

GM 639

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, BEATRICE MARTINEZ, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: State Council on Mental Health

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 GM 639
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental
Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, BEATRICE MARTINEZ,
for a term to expire 6-30-19.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 31, 2017 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and
3 confirmation of Beatrice Martinez to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH). Ms.
4 Martinez fills the mandated SCMH membership position of the principal state agency
5 with respect to housing, pursuant to Chapter 334-10 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and
6 Federal Law, Public Law 102-321, Section 1914(c).

7 Ms. Martinez has 13 years of experience in working with housing and homeless
8 programs in the state. She was chosen by the Hawaii Public Health Authority to be the
9 housing representative on the SCMH.

10 Ms. Martinez is currently, a Resident Services Program Specialist in the
11 Department of Human Services. In her position, she works with the Resident Advisory
12 Board to effect policy changes and to provide input for public housing tenants statewide.
13 In addition, she has also worked with the Adult Mental Health Division where she was
14 involved with different aspects of mental health. This experience will enable her to

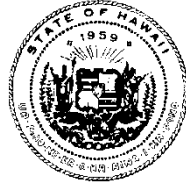
1 understand the issues faced by the mental health population, and allow her to be able to
2 contribute to the discussion on homeless individuals.

3 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the
4 appointment of Ms. Martinez to the SCM.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Ms. Martinez's behalf.

6 **Offered Amendments:** None.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Friday, March 31, 2017
9:00 AM
Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
GM 639

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON
MENTAL HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BEATRICE MARTINEZ, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE 06-30-2019**

Honorable Chair Baker and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 639, appointing Beatrice Kauai Martinez to the State Council on Mental Health.

Through her work within the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), as well as the Department of Health, Ms. Martinez has proven herself to be a dedicated and staunch advocate for those in need. With over 15 years within the HPHA and its predecessor agency, the Hawaii Housing Authority, Ms. Martinez is a valued asset and teacher for new staff and the tenants she works tirelessly to assist.

Having worked in the Department of Health's (DOH) Adult Mental Health Division, Ms. Martinez has extensive knowledge regarding the issues the State Council on Mental Health seeks to address. Ms. Martinez will begin her term on the Council possessing a keen understanding of how the DOH works, the problems that arise within the community, the needs of mental health consumers, and the ability to provide constructive guidance to achieve goals.

Ms. Martinez is a person of high moral character, knowledge, warmth, care, and vision. She works hard in every aspect of her life, and will be a dedicated and valuable resource for the Council.

The HPHA urges the Committee to pass GM639 and appoint Beatrice Kauai Martinez to the State Council on Mental Health.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health with the HPHA's comments regarding GM 639. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817
March 27, 2017

The Honorable Roslyn Baker
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96817

Dear Chair Baker,

Thank you for consideration of Ms. Beatrice Kauai Martinez for appointment to the State Council on Mental Health. As the Executive Assistant for the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, I am pleased to submit this letter of recommendation in support of Ms. Martinez.

I have known Ms. Martinez on a professional level since 1993 and have watched her learn and grow with each new position and promotion through the State system. She is hard working, capable, and a constant advocate for improving service delivery. From her early experience at the Hawaii Housing Authority (predecessor of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority), Ms. Martinez gained an understanding of program development, contract monitoring, and coordinated service delivery. She then moved on to the Department of Health, where she continued to work closely with service providers in several areas, such as case management, family psychoeducation, and housing.

Over a year ago, we were fortunate to be able to recruit Ms. Martinez back to the HPHA, where she quickly became the natural leader in the Property Management and Maintenance Services Branch. Ms. Martinez has a wealth of experience in both program and policy drafting and implementation working at both the Hawaii Public Housing Authority and the Department of Health's Adult Mental Health Division. Her ability to consider both the needs of the State and the client will serve her well if appointed to the State Council on Mental Health.

On a more personal note, Ms. Martinez is generally regarded as a warm, caring and genuine person. As both a mother and grandmother, Ms. Martinez is keenly aware of the importance of the health of both family and community. It is truly an honor for me to submit this letter of recommendation to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health in support of the nomination for Ms. Beatrice Kauai Martinez to the State Council on Mental Health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Arashiro".

Barbara Arashiro
Executive Assistant

23March2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend Ms. Beatrice Kauai Martinez for appointment to the State Mental Health Advisory Council.

Kau'i was the Adult Mental Health Division's Case Management Specialist from August 2006 through March 2015. The Adult Mental Health Division experienced an exodus of sorts from 2009 through 2013 – she also served as the Housing Service Coordinator/Specialist.

Kau'i did an excellent job in both of these positions and was an asset to our organization during her tenure with the office. She has excellent written and verbal communication skills, and is extremely organized.

