

GM576

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, IRIS KANESHIRO, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: State Council on Mental Health

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony SUPPORTING GM576
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, IRIS KANESHIRO, for a term to expire 6-30-2019.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 1, 2016, 9:30 a.m. Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
3 of Iris Kaneshiro to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) for her first term.

4 Ms. Kaneshiro fills the mandated SCMH membership position of an adult with serious mental
5 illness who is receiving, or has received mental health services pursuant to Chapter 334-10 of the
6 Hawaii Revised Statutes and Federal Law, P.L. 102-321, Section 1914(c).

7 Ms. Kaneshiro's public and private service as a Hawaii Certified Peer Support Specialist
8 assists her to make valued contributions to the work of the SCMH. Ms. Kaneshiro stated that she
9 looks forward to advocating on behalf of consumers to assist the Council in understanding
10 consumers' abilities and not merely their disabilities. She feels fortunate to continue what she
11 started when she set out on her own path of recovery.

12 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of
13 Ms. Kaneshiro to the SCMH.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on her behalf.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None.

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?
 - I would like to advocate for others whose voices are not heard.
 - I believe that mental health consumers should be involved in the oversight of recovery-oriented services. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, recovery is “a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential”
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?
 - Role on the Board
 - Advise (give my thoughts and share my experiences when asked for feedback), monitor (ask how specific services are being implemented and received by consumers), review (ask how specific services are doing – outcomes), and evaluate (ask how they are doing, how they are helping mental health consumers and their supports, and why the State should continue to support different programs and services) State-funded mental health services.
 - Responsibilities
 - Be honest
 - Always act with integrity
 - Protect the consumer by asking questions and sharing my own lived experience in helping the State.
 - Ask questions when I don’t understand
 - Be honest when I don’t understand
 - Attend meetings
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?
 - I am a mental health consumer.
 - I understand and can appreciate the different challenges and opportunities of being a mental health consumer.
 - I have lived expertise in recovery – I know that everyone’s recovery process is different.
 - I believe there are things that helped support me in my own recovery. For example, having a provider who pushed me and let me fly. She forced me to take risks. She believed in me. She did not allow me to depend on her. She had hope for me. She allowed me to identify my own goals.
- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.
 - As a person with lived expertise in recovery from serious mental illness, my own lived experiences may help in providing direction and guidance to the State when implementing different types of programs and services.
 - As a Hawaii Certified Peer Specialist, I work directly with mental health consumers in different stages of recovery.
 - At United Self-Help, the State’s only consumer-run and operated organization, I facilitate the Wellness Recovery Action Plan class and support group.

- I was a consumer of publicly funded mental health services. I had a case manager and treatment team that believed in me, but more importantly, I believed in myself. I graduated from a community based case management program in 2008. I have been told that few mental health consumers are clinically discharged from this program.
- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
- I am hoping to help the State with implementing services that meet the unique needs of individual consumers. Many programs continue to tell mental health consumers what's in their best interest.
- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.
- I can share my own experiences as a mental health consumer on how I navigated the system. I recognize my experiences are unique.
 - I am a good listener. I ask questions when I don't understand.
 - I recognize that I have biases- I have trusted friends and colleagues who I can speak with when I believe those biases interfere with my ability to make a decision or to give feedback. I am open to their feedback.
- (7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.
- I was a mental health consumer who moved from having little insight into the impact of my illness to living a meaningful life in my community.
- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?
- No.
 - I currently work for UnitedHealth Care Community Plan of Hawaii. The company does not have any contracts with the Department of Health. I am not permitted to speak on behalf for or represent UnitedHealth Group. My feedback and involvement represent my personal views and personal experience as a consumer representative. I do not believe that there is any conflict of interest.