

# GM830

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council On Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD RIES, 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 GM830**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD RIES,**  
**for a term 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 supports the nomination and confirmation  
3 of Richard Ries to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) for his first term. Dr. Ries fills  
4 the SCMH public and private entities position concerned with the need, planning, operation,  
5 funding, and use of mental health services and related support services, pursuant to Chapter 334-  
6 10 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Federal Law, P.L. 102-321, Section 1914(c).

7 Mr. Ries has a doctorate in clinical psychology and has experiences in children, adults  
8 and veterans' mental health. Dr. Ries is currently the clinic manager at the University of Hawaii  
9 Center for Cognitive Behavior Therapy and maintains a private practice in psychotherapy. He  
10 authored several notable research publications in mental health and is very involved with the  
11 research on veterans' mental health issues.

12 The Council welcomes an individual of Dr. Ries' caliber and welcomes his expertise in  
13 veterans' mental health, an area that The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration has  
14 encouraged the Council to pursue due to the returning veterans in the Pacific Region.

1           We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of  
2 Dr. Richard Ries in the public and private segment of the SCMH.

3           Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Dr. Ries' behalf.

4   **Offered Amendments:** None.

RE: Testimonial for Richard Ries

To Whom it May Concern:

It is without reservation that I recommend Rich Ries to serve on the Consumer Protection and Health Committee. In my years of knowing Rich professionally and personally, he has proven himself to be an upstanding citizen with a high degree of integrity, honesty, and insight. As an individual who has been successful in a range of professional settings and diverse relationships, one of Rich's most unique qualities is his ability to seek curiosity before judgment in his experiences. As a result of this quality, Rich has a natural propensity for fostering well-rounded, unbiased perspectives in his decision making that speak to the best interest of the collective whole. This quality in itself makes Rich a valuable member within a team. Moreover, Rich has an unwavering appreciation and commitment to fairness and compassion for others, informing his courage to also voice the perspectives of those whose voices go unheard.

Sincerely,

Weston Zichittella, Psy.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Letter of Endorsement – Richard Ries, PsyD

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Richard Ries, PsyD. I have known Richard for about 5 years. He has served with me on the Hawaii Psychological Association's Psychologically Healthy Workplace Awards committee and even served as a co-chair of this committee. He is a consistent and thoughtful contributor in meetings and is committed to the values and tenets of the committee and HPA, more broadly. I fully endorse his nomination and believe he will make an excellent member of the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey D. Stern, Ph.D.  
Past President, Hawai'i Psychological Association

Richard Ries

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

I want to serve on the board in order to deepen my understanding of mental health needs and trends in Hawaii. I would hope to collaboratively assist in supporting progress in our field and strengthen our service delivery.

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

I have much to learn about the roles and responsibilities of a board member. My guess is that agenda items in meetings would be discussed by the board members, followed by plans for action as a result of decisions made. I also see membership on the board as a leadership role in the field of mental health.

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

Consumers of mental health may not always be aware of protections that are their right. I believe that information dissemination to the public can play a role in communicating what protections are already in place. Where needed, support of new programs can also assist in strengthening consumer protections.

(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 have been involved in organizations at various levels of leadership in the past and have an appreciation for how to get important things done. I also have experience working on an ethics committee at a large hospital, working to resolve tough issues with a healthy consensus. My

backgrounds in education, clinical work and research afford me appropriate perspective to weigh in on issues of concern to our community.

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

I would hope to be helpful on the board. Presently I do not have a specific list of things that I would want to accomplish. Rather, I am open to learning about what would be most useful. Beyond that, I would simply like to support Hawaii in providing the highest caliber of mental health services possible to the widest reach.

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

I would likely be described by others as creative, hardworking and curious. Each characteristic likely can provide something valuable to the board. My creativity can assist with problem resolution. The fact that I can stay disciplined and hardworking allows for follow-through when several steps are needed to address a concern. Curiosity allows for openness to new perspectives and ongoing learning.

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

I believe that my experience serving on the Ethics Committee at Tripler Army Medical Center made me more aware of various concerns related to consumer protections, and that the model we utilized to get informed by various stakeholders, apply principles of moral integrity and maintain a spirit of compassion may be useful as a guide when serving of the board.

(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 foresee any possible conflicts of interest that would likely arise during my service on the board. Should such a conflict of interest arise, my response would be to consult with trusted colleagues and together, evaluate the best objective value at hand and a decision to either resolve the conflict of interest or remove myself from the circumstance that created such a conflict. I believe in integrity and fairness.