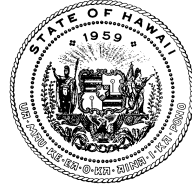


**GM646**

**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. 645, G.M. 646, and G.M. 647, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominees, JONATHAN HARRIS, STEVEN SHIRAKI, and G. NOELANI WILCOX

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

March 6, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the confirmation of Jonathan Harris  
2 (6/30/2015), Steven Shiraki (6/30/2015), and G. Noelani Wilcox (6/30/2016) to serve on the State  
3 Council on Mental Health (SCMH) for terms to expire as parenthetically indicated.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the SCMH,  
6 Gubernatorial Nominees, Jonathan Harris, Steven Shiraki, and G. Noelani Wilcox. Pursuant to Chapter  
7 334-10 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Federal Law (P.L. 102-321), Section 1914(c), the SCMH  
8 appointees represent residents of the State, including principal state agencies with respect to mental  
9 health, education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing and social services. In addition,  
10 families of adults and/or families of children with emotional disturbance are recommended for  
11 membership on the SCMH.

12 **Jonathan Harris (G.M. 645),** R.N., is the State Medicaid representative on the SCMH. Mr.  
13 Harris has been on the SCMH since 2009, and is currently the first Vice-Chair. He has over 20 years of  
14 experience working as a registered nurse with people living with mental illness and played an integral

1 role in the transition of consumers from the Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) to the QUEST  
2 Health Plans in 2009. He fulfills the state agency role in respect to social services.

3 **Steven Shiraki (G.M. 646)**, Ph.D., has been on the SCMHS since 2007 and is being nominated  
4 for a second term. Dr. Shiraki is the Administrator/Educational Specialist with the Department of  
5 Education (DOE) Student Support Section of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Sport  
6 Services Branch. He specializes in special education and legal issues for administrators, supervision and  
7 teacher development, as well as instructional leadership and curriculum for the DOE. In his dual role,  
8 he is also a member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance.

9 **G. Noelani Wilcox (G.M. 647)**, APRN, is a recent retiree of the Department of Health and is  
10 being nominated for a second four-year term on the SCMHS. She worked as the AMHD's statewide  
11 Service Director for Crisis Services from 1998 to 2005, and later as the Branch Chief of Public Health  
12 Nursing. Ms. Wilcox brings to the Council expertise in a variety of mental health areas, including co-  
13 occurring psychiatric and substance abuse disorders, crisis and emergency services. She is also familiar  
14 with the child and adolescent public mental health system, where her son received services for several  
15 years. During her tenure with the SCMHS, Ms. Wilcox served as the chair for one year. She was  
16 instrumental in developing a new committee structure and returning the SCMHS to its mission and vision  
17 after a tumultuous period. Ms. Wilcox fulfills the family member role.

18 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming Jonathan Harris, Steven  
19 Shiraki, Ph.D., and G. Noelani Wilcox, APRN, to serve on the SCMHS.

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



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND STUDENT SUPPORT

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Josh Green  
Senate Health Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Green:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Dr. Steve Shiraki, who is the Governor Neil Abercrombie's nominee to serve on the State Council on Mental Health.

It has been my honor to work with Dr. Shiraki for the past eight years who has been our section administrator for the Comprehensive Student Support Services Section, Student Support Branch, Office of Curriculum Instruction and Student Support. In this position, Dr. Shiraki has provided the overall statewide leadership, direction, and oversight to the department's primary and early intervention services, including school-based behavioral and mental health, section 504, counseling, positive behavioral supports, comprehensive student support system, family involvement, etc.

Dr. Shiraki's wealth of knowledge and depth of experiences as a former district educational specialist, state educational specialist, classroom teacher, and school administrator, has been an asset to the department's movement to transform educational practices. He is also an excellent and effective facilitator and communicator who is able to problem solve challenges amicably.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter of recommendation, please feel free to contact me at 808-203-5515. Thank you for this opportunity to support your consideration of Dr. Shiraki's nomination.

Sincerely,

Jean Nakasato, Educational Specialist  
Student Support Branch

**Testimony for the State Council on Mental Health Confirmation Hearing  
Before the Senate Committee on Health For GM 646, Steven M. Shiraki, Ph.D.**

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2013  
TIME: 1:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol  
RE: Testimony in support of confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Steven Shiraki to the State Council on Mental Health

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of Steve Shiraki's reconfirmation to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH).

