

**TESTIMONY**

**GM548**

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

1. I volunteered to serve on the Maui Service Area Board because I wish to serve my community and have an interest in addressing the needs of Maui County's most vulnerable residents.

2. The role of a Service Area Board member is to address and review Maui's response to the mental health and substance abuse needs of our community including identifying areas of unmet need and areas where there is a critical or acute need for services.

3. I believe I am qualified for both personal and professional reasons. Professionally I have worked in the community based and non-profit sector since 2005. I was a public benefits advocate at Legal Aid Society serving many homeless and indigent clients throughout the County from 2005-2008. From 2008-2009 I was the assistant director of the BEST program which was a re-entry program for incarcerated men and women. In 2009 and I was hired at my current position as the director of the immigrant services division for the County of Maui's Department of Housing and Human Concerns. I am very involved in policy advocacy for vulnerable populations including immigrants, immigrant women, Micronesians and undocumented aliens. I also serve on the Hawaii Coalition for Immigration Reform, the Maui County DV task force, the Homeless Alliance and Community Alliance on Prisons. Personally, I have been in recovery since 2004 so the subject matter is both familiar to me and close to my heart. Educationally, I have a JD and just sat for the February 2012 bar exam.

4. I hope to provide a voice and effective policy work for Maui's vulnerable populations.

5. I have a good reputation in the Maui County professional community as a strong and passionate advocate. I am intelligent and articulate and dedicated to service to my community.

6. I have many past experiences that would lend themselves to this endeavor. Working inside the jail with men and women that were coming out gave me invaluable insight into the effects of drug abuse and addiction and incarceration on families and communities in Hawaii.

7. I do not foresee any conflicts. Professional responsibility is a huge tested area on the bar which I just took so I am skilled at spotting and addressing conflicts of interest. Usually one addresses conflict through disclosure and informed consent or, in the alternative, prompt withdrawal from the matter

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
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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.