

# GM550

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, CAROL MATAYOSHI, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

**Report Title:** Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Hawai'i Service Area Board

**Current Referral:** CPH

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

I want to provide a voice of experience from over 20 years of working with homeless individuals with severe mental illnesses and substance use disorders. I hope to contribute to the health and well-being of persons with mental illness and substance use disorders, as well as our community at large.

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

- To attend meetings as scheduled;
- Identify needs, challenges, and gaps in services as well as available resources in the community;
- Participate in strategic planning activities for the development of services and programs to meet the needs of the community;
- Provide information and recommendations to the Service Area Administrator.

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

- Provide a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves;
- Advocate for those who are treated unfairly because of their disabilities;
- Provide training for those who work or interact with consumers.

(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 have worked with the homeless, mentally ill, and persons with substance use disorders for over 20 years, providing direct services as a mental health outreach worker, a case manager, and a representative payee. I also wrote a proposal and developed a program called “Nine Months: Window of Hope”, working with pregnant women using substances and helping them to stop using drugs and/or alcohol and remain abstinent for the duration of their pregnancies. The program provided outreach, intensive case management and mentoring services to ensure the health and well-being of moms and babies.

I have provided both substance abuse and mental health counseling, intensive case management, mediation and crisis intervention services for the target population for over 20 years and believe that I can bring valuable first-hand experience, knowledge, and information to the Board.

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

I hope to bring awareness of mental illness and substance use disorders in our community and especially with regard to chronically homeless persons with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. I also hope to promote better services to the target population by identifying service providers and encouraging collaborative treatment planning.

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

- Dedicated to helping others and especially the less fortunate;
- Committed to finding solutions;
- Knowledgeable about the issues of mental health and substance abuse in our community.

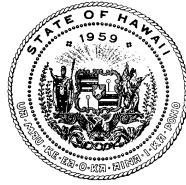
(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

I have served as a board and/or committee member for the following:

- Treasurer of the Board of Directors for Faith Against Drugs (now known as the Hawaii Island Home for Recovery) from 2005-2007
- Member of the Chronic Homeless Intervention and Rehabilitation Project (CHIRP) from 2012-2015
- Member of the East Hawaii Homeless Taskforce from 2013-2015
- Member of the Hawaii Island Going Home Consortium from 2014-present
- Member of the Community Alliance Partners from 2014 to present
- Secretary of the Executive Committee for Community Alliance Partners for 2015
- Member of the Health and Wellness Committee for the Hawaii Island Going Home Consortium from 2015-present

(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 that could arise during my service on the Board. However, if a conflict should arise, I will immediately inform the Service Area Administrator and recuse myself from any discussion and/or decision-making activities involving such conflict.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony SUPPORTING GM0549 & GM0550**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Mental Health and Substance**  
**Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, CAROL MATAYOSHI,**  
**for terms to expire 6-30-18 and 6-30-22 respectively.**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 7, 2018, 10:00 a.m. Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and  
3 confirmation of Carol Matayoshi to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii  
4 Service Area Board (HSAB). She is a service area resident who is a non-state  
5 employee, pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 Ms. Matayoshi is a self-employed consultant who is engaged in public relations,  
7 research, and grant writing. Her 20-year career in social services has involved  
8 managing comprehensive development of programs and systems development for  
9 culturally diverse populations, primarily to the homeless population on Hawaii Island.  
10 Through her familiarity with a large portion of Hawaii Island's provider community, Ms.  
11 Matayoshi has enabled persons with mental illness to recognize their illnesses and  
12 access assistance at various stages of their recovery. She also wrote for and was  
13 successful in getting a two-year grant, "Nine Months: Window of Hope Project," for  
14 which she continues to seek funding. With this grant, Ms. Matayoshi was able to  
15 influence women to be abstinent from drugs during pregnancy. Ms. Matayoshi stated

1 that although drugs are very prevalent in her community and she sometimes  
2 experiences feeling helpless on the local level, she plans to continue advocating for  
3 those living with mental illness and substance use and be able to affect policy changes  
4 on the HSAB.

5 Ms. Matayoshi's years of health care experience and her extensive knowledge of  
6 health care delivery on Hawaii Island will be a great asset to the board. We respectfully  
7 request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of Ms. Carol  
8 Matayoshi to the HSAB.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Ms. Matayoshi's behalf.

Alison Higa  
332 Lu Hau Place  
Hilo, HI 96720

February 27, 2018

Senator Rosalyn Baker  
415 South Beretania Street, # 230  
Honolulu, HI 96813

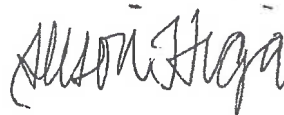
Dear Senator Baker:

I am writing this letter of support for Carol Matayoshi to be a member of the State Mental Health and Substance Abuse Hawaii Service Area Board.

I first met Carol eleven years ago at the Office for Social Ministry where Carol directed and managed multiple programs/grants. Due to her extensive training and knowledge of psychology, substance abuse counseling, and coupled with her warmth, down to earth nature, and great compassion, Carol is adept at understanding and effectively helping people to access necessary care and resources. She is well loved and respected in the community and I regularly observe people come up to her with an embrace and gratitude for all she has done for them or just to "talk story." I am honored to call her my friend and confidant.

For so many reasons, Carol Matayoshi would be an asset as a member of the State Mental Health and Substance Abuse Hawaii Service Area Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Higa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Higa

February 25, 2018

Veronique Jenkins  
Legislative Assistant  
Office of Senator Rosalyn Baker  
415 South Beretania Street, # 230  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms. Jenkins,

I am writing this letter of support for Carol Matayoshi to be a member of the State Mental Health and Substance Abuse Hawaii Service Area Board.

