

GM 526

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health And Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, HAROLD AMES, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

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
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Testimony SUPPORTING GM0526
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental
Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, HAROLD AMES,
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 Harold Ames to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service
4 Area Board (MSAB) for his first term. Dr. Ames fills the community member segment of
5 the board, as required pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 Dr. Ames is an experienced researcher-practitioner in the field of Industrial-
7 Organizational psychology. He has experience, skills and training in consultation,
8 planning and policy analysis and is the founder and president of the Hawaii Association
9 for Industrial-Organizational Psychology. His collective experiences and expertise gives
10 him an in depth knowledge of issues and trends pertaining to the delivery of mental
11 health and substance abuse, which he can apply in reviewing and providing input on
12 services in Maui County.

13 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the
14 appointment of Dr. Ames, who will bring renewed energy to the work of the MSAB.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Dr. Ames' behalf.

1 **Offered Amendments:** None.

From: [Alfred M. Arensdorf, M.D.](#)
To: [CPH Testimony; Sen. Roz Baker](#)
Subject: Governor's Message 526 (Harold Ames)
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 2:21:39 PM
Importance: High

I strongly support Dr Harold Ames for appointment as a member of the Maui Service Area Board. He has attended meetings from mid-2016 and has become a most reliable and well-informed participant on the board. He gives freely and shares his wisdom and perspectives well. I expect he will soon be elected an officer. His perspective is unique as he brings expertise in organizational psychology to our community and to many projects in our MH agencies on Maui.

Al

Alfred M. Arensdorf, M.D.

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From: [Robert A. Collesano](#)
To: [CPH Testimony; Sen. Roz Baker](#)
Subject: Governor's Message 526 (Harold Ames)
Date: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 4:40:16 PM

As the previous chair of the Maui County Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service Area Board, I heartily support Dr. Ames's appointment to and ascendancy to the Board Chair position, if he so chooses.

Dr. Ames was a guest of the Maui Board numerous times while I was the chairperson and he contributed greatly.

I, also, worked with Dr. Ames to put on a nationally renowned suicide prevention training called **safeTALK**. He personally sponsored the program and allowed it happen at his office complex on Maui.

I have been at other events hosted by Dr. Ames and his lovely wife who, also, serves the public sector in the field of human services. His events and presentations are always geared to up-lift the community at large.

If I can be of any further assistance or source of information regarding Dr. Ames, please do not hesitate to contact me at: **808-518-4300 / Hawaii Mental Health, LLC**

Aloha,

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GM 526

Harold Ames

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

Because I want to serve my community with my expertise.

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

Those described in the Community Mental Health Center Act, Hawaii State Council on Mental Health and Service Area Board (Act 2018), HRS Chapter 334-10, DOH Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 175 Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Sunshine Law, Maui SAB bylaws, and other related content.

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

By contributing to my community in providing it with a complex perspective of gaps in Hawai'i mental health and substance abuse services, some of the common practices of Medicaid fraud in my service area, support consumer advocacy, and help ascertain a greater quality of mental wellness as a member on my center's SAB and to the State as a whole.

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.

My understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Board Member do not require the attending member to possess any competency in mental health and/or substance abuse but rather possess the qualities of being a resident in the service center. Therefore, what uniquely qualifies me as a Board Member is I have the ability to hear and listen.

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

I hope to contribute to the redesign and re-engineering of the entire mental health and substance abuse service field in Hawai'i because it is my professional opinion that most of these services paid by the State and private funders are inadequate and do not promote sustainable wellness (i.e., mental health/substance abuse recovery) effectively. I further hope to help others see the correlation between the significant need of mental health and substance abuse services in Hawai'i to its interconnectedness to tourism. This is to say there is a cost relatedness to the increase in tourism and the impact on social wellness.

As importantly to the consumer, the providers, I hope to positively impact the industrial aspect of treatment/work facilities, the accountability of rigorous clinical supervision, and promote wellness to the system at-large.

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

1. Ability to think systemically.
2. Neutral Agent.
3. Humanist.

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

My lived experience or affiliation in just about every mental health or substance abuse program available in the State of Hawai'i and funding mechanisms.

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?

Life itself is a foreseeable conflict of interest...however, the resolution to one's bias or potential oversight is at the basis the strength in boards. This is to say, that the body itself should be the member's position of perspective.