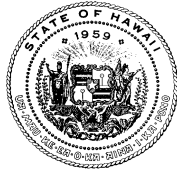


# GM632

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, MEGAN KOSAKA, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

**Report Title:** Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board

**Current Referral:** CPH



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0632  
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the  
Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, MEGAN KOSAKA,  
for a term to expire 6-30-22.**

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

Hearing Date and Time: Friday, March 29, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Room: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation  
3 of Megan Kosaka to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board  
4 (MSAB). Ms. Kosaka fills the community member or non-provider of mental health services  
5 segment of the board, pursuant to Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 Ms. Kosaka is currently a licensed marriage and family therapist currently working as a  
7 Behavioral Health Specialist V supervisor with the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE). Her  
8 background in family therapy as well as her education and experience working with keiki and  
9 'ohana will be an asset to the MSAB.

10 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of  
11 Ms. Kosaka to the MSAB.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None.

**GM-632**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 7:05:25 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/29/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lucas F. Bruno, III	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I submit this testimony on Ms. Kosaka with the strongest support possible. As a former 2 term member of this board, I am fully aware of the qualifications needed to be a contributing member of this board. Ms. Kosaka is the only Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist on Maui that I was willing to supervise to become an AAMFT National Supervisor due to the fact that my licence to practice in Hawaii and Nevada would be placed in jeopardy if a supervisee made a serious error in judgment while under my supervision. My willingness to supervise her was due to my close observation of her keen clinical judgment since 2007. She is a Behavioral Health supervisor of a Maui District Educational Complex, which requires her to investigate the Behavioral Health needs of the schools within her complex and report her findings up her chain of command, as well as assisting those under her supervision in ways to more effectively accomplish their work. Because of my opinion that her intelligence and mental health/substance abuse threatment skills were superior to any of my fellow Maui clinicians, plus the fact of researching/analizing/reporting findings concerning DOE MH/SA to her superiors is so similar to what she would have to do for the MH/SA Maui Service Area Board, I requested that Ms. Kosaka consider replacing my position on the Board when I resigned due to relocation from Maui to Nevada. I am extremely pleased that she is willing to take time away from her school/private practice and her family to serve Maui in this capacity.

Respectfully,

Lucas F. Bruno III, HI LMFT/CSAC & NV LMFT/LCADC

**From:** [Jacki Seamster](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for Subject: GM632  
**Date:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 3:06:16 PM

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Aloha Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of my former colleague and dear friend, Megan Kosaka. I was excited to learn of her nomination to become a member of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Maui Service Area Board. Megan is a woman of action and wastes no time in seeking the betterment of all situations and groups she becomes involved with. As her former colleague in the Department of Education, Behavioral Health Specialist program, I received many invitations to group work days where Megan had spearheaded a topic of study or recruited a speaker for the group to learn from. Megan is a natural leader in a group setting, albeit against her humble nature and willingness to fully support others in their pursuits. She is a person of trust and patience, making her a wonderful therapist and asset to the mental health community in Maui County. She is frequently sought out by her supervisors to take on greater roles in leading the teams she is a part of. Megan is experienced, resourceful and I have been privileged to share in her personal journey and professional career. If you are in need of individuals to serve this board with heart, determination, and from a place of true integrity, Megan Kosaka, would be a wonderful addition.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Jimenez-Seamster, LMSW, LSW