Dr. Shiraki currently serves as Administrator of the Comprehensive Student Support Services (CSSS) Section of the Department of Education. He provides administration, leadership and program management to the Section, which is responsible for all CSSS programs, including School-Based Behavioral Health. He has served in this capacity for nine years was instrumental in developing a Comprehensive Student Support System that addresses the needs of all students, including those with mental health issues.

In his capacity as Administrator, he works in collaboration with the Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) to implement school-based substance abuse clinics in secondary schools and address substance abuse problems facing youth and their families. He also serves on the Hawaii Advisory Commission for Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS), which gives him a broader perspective and greater insight into the connection between mental health and substance abuse issues.

Dr. Shiraki has also collaborated extensively with the Hawaii State Judiciary on youth issues, working with the Family Courts, which gives him an even greater understanding of how system issues can both produce challenges and mitigate problems facing families and youth encountering mental health issues.

Dr. Shiraki's appointment to the SCMH provides him the opportunity to coordinate his work in the Department of Education within the broader system of supports the state provides for adults and youth with mental health needs. His expertise, along with his unique range of experiences, allows him to contribute significantly to the state's efforts to provide support for those who have mental health challenges.

Perhaps the most important quality that Dr. Shiraki brings to this position is his commitment to make decisions with an unwavering focus on what is in the best interests of students. His ability to operate with a systems perspective, while maintaining such focus, prevents him from being sidetracked by peripheral issues, and is one of his greatest strengths. He approaches his work with integrity and commitment and his reconfirmation would allow him to continue to provide expertise, experience, and wisdom to the work of the SCMH. It is for these reasons that I strongly support Dr. Steven Shiraki's reconfirmation. Thank you for your consideration.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HTHTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM646 on Mar 6, 2013 13:30PM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 02, 2013 9:06:34 AM

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GM646

Submitted on: 3/2/2013

Testimony for HTH on Mar 6, 2013 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support passing of GM 646 and the confirmation of Dr. Steven Shiraki to continue serving on the State Council on Mental Health. He has ably provided the educational system perspective on this Council. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Testimony for the State Council on Mental Health Confirmation Hearing

Presented Before the Senate Committee on Health

Steven M. Shiraki, Ph.D.

January 2013

Chair Green, members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you very much for the opportunity to present background about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH).

I am currently serving on the State Council of Mental Health. This nomination would allow me an opportunity to serve for a second term. I also serve jointly, on the Hawaii Advisory Commission for Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS), as required by statute. This offers me the unique opportunity to serve both bodies and bridge the tenuous relationship between co-occurring substance abuse and mental health issues.

I was born and raised in Hawaii, a third generation American of Japanese Ancestry. I grew up in lower Nuuanu and graduated from McKinley High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I have a Bachelor of Education in Secondary English Education, a Master of Education in Educational Administration, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education, with a specialization in Educational Administration and Educational Policy. My research interests include leadership processes, teacher leadership and the preparation of educational leaders.

Although I am, by preparation and training, a secondary English teacher, I'm a certified special education teacher with 14 years of classroom experience. I also have four years of experience mentoring and supervising beginning special education teachers in an alternative certification program. I've served as a vice principal at three elementary schools and a district level educational specialist for special education and student support services.

In my current position, I'm an Administrator in the Student Support Services Branch in the Department of Education. Our section is responsible for all of the student support programs in the Department's Comprehensive Student Support System, including School-Based Behavioral Health (SBBH). I've held this position since December 2004. We've also worked closely with the Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) in the ongoing implementation of school-based substance abuse clinics in our secondary schools, as well as any other related issues which impact our youth and their families.

A position on the SCMHS would provide me with an opportunity to link our work in the Department of Education with the larger framework of supports for all individuals with mental health needs. In essence, for both children and adults, we share a common foundation of goals and outcomes. If we are able to collectively



provide children, adolescents, and adults with appropriate access to supports and services in a proactive manner, then I believe we will have enhanced the quality of life for all the residents in the state of Hawaii. In my professional and personal estimation, there is much more work to be done in linking children, families and adults with appropriate community-based supports/services.

While there will always be many challenges to confront and overcome in this arena, I believe that I am poised to make a contribution in this area, along with the other members of the council. My education, background, experience, and personality provide me with a strong foundation to make a contribution. I humbly ask for your support in confirming my nomination to the State Council on Mental Health. Please accept my sincere apology for not being able to present my testimony in person. Should you have any questions, I would be happy to entertain any questions by e-mail: [Steve\\_Shiraki@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Steve_Shiraki@notes.k12.hi.us).

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share this statement with you.