

GM811

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission On Drug Abuse, gubernatorial nominee, LORI KARAN, for a term to expire 06-30-2017.

Report Title: Hawai'i Advisory Commission On Drug Abuse

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony SUPPORTING GM811
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORI KARAN, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: April 13, 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 Lori Karan, MD, FACP, DFASAM to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and
4 Controlled Substances (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2017.

5 HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not
6 limited to pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational,
7 legal defense, enforcement and corrections segments of the community, pursuant to Chapter 329-
8 2 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

9 Dr. Karan is a board certified physician in both Internal Medicine and Addiction
10 Medicine. She is a Professor of Psychiatry at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the
11 University of Hawaii, a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a Distinguished
12 Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) with clinical, research,
13 teaching, administrative and public policy experience. Dr. Karan served as Medical Director for
14 the Hawaii Department of Public Safety from 2012-2015 and served as the Treasurer and
15 Publications Chair of the ASAM from 2011-2015. Her experience working in corrections and

1 practicing addiction medicine will be assets to the Commission, and her appointment will ensure
2 representation of the medical segment in Commission deliberations.

3 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration for the nomination
4 of Lori Karan to serve on HACDACS.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of a volunteer whose
6 appointment adds to the cross-section of community interests represented on the Commission.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.



Community Health Outreach Work

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 226
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone (808) 853-3292 • Fax (808) 853-3274

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT OF LORI KARAN (GM811) FOR THE HAWAII COMMISSION ON DRUGS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Heather Lusk, Executive Director, CHOW Project

HEARING: Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 2016 9:30 AM Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee:

I am writing in strong support for Dr. Lori Karan to be approved as a member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drugs and Controlled Substances. I have known Dr. Karan since she was the Medical Director for the Department of Public Safety and she serves on CHOW's Syringe Exchange Oversight Committee because of her expertise. As an addiction specialist, Dr. Karan has worked in a variety of settings where she has addressed substance abuse and its role in health-related issues.

The CHOW Project is dedicated to serving individuals, families, and communities adversely affected by drug use, through a participant-centered harm reduction approach. CHOW works to reduce drug related harms such as but not limited to HIV, hepatitis B/C and overdose.

I am currently the chair of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drugs and Controlled Substances and while I am not writing officially in that capacity, I can speak to the fact that we need more members with Dr. Karan's expertise in addiction. I hope you will recommend her appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Heather Lusk,

CHOW Executive Director

Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

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

Heather Lusk Chairs the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, and she requested that I apply. Heather Lusk is dedicated to improving services for addicted persons throughout Hawaii. I am delighted to support Heather in this work.

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

It is my understanding that the Hawaii Advisory Commission makes health policy recommendations concerning the availability, use, and abuse of alcohol, nicotine, tobacco, marijuana, methamphetamine, opiates, and other psychoactive compounds. This Advisory Commission may give important input to further the prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment of chemical dependency.

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

Consumers are best protected when they are educated, and when they have adequate knowledge to make informed decisions. There are many myths about psychoactive drugs and drug addiction. It is our role to combat this misinformation.

For instance, scientists are just beginning to understand the functions of the endogenous cannabinoid system. Marijuana will have medicinal uses as well as toxicities on an individual level, including effects on a person's cognition, emotions, and behavior. As other states decriminalize and/or legalize marijuana, we can learn from these experiences and share our findings with the citizens of Hawaii.

(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 physician who is board certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. From 2011-2015, I was Treasurer and Publications Chair of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

My resume is attached.

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

I have no specific agenda. I want to prevent unnecessary suffering and improve public health whenever possible.

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

I served on the Governor's Healthcare Transformation Task Force and helped formulate ideas to better serve different populations of high health service utilizers. I also reviewed this grant application and gave a detailed constructive critique prior to its submission.

(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 do not anticipate any conflicts of interest. If such a conflict arose, I would announce the conflict, give my input (that should be evaluated in light of my conflict), and then recuse myself from any decision-making.



Lori D. Karan, MD, FACP, DFASAM
April 8, 2016