chaired two CFY
8 conferences, coordinating the logistics, arranging for speakers and vendors, and organizing volunteers.
9 A strong advocate for consumers, Ms. King organized the BRIDGES support group (Building Recovery
10 for Individual's Dreams and Goals through Education and Support) on Maui to keep consumers engaged
11 and supported when Furlough Fridays were enacted two years ago in the Department of Health. These
12 support groups continue today. Her background as an educator and her own experiences with her
13 mental health challenges will allow Ms. King to serve as a valuable member of the MSAB.

14 **Alfred Arensdorf, M.D.** a retired child psychiatrist, continues to participate as a clinical
15 professor in the John A. Burns School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry, teaching in the
16 residency programs on family and systems' interventions, prevention and protective factors. Dr.
17 Arensdorf worked as the Medical Director at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the
18 Department of Health for six years where he received numerous awards. In 2004, he was awarded the
19 American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's prestigious Rieger Service Program Award
20 for Excellence, for his work in Hawaii's system of care. In 2009, he received the Systems of Care
21 Achievement Award , and most recently in 2010, the Mental Health America's Outstanding Community
22 Mental Health Leader award. Dr. Arensdorf is Red Cross trained in disaster mental health and in
23 psychological first aid and has volunteered on the mainland to work with victims of Hurricanes Katrina

1 and Rita. Dr. Arensdorf's life experiences are extremely relevant to the issues and concerns of the
2 MSAB.

3 **Mr. Kevin Block, J.D.** is the Immigrant Services Program Coordinator for the County of Maui's
4 Department of Housing and Human Concerns where he focuses on issues of incarceration, substance
5 abuse and justice reinvestment with Maui's varied immigrant populations. Mr. Block has worked with
6 various non-profit organizations on Maui and has nurtured a wide network of contacts. He has been able
7 to juggle his workload while honoring his volunteer commitments and continues to be very civic-
8 minded. Mr. Block's non-profit, civic and legal background will provide meaningful contributions to
9 the MSAB.

10 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming Michael Zarate, Susan King,
11 Alfred Arensdorf, M.D. and Kevin Block, J.D. to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse,
12 Maui Service Area Board.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for these volunteers.

Green4 - Mailene

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:22 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM545 on 3/14/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 3/14/2012 1:30:00 PM GM545

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Scott Wall
Organization: Consumer, Family, & Youth Alliance
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/8/2012

Comments:

My name is Scott Wall and speaking on behalf of the Consumer, Family, & Youth Alliance we would strongly like to support the nomination of Michael Zarate to the Maui Area Service Board. We know that Michael will be a strong voice on behalf of the consumers of Hawaii.