

GM 525

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health And Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM LAWSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Mental Health And Substance Abuse, Maui 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 GM0524 & GM0525
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental
Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM LAWSON,
for terms to expire 6-30-17 and 6-30-21 respectively.

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 William Lawson to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui
4 Service Area Board (MSAB) for his first term. He is a service area resident who is a
5 non-state employee, pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 Mr. Lawson is a retired government worker who was very involved in the United
7 States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on the mainland. He is
8 very knowledgeable about the mental health system. He has a family member, who has
9 mental illness and is familiar with the challenges families face when dealing with this
10 illness. Mr. Lawson is a strong advocate for families and the homeless population and
11 will be an excellent addition to the MSAB.

12 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the
13 appointment of Mr. Lawson.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Mr. Lawson's behalf.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None.

From: [Sen. Roz Baker](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: letter of reference
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 8:38:57 PM

Please use this; the email address was mistyped. Roz

Sent with aloha from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

To Roz Baker.

Dear Senior Baker,

This is a letter of recommendation for Bill Lawson who is seeking a position as a member of the Maui Mental Health and Substance Abuse Area Board.

Bill has been active as a teacher of the Family to Family classes with NAMI, and has been involved with care for his daughter who has bi-polar disorder, and he and his wife Judy are foster parents for their daughter's child, who is epileptic and is diagnosed with DDMR as well. Bill and Judy are living with this mentally and physically challenged child 24-7 for the last 12 years. They have been amazing advocates for her treatment.

We highly recommend Bill for this two year position and trust him as a person of great compassion for others and a person of high

integrity.
Sincerely,

Robert and Harriet Collopy

GM 524

William Lawson

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

To advise the service area administrator about the most pressing needs of the mentally ill population here on the island of Maui.

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

Advise our administrator not only about the needs but how to prevent and treat mental and emotional disorders as well as persons afflicted or combined mental illness substance abuse disorders.

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

The best way to advocate for the consumer is through education and collaboration with the community and providers of service on a county wide planning level.

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 am a certified educator with the national association of mental illness. (NAMI) my daughter is a consumer of services and is bipolar and schizoaffective disorder with panic and anxiety attacks. She also is dual diagnosis with history of alcohol and drug abuse. I was a housing man and helped with after care housing.

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

Education and awareness of the severe needs in Maui county of the mentally ill. We need to increase services, housing, and awareness. We are #2 in the nation in the on the rates of teen suicides and veterans die every 90 seconds by suicide.

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

I am a good listener. I try to be patient. I speak out on issues of great importance.

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

I helped my granddaughters PAB worker obtains services from the V.A. for her disabled boyfriend who is rated at 30% disabled obtain a housing voucher.

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 conflict of interest but if any arise I will recuse myself.