

GM680

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health And Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, SUSAN MCCREE, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Mental Health And Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service Area Board

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony SUPPORTING GM680
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse,
Hawaii Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, SUSAN McCREE, for a term to expire
6-30-2018.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 24, 2016, 9:00 a.m. Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
3 of Susan McCree to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board
4 (HSAB) for her first term. Ms. McCree fills the community member segment of the board,
5 pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 Ms. McCree has 33 years of work experience as a professional social worker having
7 retired from the West Hawaii Child Welfare Services as the Unit Supervisor. Ms. McCree has
8 firsthand knowledge of the difficulty individuals experience in getting mental health and
9 substance abuse services on Hawaii Island. In collaboration with other members of the board,
10 Ms. McCree wants to work towards a cohesive system of care between agencies to resolve the
11 fragmentation of services within the delivery of care. She believes that she will make a
12 difference in her community by serving on the HSAB as a way to give back to her community in
13 a volunteer capacity, and in honor of friends that were dual diagnosed.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Ms. McCree's behalf.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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March 21, 2016

[Emailed to baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov)

To Whom It May Concern:

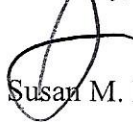
RE: Susan McCree/Governor's Message 680

I am writing to recommend Susan McCree to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board. I knew Ms. McCree while she was employed as a Unit Supervisor in the Department of Human Services - Child Welfare Services (DHS - CWS) office in Kona. I served as a Guardian Ad Litem (child advocate) and parents' counsel since approximately 15 years, from about 2000 until 2015. During that time, I worked closely with DHS - CWS regarding my clients. I believe Ms. McCree retired from DHS - CWS in about 2012 or 2013.

My experience with Ms. McCree was that she was conscientious, knowledgeable, and truly concerned about the welfare of the families. She was well-versed in community services such as substance abuse and mental health treatment, parenting classes, family strengthening, as well as probation services, to name a few. As a unit supervisor, she exercised her administrative duties well, but, in addition, her hands-on experience as a case worker made her accessible to employees. She worked collaboratively with families and service providers, with the goal of reuniting families or strengthening family relationships, when possible.

For all of these foregoing reasons, I support Ms. McCree's appointment to this board or to any other board or commission for which she qualifies.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Kim

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

I am interested in improving the accessibility and quality of mental health and substance abuse services/treatment in West Hawaii.

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

To allow citizens in a given community to provide information to their government representatives. The role of a board member is to gather information from the community-consumers, advocates, and professionals-compile that information and forward it on with recommendations, commentary, etc.

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

By ensuring that the availability and quality of mental health and substance abuse services is easily accessible to all in our local community.

- (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.

I am a retired State of Hawaii/DHS/CWS unit supervisor. I worked as a professional social worker (MSW) for 34 before retiring on 12/31/13, the last 28 of those years at DHS/CWS in West Hawaii. I was often frustrated that parents on our caseload could not gain immediate access to needed services in mental health and/or substance abuse, or were often placed in a level of care that did not meet their need, thus delaying their ability to immediately comply with court ordered services. Many parents had to leave the Big Island to obtain access to a dual diagnosis program. I am familiar with many of the resources here in West Hawaii and feel my past work experience provides valuable insight into the issues.

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

I would like to see DHS, DOH, and private providers do better collaboration in serving the adult population that are dually diagnosed with mental health/substance abuse, and see improvement in service accessibility for certain populations.

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

Cultural competency-I have resided here for over 30 years, and have a knowledge and understanding of the diverse cultures on our island.

I have formal education and training in both mental health and substance abuse. I have empathy for those I've seen fall through the cracks when trying to access appropriate services in mental health and substance abuse.

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

I have over 28 years of experience working for our State government in social services (DHS/CWS/WH). I am familiar with many of our local providers and had direct experience working with this population.

- (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?

I am retired and see no possible conflicts of interest.