

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1637

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 19 2017

RE: GOV. MSG. NOS. 649,
653, 654

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, to which was referred Governor's Message Nos. 649, 653, and 654, submitting for study and consideration the nominations of:

HAWAI'I ADVISORY COMMISSION ON DRUG ABUSE AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- G.M. No. 649 CARL BERGQUIST,
for a term to expire 06-30-2021;
- G.M. No. 653 ERIKA VARGAS,
for a term to expire 06-30-2017; and
- G.M. No. 654 ERIKA VARGAS,
for a term to expire 06-30-2021,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee has reviewed the personal histories, resumes, and statements submitted by the nominees and finds Carl Bergquist and Erika Vargas to possess the requisite qualifications to be nominated to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

CARL BERGQUIST

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination of Carl Bergquist for reappointment from the Department of Health, Hawai'i Pacific Health, The Drug Policy Action Group, and three individuals.

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Mr. Bergquist currently serves as the Executive Director for the Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i, a role that requires advocating to change Hawaii's drug policies, collaborating with government officials and organizations regarding implementation and action, and publishing educational materials. Your Committee finds that Mr. Bergquist has a comprehensive understanding of the health implications that drugs have on the community and how to effectively promote evidence-based drug policy reform. Mr. Bergquist previously worked for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles in various policy roles and has indicated an interest in helping the low-income immigrant community in Hawaii as well as expanding work with the Native Hawaiian community. In his personal statement, Mr. Bergquist indicated that he hopes to help expand current drug treatment services, highlight the public health effects of criminalizing drug users, and address Hawaii's crystal methamphetamine epidemic. Your Committee notes that Mr. Bergquist has been serving as a member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances for the last year and finds that Mr. Bergquist's background, advocacy experience, and commitment to public service qualify him for reappointment to the Commission.

ERIKA VARGAS

Your Committee received testimony in support of the appointment and reappointment of Erika Vargas from the Department of Health, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, Domestic Violence Action Center, Ka Hale Pomaika'i Inc., Kua'aina ulu 'auamo, and six individuals.

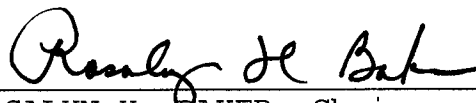
Ms. Vargas currently is the Manager of Adult Services at Hina Mauka, where she oversees operations of residential and outpatient services for patients with alcohol and substance use disorders. Your Committee finds that Ms. Vargas is licensed to diagnose mental illness and has prior experience as a clinical team leader, intake coordinator, substance abuse counselor, and child and family therapist. According to testimony, Ms. Vargas has extensive knowledge of substance abuse and mental health treatment using a trauma-informed approach, particularly for individuals with complex co-morbidities. Your Committee notes that Ms. Vargas has a strong interest in community involvement. Ms. Vargas is active with the Aiea Community Association and previously served in a Latino re-entry program, where she provided cultural services to reduce recidivism of offenders in recovery. In her personal statement, Ms. Vargas indicated that she hopes to help strengthen



the community response that directs substance abusers to services rather than incarceration. Your Committee finds that Ms. Vargas' knowledge, expertise in substance abuse treatment, and dedication to serving the community will be strong assets to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that are attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominees, has found the nominees to be qualified for the positions to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection, and Health,




ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
CPH
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
GIM 649	CPH	3/31/17		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345		
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	✓			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les				✓
KIDANI, Michelle N.				✓
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	✓			
TOTAL	5			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution:	Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy

*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes

The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
CPH
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* <i>GM 053</i>	Committee Referral: CPH	Date: <i>3/31/17</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
CHANG, Stanley	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les				/
KIDANI, Michelle N.				/
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	/			
TOTAL	<i>5</i>			<i>2</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Clarence K. Nishihara</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

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The Senate
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
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Record of Votes
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
CPH
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* GM 054	Committee Referral: CPH	Date: 3/31/17		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
CHANG, Stanley	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les				/
KIDANI, Michelle N.				/
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	/			
TOTAL	5			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>Clarence K. Nishihara</i>				
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