

TESTIMONY

GM595

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

Mailene Oakland-Tialavea
Assistant Committee Clerk
Office of Senator Josh Green, M.D.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222

Statement in Support of Confirmation Process
Mental Health and Substance, Hawaii Service Board
Lawrence E. Walter, Hilo

I am please to respond to the request for additional information regarding my nomination to the Service Board.

I have been a resident of Hilo, Hawai'i Island, for the past nine years. Throughout my career I have endeavored to serve the wider community in which I have lived. While living in northern California I served for fourteen years as a member, in various capacities, of the Corporate Board of OroHealth Corporation, the corporate structure of Oroville Hospital. In addition I was a member of the School Site Council of each of the schools attended by my children as they progressed through the District. I was twice elected to the Thermalito Union School District Board of Trustees, serving as its President twice during my tenure. The district is an elementary district serving the Oroville area. I also served on the Board of Hospice of Oroville. Here in Hilo I have served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Ku'ikahi Mediation Center and am currently the Chair. of the Hawaii Island Prevent Suicide Task Force and a member of the State of Hawaii Prevent Suicide Task Force. I look forward to the work of the Hawai'i Service Board as an opportunity to become all the more aware of agencies and programs related to the betterment of Mental Health in our communities.

I see my role as being open to the needs of the community and being an advocate, to community and state, for the efficient and responsible provision of services. I believe that my background, education and experience will serve me well on the Board. I hold a Master's degree in Counseling and Psychology and am an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ with over forty years of continuous service. I have extensive experience in working with people of diversified cultures, economic standing, educational levels and ethnicity. I work easily as a team member or individually toward the completion of the tasks at hand. I am equally at home on the front-line and behind-the scene. I have an open mind and readily participate in discussion, planning and implementation.

I hope that during my term of service I will be able to readily understand the work of the Service Board and be a valuable participant as it seeks to serve the communities of Hawai'i Island. I am sure a greater awareness of all this will unfold as time goes by. In the few meetings I have already attended I have become aware of some of the frustrations and goals of the Board.

Three descriptive qualities:

Curiosity - I have a driving sense of curiosity about the hows and whys of life in general. This is of great value as I work within systems and structures related to responding to persons in need. I have found that much can come to light with the application of a little curiosity.

Sensitivity – I have learned that being sensitive to others as they grapple with the demands and challenges of their lives goes a long way toward helping them attain comfort, assurance and the resolution of crisis.

Willingness to act – there are times when it is not only appropriate but necessary to take action to assist a person or a community in the betterment of life, an equitable application of resources, a clarified understanding of limitations, and the sharing of visions and dreams. I have suffered “the slings and arrows” and I have enjoyed the quiet whispers of “thanks.” It’s all part of being an active, responsible person in today’s world.

Throughout my career there have been numerous experiences that would lend themselves to building a resume in support of my placement on the Hawaii Service Board but perhaps one would do. A number of years ago I was asked to meet and speak with a homeless woman who was about to be taken into custody by the police. There was some doubt as to that being the best thing for her. She had not committed a crime but merely wouldn’t leave the back corner of the empty building where she had been living for some time. In talking with her I learned of her situation. She had been rejected by her family – in fact they had moved and left her behind because she was “crazy and a burden.” She was not crazy but she was a burden because she needed medical help and a helping hand to get her going in life. Her family had routinely taken her subsistence allotment and refused to get her to a doctor. We were able to find her lodging in a women’s shelter, arrange a visit with a public health nurse, connect her with a social worker and redirect her funds. Most importantly, though, for her was the bath, warm food and change of clothes that she received so quickly after the intervention began. Some of this took some doing – but it got done. A few months later I was pleased to see her serving food in a local homeless shelter. I guess that’s what it’s about.

To the best of my knowledge there are no conflicts of interest that would preclude my membership on the Service Board. Should a conflict arise I would immediately make it known, assess it and determine a resolution that would not jeopardize the Board. Usually such matters are handled by a resignation or withdrawal from the situation of conflict.

I thank the Governor for his nomination; this committee for its consideration, evaluation and action. I sincerely hope that I am allowed to serve our fine State in this capacity.

Mahalo, mahalo nui loa,
Larry Walter

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**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE
REGARDING
SUPPORT FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF DR. PAULA MORELLI TO THE
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROLLED
SUBSTANCES**

Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 1:30PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Dear Chairperson Josh Green, M.D. and Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

I am Paula Toki Tanemura Araullo Morelli, Associate Professor at the University of Hawai'i Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work.

Mahalo for this opportunity to present my background for your consideration toward my confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

I respectfully submit the following responses to questions from the Senate Committee on Health:

- 1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances?

My experience in behavioral health treatment, research and workforce development has the potential to contribute to the work of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS) and the state of Hawai'i's efforts targeted at prevention and treatment of substance abuse and its associated problems. I am a current member of this commission requesting membership continuance in this critical area.