Kau'i was always willing to offer her assistance and had an excellent rapport with the many constituents served by our office including consumers, providers, and other professional organizations. Her ability to effectively communicate with all these people made her such an asset to our office. She also demonstrated the ability to adhere to professional standards, ethical behavior, and professional business attitude.

She would add value to the State Mental Health Advisory Council.

Yours truly,



Charisse P. Solomon
Clinical Operations Housing Specialist
State of Hawaii – Department of Health
Adult Mental Health Division

GM639

Beatrice (Kau'i) Martinez: State Council on Mental Health

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

I want to be a member of the Board so consumers who live in low income public housing, affordable housing, or have housing related issues can have a voice. I want to be part of something that positively impacts the lives of consumers and their families, to bridge any gaps in mental health services, and to ensure quality services are in place to provide continuity of care for consumers.

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

I perceive the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board to be an advocate for consumers, to ensure decisions on policies or law being put forth by government bodies positively impact the lives of consumers and their families, to bring public awareness and education on mental health issues, to improve the quality of care and lives of consumers and their families, and to monitor, review and evaluate the mental health services in the state.

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

I can help protect the consumer by ensuring the mental health services they receive benefit them and help to improve their lives by monitoring and evaluating the mental health services within the state.

(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 believe that I am qualified for the position because I am compassionate, dedicated, caring, empathetic, enjoy serving others and firmly believe that everyone should be treated equally.

As a former employee of the DOH-Adult Mental Health Division I worked closely with providers in the community who provided an array of services to consumers, such as case management, representative payee, homeless outreach and interim case management, family psychoeducation, housing, and transportation. I also assisted with managing the Hawaii Certified Peer Specialist Internship program which was designed to train and equip consumers with the necessary skills to allow them to work with and support other consumers in their journey to recovery.

Being able to manage, coordinate and fulfill my responsibilities daily took being organized, dedicated, detail-orientated, and knowledgeable in the programs I was responsible for. I believe possessing these types of skills will aid me as a member of the Board.

Prior to my work at the Department of Health, I worked at the HHA in the Homeless Programs Branch. Combined with my current position as a Resident Services Specialist in the HPHA's Property Management Branch, I have a wide range of experiences working with and coordinating supportive services to those in need.

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

During my term of service, I hope to improve access and availability of services for consumers and specifically for individuals and families with housing needs , to increase public awareness and education on mental health services within the State of Hawaii, and to actively participate in the State Council on Mental Health.

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

a. Integrity: I believe in being truthful, honest, and moral. I believe this quality will benefit the Board because it will help me to make ethical and moral decisions that will benefit the consumers and their families within the state. This also means, if something is not right, I would not be afraid to speak up and be that voice of concern and reason to ensure collectively as a Board we are doing what is best for the consumers and their families.

b. Good Listener: Being a good listener is a quality that will benefit the Board because I have an ability to focus on and hear what the person is saying when they're not saying it, I understand and care about what someone is saying, I'm not afraid to make eye contact and be present while listening, and I am empathetic. This will help to make sound decisions that will benefit the consumers, their families, and the community.

c. Genuine: I have always been a genuine person and truly care for others and their well-being, no matter their status or station in life. I was raised in a home with a firm foundation in compassionate service to others and was taught to give freely of oneself to anyone in need. This quality has remained with me and has helped me to become the person I am today. I believe the Board will benefit from this quality because it will help to advocate for the consumers and their families because I genuinely care about their quality of life and having programs in place to provide services for their continuity of care and journey in recovery.

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

An experience that comes to mind is my direct involvement with transitioning consumers from one group home to another due to health and safety issues within the current home they were residing in.

To ensure compliance to housing standards and contract requirements, part of my responsibility was to physically inspect group homes of providers that AMHD contracted with across the state. The group homes were of varied levels of care ranging from 24-Hour to Semi-Independent, each with its own scope of services the providers are required to implement and comply to their contract obligations, and in doing so provide safe and decent housing.

After months and months of working with this provider to address the conditions of the home, staffing concerns and issues, numerous monitoring reports and corrective action plans, it was deemed necessary to move consumers out of their current living situation and into other group homes within the community.

The transition plan took coordination between other group home providers, case management providers, representative payee providers, and other providers that each consumer receives services from.

This experience demonstrated to me how important monitoring and evaluating the direct services being provided to the consumers in the community are. Not only are the providers held accountable to provide quality services that enhance the lives of our consumers, but as an employee of the State of Hawaii, I am ultimately held accountable to ensure the consumers are receiving the comprehensive care that supports their recovery. I know being a member of the State Council on Mental Health will give me a greater opportunity to do this.

(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?

No, I do not foresee any conflicts of interest. If I had to overcome a conflict of interest I would address it immediately with the Board Chairperson and the DOH representative and proceed with the necessary course of action.