

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.



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'āina 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.:* <b>GM 649</b>	Committee Referral: <b>CPH</b>	Date: <b>3/31/17</b>		
<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.	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original      Yellow      Pink      Goldenrod File with Committee Report      Clerk's Office      Drafting Agency      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 653</i>	Committee Referral: <b>CPH</b>	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		
<b>Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye (WR)</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Excused</b>
BAKER, Rosalyn H. (C)	/			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (VC)	/			
CHANG, Stanley	/			
ESPERO, Will	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les				/
KIDANI, Michelle N.				/
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<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>				
<b>Distribution:</b>				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

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

Governor's Message No.:* <i>GM 054</i>	Committee Referral: <i>CPH</i>	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.	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<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>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original      Yellow      Pink      Goldenrod File with Committee Report      Clerk's Office      Drafting Agency      Committee File Copy				

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