As an educator and researcher in the area of behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse), one of my primary foci is workforce development, that is, the education and training of graduate students who become health service professionals. Membership on HACDACS creates a vital flow of information-exchange between State intervention efforts, current research, graduate education and competent workforce development.

- 2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances?

Based on my experience on the Commission and knowledge of its governance, the roles and responsibilities of HACDACS members are advisory, advocacy and guidance oriented.

[The duties outlined are: To act in an advisory capacity to Department of Public Safety regarding scheduling of substances & classes of controlled substances; to assist the

Department of Health with coordinating drug abuse action programs, and substance abuse education programs; support research; create public awareness; and advise the Governor and Director of Health regarding substance abuse matters.]

- 3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position?

My qualifications are a combination of skills, knowledge and understanding regarding: The devastating ways in which substance abuse/dependence impacts all of our lives; research evidence that co-occurring substance related and mental health problems are complex, intertwined, and require simultaneous attention; and evidence that recovery can be and has been accomplished.

I grew up on Moloka'i and Oahu. I'm a graduate of McKinley High School, completed my bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Southern California, worked in direct clinical practice for 20 years, and received my Ph.D. at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1996. I am currently, an associate professor at the University of Hawai'i, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, Chair of the PhD Program, and Chair of the Behavioral Health Concentration.

Most of my professional career as a social worker was spent in direct practice with children, adolescents and their families in California, Kauai and here on Oahu. I developed a drug-prevention, life skills program for public schools on the island of Kauai. One of the studies I conducted along with colleagues at the UH School of Social Work was a follow-up evaluation of a community-based, substance abuse treatment program in Waianae.

Substance abuse and dependence have impacted my life at many levels. Students, colleagues, friends and family members have been affected by substance abuse. In my family, one of my nephews, an intelligent, college educated individual, raised in a family of means, started out well in the business world working in New York and became a heroin addict. He almost died several times, is still struggling with addiction and you can imagine the pain and suffering in his immediate family. One example from my student is a woman who literally lost her husband to a crystal-methamphetamine addiction within a week. More important, are the many individuals among them my former graduate students, now colleagues, who have overcome/recovered from substance use problems to become vital, contributing citizens of Hawai'i.

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

Based on the responsibilities outlined, initially it will be important to:

- *Understand the range of issues that HACDACS is expected or can realistically address,*

- *Determine/define the issues, goals/actions/tasks the commission will advise and assist responsible entities to carry out in prevention & deterrence of substance abuse & dependence,*
 - *Collaborate with agencies/departments, consumers, communities and others in advocating for and implementing sought after changes,*
 - *Institute and support ongoing efforts for public education about substance abuse and dependence,*
 - *Utilize and support research as an evidence base for treatment and prevention.*
- 5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances?

Committed, questioning, innovative. I intend to learn what I do not know about this area, look critically at situations, and hope to contribute in practical, relevant ways.

- 6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances?

In 1998, I completed with research colleagues an evaluation study of Na Wahine Makalapua a community-based, Hawaiian culturally based treatment program for women in need of substance abuse treatment. Na Wahine Makalapua was a demonstration project funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) through Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD).

Among the findings of this study, data indicated that "readiness" was critical to completion of the program and remaining in recovery; and cultural interventions which focus on individual and family strengths were also important in supporting growth and change.

My current research is with community-based, indigenous programs providing prevention education and services in rural communities of Hawai'i.

I bring my experience in this research as well as research in mental health and training effectiveness.

- 7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee conflicts of interest.

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. 595, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee,
LAWRENCE WALTER, for term to expire 6-30-2016.**

**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 Lawrence
2 Walter to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service Area Board (HSAB) for a
3 term to expire on June 30, 2016.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointment of Lawrence Walter to serve on the HSAB
6 representing the community member segment of the Board.

7 According to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 334-11, HSAB appointees represent service area
8 residents who are consumers or non-providers of mental health services, and service area providers with
9 a majority being non-state employees and non-providers of mental health or other health services.

10 **Lawrence Walter** is currently a minister at the First United Church of Christ in Hilo, Hawai'i.
11 Prior to relocating to Hawai'i in 2003, he pastored several churches within the Northern California
12 Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ for thirty years. He holds dual masters degrees in
13 Psychology & Counseling and Divinity, as well as teaching credentials in the fields of religion,
14 psychology and philosophy.

1 In addition to his pastoral duties, Mr. Walter is very passionate about working with the youth of
2 his community. He has extensive experience working with troubled youth and has a deep understanding
3 of the challenges they face on a daily basis. He has published numerous articles on addiction within the
4 family setting, teen life-style, drug use, and teen pregnancy. Mr. Walter is also Applied Suicide
5 Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)-trained and is a “safeTALK” trainer on the Big Island. His
6 involvement from the faith-based perspective will be invaluable to the HSAB as he seeks to continue
7 supporting youth on the Big Island.

8 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming Mr. Lawrence Walter to
9 serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawai`i Service Area Board. Thank you for the
10 opportunity to testify on behalf of this nominee.