

January 24, 2012

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LATE

TO: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair of the House Health Committee & Members
And the members of the Judiciary and Finance Committees
Health Hearing on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 10:00 a.m. in Room #329

SUBJECT: HB2114 relating to the Hawaii Health Insurance Exchange Board – Please support

I am a mental health consumer advocate, a member of Senator Chun-Oakland's mental health and Medicaid task groups, a former State Adult Mental Health Division employee as the coordinator for the Hawaii Certified Peer Specialist program with over 130 certified peer specialists (CPS) in the state. CPSs are consumers with severe mental health issues, who are role models and provide hope of recovery for others in the community. As one of the few certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioners in the state through the U.S. Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA) and a graduate with my masters in criminal justice administration from Chaminade University, I should as an individual with qualities other than by my socio-economic status or the stigma of having a mental illness.

I have also been a subcommittee member on Consumer/Survivor issues of the National Advisory Council for the federal government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). As one of nine consumers across the country, I was able to give input on what was happening in our western states and also as an Asian American Pacific Islander. I have been a dual recipient of Medicaid and Medicare, as well as HMSA and Kaiser benefits. Presently I now have Medicare, but earn only Social Security disability insurance benefits that keep me above the federal poverty level. I have taken trainings from the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant program with the University of Hawaii and Cornell University. I have a great understanding of how issues affect a person in our medical system.

Consumers are necessary on any board because they are the ones to say if the system really works and what changes are needed. Please support this bill and include most importantly the voice of the consumer from each of the islands because of our diverse culture.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Ellen K. Awai
Mental Health Consumer Advocate

LATE

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 3:16 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2114 on 1/24/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/24/2012 10:00:00 AM HB2114

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Robert Scott Wall
Organization: Consumer, Family, & Youth Alliance
E-mail: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 1/24/2012

Comments:

We believe that this bill will simplify service to Hawai'i's consumers. We also support a streamlined transition into the Affordable Care Act in 2014.