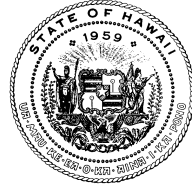


HTH HEARING

GM736

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. 736, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KURT NAGATA

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

Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the confirmation of Kurt Nagata to
2 serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service Area Board (KSAB) for a term to
3 expire June 30, 2016.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial
6 Nominee, Kurt Nagata. Pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes on Service Area
7 Boards, the members of the Service Area Board are service area residents who are consumers or non-
8 providers of mental health services and service area providers with a majority being non-state employees
9 and non-providers of mental health or other health services.

10 **Kurt Nagata (G.M. 736)**, a consumer representative, is the newly elected President of the Board
11 of Directors of Friendship House on Kauai, Hawaii's first Clubhouse in the State. Mr. Nagata has been
12 an active member of Friendship House for several years and was also a member of the Consumer,
13 Family and Youth Hui (CFY). As a Kauai CFY leader, Mr. Nagata assisted in organizing consumer
14 conferences, arranged for speakers and coordinated the logistics for these conferences. Mr. Nagata is an

1 accomplished speaker having participated in the Speaker's Bureau on Kauai. He is comfortable in
2 sharing his life experiences with mental illness with his peers and the community. He often emcees
3 formal community events for Friendship House.

4 Mr. Nagata is described by his co-workers and supervisor as personable, warm, organized and
5 focused. He engages very easily with potential members of the Clubhouse and is always looking for
6 opportunities to encourage consumers to become more involved in Clubhouse activities. Along with his
7 many accomplishments, Mr. Nagata is a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) facilitator, where he
8 trains other consumers in developing their own WRAP. Mr. Nagata is a strong advocate for consumers
9 and will be a valuable asset to the board.

10 The DOH respectfully requests your favorable consideration in confirming Mr. Nagata to serve
11 on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, KSAB.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for this volunteer.

Kurt Nagata's Story

I'm Kurt Nagata. I was born September 10th, 1957 at Wilcox Hospital. I completed High School and did not go on to college because of my mental illness and Alcoholism. My journey through life began in Koloa where I was raised. I was 16 years old when I was diagnosed with mental illness.

I am 55 years old now. I consider my life a lot better today because Kauai Community Mental Health Center and the Center's Clubhouse "The Friendship House". Also Alcoholics anonymous has helped me through my struggles in Recovery.

Today I have an attitude that I am grateful for what I have, and not for what I don't have. I was invited to on the Kauai Service Board for mental health and substance abuse. In the moment I am wanting to take the commitment.

I believe I would make a great addition to the board because I have many years of recovery under my belt. I like helping others. And working with others is what I am good at also.

I have an open mind to learn new things. My attitude goes like this : Its not what the Service Board can do for me. Its what I can do for the board as a member.

Mahalo,

Kurt