

# GM579

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

**Report Title:** State Council on Mental Health

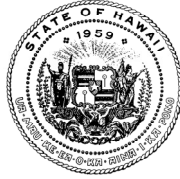
**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** CPH

**Introducer(s):**



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM579**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, WANDA VORSINO,**  
**for a term to expire 06-30-2019**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 25, 2016 11:15 a.m.

Room Number: 016

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination of Wanda  
2 Marie Vorsino, MSCP, LMHC, Psy.D., and urges her confirmation to the State Council on  
3 Mental Health.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** Governor's Message 579 submits the nomination of Dr. Wanda  
6 Marie Vorsino for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health for a  
7 term to expire 6/30/2019. She will serve as the provider representative.

8 The Department of Health, and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division  
9 (CAMHD) in particular, strongly supports Dr. Vorsino's nomination to the State Council on  
10 Mental Health.

11 Dr. Vorsino has delivered educational and mental health services to children and youth  
12 with emotional and behavioral challenges for over 15 years. She was recently CAMHD's  
13 Forensic Psychologist at our Family Court Liaison Branch, providing psychological services to  
14 adolescents committed to the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. She conducted risk

1 assessments, and provided therapeutic services such as individual therapy, family therapy, crisis  
2 counseling, substance abuse counseling and facilitation of psycho-educational skill-building.  
3 Prior to that, she served in CAMHD's Performance Management Office for eight years,  
4 spearheading projects such as enhancing the measurement of the division's progress on  
5 performance goals and the increased use of assessments and provider feedback to improve  
6 outcomes for youth.

7 Dr. Vorsino has formed collaborative partnerships with contracted providers and key  
8 individuals in other mental health and child-serving agencies, effectively facilitating cooperative  
9 workgroups to improve services provided to children across the system of care. Marie's  
10 contributions have improved the quality of mental health care for Hawaii's children and youth.

11 A few months ago, Dr. Vorsino accepted the position of Program Director of the Family  
12 Peace Center with Parents And Children Together (PACT). While CAMHD will miss her  
13 leadership on innovative projects designed to improve quality of care, we wish her much success  
14 at PACT. We know that she will continue to champion children's mental health wherever she  
15 goes.

16 The Department of Health strongly supports the confirmation of Dr. Vorsino to the State  
17 Council on Mental Health.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I have been a member of the SCMH for two years. In November, I transitioned to a new job as the Program Director of PACT's Family Peace Center. I was originally appointed to the board as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division representative. With my new position, I would like to remain on the board and be appointed as a provider representative. I believe I possess the skills and knowledge to continue to actively participate in the strategic initiatives that the SCMH has developed for the next two years. I have taken a lead role in the strategic planning process and am aware of the issues that are relevant to adult and child consumers of mental health services in Hawaii. I continue to want to be part of those activities and help to advocate for adults, families and children that are in need of services. To that end, the more preventative work that we can do on the front end, the more opportunities can be afforded to community members as they strive to lead healthy, productive, and successful lives.

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

As a board member, I perceive my role to be an advocate, analyst, team member, and educator. My responsibilities on the board include advocating for consumers, children, and families that face the challenges that come with mental illness and ensuring that communities, providers, and state organizations are providing interventions and developing intervention strategies that promote and facilitate successful outcomes. As an analyst, I am responsible for identifying barriers to successful outcomes through data presented to the board and as a team developing strategies and activities to address those barriers. As a team member, I am responsible for actively participating on the board, attending meetings consistently, and providing information to the board on salient issues. As an educator, I am responsible for sharing my knowledge about children's mental health to board members.

- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I can work to protect consumers by advocating destigmatizing mental health in the community and media. As a board, we can identify trends in data and address barriers through collaboration with our consumer serving agencies to improve services to consumers and families.

- (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 stated earlier, I believe that as a board member I am an advocate, analyst, team member, and educator. Since 2001, I have been involved in children's mental health through my initial work at Hale Kipa as a therapist and teacher in a residential care setting. In 2004, I began my career at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division as a Program Monitor and over the next 11 years, was promoted to a supervisor, manager, and then psychologist at the Family Court Liaison Branch. Through my work at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, I became very knowledgeable about the services that were provided to youth and families, positive outcomes, barriers and challenges to those services becoming successful. Additionally, I was instrumental in the implementation of an outcome scale at CAMHD that assessed how the child and parent perceived the improved functioning based on the services they received. After eight years in CAMHD administration, I transferred to direct services at FCLB, and provided services to youth and families at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility and Kapolei Detention Home. This provided me an opportunity to firsthand experience the foundational aspects of CAMHD service provision and the collaboration of child serving agencies in youth and families continuum of care. Recently, I accepted a position at Parents And Children Together as the Program Director at the Family Peace Center. The Family Peace Center provides domestic violence intervention services to offenders, survivors and children.

I possess a master's degree in community counseling from Chaminade University and a Doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology from Argosy University with a specialization in Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope that we as a board can strategically meet our goals in our strategic plan and continue to use our strategic plan to guide our work as a State Council on Mental Health.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

I am an avid learner, respectful listener and excellent facilitator of groups. I believe these qualities will benefit the board in the following ways:

- As an avid learner, I am constantly increasing my knowledge base about children's mental health, and most recently research related to domestic violence;
- As a respectful listener, I am able to listen to other's thoughts and opinions without judgment and identify trends in what people say to facilitate strategies to eliminate barriers to treatment;

- As an excellent facilitator, I believe that it is important to not only have the opportunity to speak, but from those thoughts strategize what we can do to become action oriented.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

I believe that all of my experiences in my work, education, and current role on the board are beneficial to my role as a Board member.

(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?  
At this time I see no possible conflicts of interest. If anything did come up, I would alert the Chair of the council and Judith Clark.