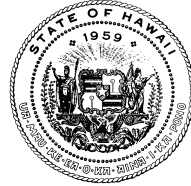


GM548

TESTIMONY



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.547, G.M. 548, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee,
ELIZABETH COOL and JAMAL WASAN, for terms to expire 6-30-2016**

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

Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination and confirmation
2 of Elizabeth Cool (G.M.547) and Jamal Wasan, Ph.D. (G.M.548) to serve on the Mental Health and
3 Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board (HSAB) for terms to expire on June 30, 2016.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the HSAB,
6 Gubernatorial Nominee, Elizabeth Cool and Jamal Wasan, Ph.D. representing the consumer and
7 provider segments of the community. HSAB appointees represent service area residents who are
8 consumers or nonproviders of mental health services, and service area providers with a majority being
9 non-state employees and nonproviders of mental health or other health services.

10 **Elizabeth Cool (G.M.547)** brings varied experiences and interests to the HSAB. She has been
11 very involved with the Kona Paradise Clubhouse and at times assists with clerical support in the office.
12 Ms. Cool is a strong advocate for people living with mental illness and shares her experiences of living
13 with mental illness with other consumers. She is also involved with the suicide prevention efforts on
14 Hawaii island. Ms. Cool fulfills the role of consumer on the HSAB.

1 **Jamal Wasan, Ph.D. (G.M.548)** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Lokahi Treatment Center
2 with five locations throughout the islands. Dr. Wasan previously served on the HSAB during the early
3 2000's. On a professional level, he provides a well-grounded view of the nature and level of service
4 called for in providing effective mental health services and substance abuse treatment. His résumé
5 reveals a wealth of experience and training that will inform effective planning, analysis and strategic
6 thinking in services to people living with mental illness and substance abuse addictions. In addition to
7 his experience and training in the mental health and substance abuse field, Dr. Wasan brings personal
8 qualities of genuine concern for the well-being of others and a sincere desire to use his skills to help
9 those in need on a voluntary basis; qualities that add immeasurably to his professional qualifications.
10 Dr. Wasan fulfills the provider role on the HSAB.

11 We respectfully request your favorable consideration on confirming Elizabeth Cool and Dr.
12 Jamal Wasan, Ph.D. to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board.

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