

GM 517

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health And Substance Abuse, Kaua'i Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANGELA UECHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Report Title: Mental Health And Substance Abuse, Kaua'i Service Area Board

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 GM0517
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental
Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANGELA UECHI,
for a term to expire 6-30-19.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 10, 2017, 9:30 a.m. Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and
3 confirmation of Angela Uechi to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kauai Service
4 Area Board (KSAB) for her first term. Ms. Uechi is a service area resident who is also a
5 consumer of mental health services on Kauai, and if confirmed will fill that role, pursuant
6 to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 Ms. Uechi has been a member of Friendship House for almost six years. She is
8 employed by Mental Health Kokua as a relief resident assistant and is also employed as
9 a personal assistant. She is a Hawaii Certified Peer Specialist, and she serves on the
10 Friendship Club Board of Directors. Ms. Uechi is currently enrolled in the Benefits
11 Practitioner Training through the University of Hawaii Center on Disabilities Studies.

12 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the
13 appointment of Ms. Uechi.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Ms. Uechi's behalf.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None.



Angela Keolu
G.M. 517



Friendship House

4-1751 Kuhio Highway, Kapaa, Kauai HI 96746 Phone: (808) 821-4480 Fax: (808) 821-4483 Email: friends@hawaiiink.net
February 23, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

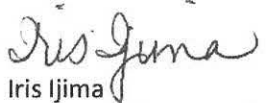
In my capacity as a Clubhouse generalist, I have had the pleasure of working with Angela as her primary staff for 5 years. She has assisted me with many projects ranging from baking cookies to writing grants, and creating excel spreadsheets for statistical purposes. She was also employed for 2 years in a very challenging job with a challenging employer and she was able to appropriately cope with the many stressors of the job and also appropriately sought assistance from staff when needed. And although her employer could be quite demanding and intimidating at times, Angela was able to stand firm on issues she believed in.

Angela has skills in many areas. She is intelligent, articulate, patient, has a great sense of humor, learns quickly, and is dependable, reliable and responsible with all that she undertakes. She also displays a real commitment to all projects she gets involved in, often doing research on her own to be able to do the best job possible (ie; has borrowed books on grant-writing and excel spreadsheets while working on particular projects). Angela's only potential weakness is her soft voice. During group activities, it can be difficult to hear her, but she is also able to project her voice when needed.

Angela has been working as a personal assistant for a Clubhouse member who recently went blind. She accompanies the blind member to her instructional sessions with the blind coach and then reinforces what was learned through working with the member to complete independent living tasks such as meal preparation, light housekeeping, and sorting through the mail. Although she has been a paid personal assistant to this member for only about a year, she and the member were friends when the member first went blind, and Angela's support has helped the member cope with the many emotions (ie; anxiety, fear, frustration, anger, etc.) that come with the frightening aspect of going blind.

I feel that Angela would make a great asset to the Kauai Service Area Board.

Sincerely,


Iris Ijima

Friendship House Staff

State of Hawaii Department of Health
Kauai Community Mental Health Center



Friendship Club

4-1751 Kuhio Highway, Kapaa, Kauai HI 96746 Phone: (808) 821-4480 Fax: (808) 821-4483 Email: friends@hawaiiink.net

To whom it may concern:

RE: Angela Uechi Kauai Service Area Board

In the past 10 months since becoming the Clubhouse Director Angela Uechi has been instrumental in providing help and support as I become acclimated to this position. Angela Uechi has been a member of Friendship House for approximately 6 years and though she is employed by Mental Health Kokua as a relief resident assistant, is a certified Peer Specialist and serves on the Friendship Club Board of Directors she remains an active member of the Clubhouse Community. Angela also works as a personal assistant to a blind individual and she is currently enrolled in the Benefits Practitioner Training through the University of Hawaii Center on Disabilities Studies.

Angela is extremely intelligent, caring and reliable. Angela is quick to volunteer to provide assistance to members and staff in the Clubhouse and she is also patient when helping others. On numerous occasions Angela has demonstrated the ability to help others in a way that does not take away from their rights and dignity. Angela participates in many different events throughout the year whether it's Kauai United Way or a variety of other fundraising events.

Angela's knowledge of mental health services, dedication to helping and providing support for others as well as her consistent participation in advocacy would make a great addition to the Kauai Service Area Board.

Terry Ann Moses, MSW
Friendship House Clubhouse Director
4-1751 Kuhio Hwy
Kapaa, Hawai'i 96746
Office: 808-821-4480
Fax: 808-821-4483
Email: terry-ann.moses@doh.hawaii.gov

GM517

Angela Uechi

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

I have had experience being served by the mental health system on Kauai and can provide feedback through suggestions in improving policy. I want to be able to increase the types of mental health services we receive on this island, and tailor services to fit island needs.

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

A Board member should be a resource of support for the legislators by providing them with feedback on policy from the consumers and their friends and family.

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

I can try to make sure that consumers have the services that they need when they need them. This will prevent problems and save the county and state money in the long run.

(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 can provide knowledge about what it is like to be a consumer dealing with the mental health system. I am a member of Friendship House and I work at Mental Health Kokua as a relief residential assistant, which puts me in touch with consumers. I am also a Hawaii Certified Peer Specialist, although I do not work as one.

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

I hope to inform policy to increase the allowance level of care-home residents, start an in-patient treatment facility, and bring much needed psychiatrists to the island.

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

I like to learn - This will help me learn the procedures of how to be a helpful member of the Board.

I like to get other people's opinions on how policy should be made - This will help me gather information to present to the Service Area Board.

I like to consolidate information -- I like to tell people what we discuss at the Service Area Board meetings.

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

I have had experience with many mental health services on the island. This will help me to be able to talk to people concerning their needs in mental health services and give information to 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 cannot foresee any possible conflicts of interest. If there were one, I would have to excuse myself from voting on the subject that was in question.