

# GM828

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council On Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, CYNTHIA DANG, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

**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 GM828**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, CYNTHIA DANG,**  
**for terms to expire 6-30-2020.**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: April 15, 2016, 9:30 a.m. Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination and  
3 confirmation of Cynthia Dang, Psy.D. to the State Council on Mental Health as the Oahu Service  
4 Area Board (OSAB) representative. Ms. Dang fills the service area provider segment of the  
5 board, pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and the OSAB  
6 representative pursuant to Chapter 334-10 of the HRS.

7 Dr. Dang is a mid-level manager for a business consulting firm. She holds a Doctorate in  
8 psychology and has experience working in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, domestic  
9 violence, and homelessness. Her area of expertise is in assessing and treating trauma. Dr. Dang  
10 has been on the OSAB since 2013 and is currently the chair and the OSAB representative on the  
11 State Council on Mental Health. Dr. Dang notes the importance of collaboration in eliminating  
12 the stigma of seeking mental health services and improving the acceptability of programs.

13 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of  
14 Dr. Cynthia Dang to the State Council on Mental Health.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Dr. Dang's behalf.

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?
  - Give back to the community by volunteering
  - Gain insight on public and private sector programs
  - Improve acceptability and accessibility
  
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?
  - Provide meaningful and responsible participation
  - Evaluate information from various public and private programs to identify strengths and opportunities
  - Utilize diverse experiences
  
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?
  - Partner with specialists for mental health care to develop strategic plans
  - Gain a better understanding on best practice programs at the national and local levels.
  - Provide realistic goals to administrators to improve delivery of services
  
- (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.
  - Diverse strategic planning experience to improve efficiency
  - Process improvement specialist
  - Community volunteer
  
- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
  - Standardize delivery of services at consumer facilities
  
- (6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.
  - Loyal

- Empathic
- Humorous

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

- Planning Committee member for an International Training Summit

(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?

- None
- Consult with the Administrator and Boards and Commissions staff

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. It is a privilege to be nominated by Governor Ige to be a member of the State Council on Mental Health. The State's Boards and Commissions are great opportunities to integrate diverse perspectives, encourage lively discussions and explore practical solutions.

There continue to be many challenges facing us as a community for mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence. I understand the significance of being a member of the Council and the importance of working collaboratively in eliminating the stigma of seeking services, supporting improved access to care and enhancing acceptability of programs.

As a member of the Council, I would bring experience from both the public and private sectors. My work as a Best Practice specialist in streamlining workplace programs support initiatives that explore efficiency. My clinical training with assessing and treating trauma and substance abuse allow for multidisciplinary perspectives on examining initiatives. My planning contributions to training events contribute to practical goal setting. The State Council on Mental Health is a great opportunity to make a difference in our community.

Mahalo for considering my nomination to serve as a member.

Dr. Cynthia Dang