I have known Ms. Matayoshi as a professional colleague and friend for over ten years and I am well-aware of her work in the community. Ms. Matayoshi managed the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Homeless Outreach Program and the Department of Health, Adult Mental Health Division's (AMHD) Interim Case Management and Mental Health Outreach Program for five years at HOPE Services Hawaii, Inc. She also managed AMHD's Representative Payee Program, serving individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses, for over 15 years.

As a Case Manager at Care Hawaii, Inc. and later at Mental Health Kokua, I have had many clients in common with Carol and she was always available to assist with their numerous needs and challenges.

Carol is a dedicated and compassionate individual with very strong work ethics and is committed to doing what she can for the betterment of our community. I know that she will be a great asset to the Hawaii Service Area Board.

Please feel free to contact me should you have further questions with regard to this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Victoria Clark  
Case Manager  
Mental Health Kokua  
208 Wainaku Street  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 756-2093

February 26, 2018

Senator Rosalyn Baker  
415 South Beretania Street, #230  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Letter of Support for Carol Matayoshi

Dear Senator Baker,

I am writing in support of Carol Matayoshi's confirmation to the State Mental Health and Substance Abuse Hawaii Service Area Board. I have known Ms. Matayoshi for over ten years in a variety of personal and professional settings. She has consistently demonstrated a willingness to help where needed and always goes above and beyond her responsibilities. Carol is truly committed to the overall health and well-being of our community.

Ms. Matayoshi has been the driving force behind a variety of services that are available to the most vulnerable individuals in our community that have mental health and substance use disorders. She is highly competent, dedicated, efficient, and outstanding at developing a healthy rapport with others. Beyond that, Ms. Matayoshi is a deeply caring individual and is a respected leader in our community. She demonstrates her serious and caring concern for persons with mental health and substance abuse issues through the development of programs and services that can provide them with the support that they need.

Because of her numerous qualifications and skills, Ms. Matayoshi is an exceptional candidate for the Hawaii Service Area Board. She is a highly respected leader in our community and I hold her in high esteem.

I respectfully request that you favorably consider Ms. Carol Matayoshi to serve as a member of the State Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board.

With great appreciation,

*Kimi Palacio*

Kimi Palacio, Compliance Officer  
Lōkahi Treatment Centers  
Pahoa Village Center  
15-2866 Pahoa Village Road, Bldg. E, Suite 3  
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778  
(808) 965-5535





**Going Home Hawaii**

A 501c3 nonprofit organization serving Hawai'i Island men, women, and youth released from correctional institutions

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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*President*

Debbie Ching Maiava  
*Vice-President*

Denise Pacheco  
*Secretary*

Gail Shiohita  
*Treasurer*

**Board Members:**

Jay Kimura

Glenn Hansen

Gil Silva

Glenn Carvalho

**Staff:**

Les Estrella  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Carol Matayoshi  
*Chief Operating Officer*

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February 23, 2018

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker

RE: Letter of Support for Ms. Carol Matayoshi  
State Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board

Dear Senator Baker and the Confirmation Hearing Committee,

I have known Ms. Carol Matayoshi for over 40 years in a variety of personal and professional settings. During that time, Ms. Matayoshi has always demonstrated a willingness to help wherever needed, has consistently gone well above and beyond her responsibilities and is committed to the overall well-being of our community.

Ms. Matayoshi is highly competent, loyal, committed, efficient, personable, and has an outstanding rapport with people of all ages and backgrounds. Her exemplary qualifications and skills make her an exceptional candidate for your position on the Hawaii Service Area Board.

Ms. Matayoshi is a recognized and respected leader in our community and especially embraces a warm and caring concern for persons with mental health and substance abuse issues. I consider her a dear friend and hold her in high esteem both personally and professionally.

I humbly request that you consider Ms. Carol Matayoshi to be confirmed at your nomination hearing for the State Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Estrella, CEO

26 February 2018

To: State Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board  
Attention: Senator Rosalyn Baker  
C/O Veronique Jenkins, Legislative Assistant  
415 South Beretania Street, 230  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Letter of Confirmation for Ms. Carol Matayoshi

I am very pleased to submit a letter of recommendation for Ms. Carol Matayoshi who has been nominated to the State Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board. Her education and more than 20 years of work experience with the homeless population, as well as with the mentally ill and substance abuse population will be very beneficial to your board.

Ms. Matayoshi is highly skilled in writing grants for funding of programs affecting this population as she knows their needs because of her knowledge and expertise in this area. She has interacted with this population through a program called "Going Home" a program to assist Hawai'i Island men, women and youth released from correctional institutions with re-integration into community life through employment, training, and appropriate supportive services.

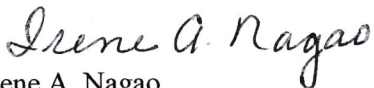
Much of her work involves helping this population with life changes that will help them overcome the many problems caused by mental health issues and substance abuse. It takes a skilled person like Ms. Matayoshi to be able to meet the challenges of working with different people and to care for their needs. In addition to the Going Home program she has worked with pregnant mothers who are drug users. Her overall experience with different programs makes her an excellent candidate as a board member.

My experience working with Ms. Matayoshi for the past five years through this Going Home Program has shown me that she is highly dependable, is consistent in her work and goes over and above in all her duties. Most importantly she is someone with high ethics who has the "heart" to help those so affected by mental health and substance abuse issues.

I have much respect for Ms. Matayoshi and I know she will be an asset to your board. She can contribute much to advance the goals and accomplishments of your board as you undertake the huge task of addressing the many needs of the mentally ill and substance abuse population.

I highly recommend that you consider Ms. Carol Matayoshi to be confirmed at your nomination hearing for the State Mental Health & Substance Service Area Board.

Respectfully submitted



Irene A. Nagao  
Board President  
Going Home Hawaii