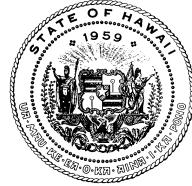


GM647

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 Support
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.