



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of G.M. 0626
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, KATHI CALLES, for
a term to expire 06-30-2020

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

Hearing Date: May 12, 2020

Room Number: 229

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) strongly supports this measure.

2 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure falls within the scope of the
3 Department's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) whose statutory mandate is to assure a
4 comprehensive statewide behavioral health care system by leveraging and coordinating public,
5 private and community resources. Through the BHA, the Department is committed to carrying
6 out this mandate by reducing silos, ensuring behavioral health care is readily accessible, and
7 person-centered. The BHA's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) provides the following
8 testimony on behalf of the Department.

9 The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of Ms.
10 Kathi Calles to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances
11 (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2020.

12 HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not
13 limited to pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational,
14 legal defense, enforcement and corrections segments of the community, pursuant to HRS §329-2.

15 Ms. Calles currently is a program specialist that works in the Hawaii State Judiciary,
16 Adult Client Services Branch. She manages and evaluates substance abuse assessment/treatment
17 contracts as well as drug testing cups and drug confirmations. She organizes and provides

1 training to the probation officers on recent and current topics relating to the substance abuse
2 field. She routinely participates with members inside and outside of the Judiciary. Ms. Calles'
3 expertise in being a substance abuse counselor, working in the Judiciary and with probation
4 officer personnel will be valuable assets to the HACDACS.

5 Ms. Calles earned her Master of Science in Counseling Psychology in 2000 from
6 Chaminade University. Since 2003 she has been Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC)
7 never once allowing her certification to expire during this period.

8 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration for the nomination
9 of Ms. Calles to serve on HACDACS.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of a committed volunteer
11 whose appointment adds to the cross-section of community interests represented on HACDACS.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None.



First Circuit Court – Adult Client Services Branch – THE JUDICIARY · STATE OF HAWAII

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Dwight S. Sakai
PROBATION ADMINISTRATOR

Written Testimony of
Dwight S. Sakai, Probation Administrator
Adult Client Services Branch, First Circuit Court
Judiciary, State of Hawaii

to the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
on
Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

GM 626 / GM 627
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Commission
on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kathi Calles

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

My name is Dwight Sakai and I am writing to offer my support for Kathi Calles to the serve as a member on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS). I am the current Probation Administrator for the First Circuit Court and Kathi Calles' position as a Program Specialist in the Adult Client Services Branch of the First Circuit Court of the State of Hawaii's Judiciary plays a vital role in the operations of the adult probation office, both in the First Circuit and statewide.

In Ms. Calles' current position as a Program Specialist, she is responsible for any matters that pertain to substance abuse. Therefore, under her purview are all contracts for substance abuse treatment, contracting and maintaining drug testing supplies, organizing and conducting trainings pertaining to substance abuse, and providing resources and information to adult probation staff regarding substance abuse matters.

Ms. Calles possesses extensive experience and knowledge of the many facets of substance abuse, including treatment, community impact, trends, and strategies to address this issue. Ms. Calles has working relationships with government agencies, including the Department of Health's Alcohol and Drug Addiction Division (ADAD), the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of the Attorney General. Additionally, she works closely with substance abuse treatment providers in the community.

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
May 12, 2020
GM 626 / GM 627

Furthermore, Ms. Calles is knowledgeable of the issues involving substance abuse and mental health and their dual relationship. Ms. Calles' career as a probation officer and probation supervisor in a specialized high risk drug offender unit, as well as her current position as a program specialist who is the subject matter expert on substance abuse for adult probation, demonstrates her wealth of knowledge and experience in addressing the array of issues that relate to substance use.

It is due to all of the above stated reasons that I highly recommend Ms. Kathi Calles to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

Thank you for your consideration of my statement of support.

March 16, 2020

Nomination of Kathi Calles for the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

My name is Gary Yabuta and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)-a grant-funded program under the Office of National Drug Control Policy and Executive Office of the President. Hawaii HIDTA's mission is to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations through the collaborative efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in Hawaii. Prior to my appointment as the Executive Director of Hawaii HIDTA, I was the Chief of Police for the Maui Police Department.

Based on my 42 years of criminal justice experience and having worked directly with Kathi Calles on Hawaii Opioid Abuse Initiative projects, I affirm her qualifications and dedication necessary to be an effective member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. Through Kathi Calles' leadership, she was able to provide opioid abuse training for the entire state judicial system, state probation, state corrections, state parole, state re-entry, federal probation and federal pre-trial. We continue to work together in the Hawaii State Opioid Initiative, Law Enforcement Organization (LEO)/First Responder Working Group and coordinated Narcan distribution to Hawaii' LEO and First Responders. This Working Group was also able to achieve cooperation with the 4 Hawaii Medical Examiners for drug related death data to assist the criminal justice system, treatment and health providers measure the rate of opioid-related drug deaths in Hawaii. Kathi Calles and I also measure the threat of all drugs in Hawaii, including our most dangerous drug-crystal methamphetamine. Together, we strategize on remedies to Hawaii's devastating drug problems.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Gary Yabuta
Executive Director
Hawaii HIDTA



Sincerely,

Gary Yabuta
Executive Director
Hawai'i HIDTA

RE: Letter of recommendation for Kathi Calles for appointment to Hawaii Advisory
Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances: GM 626 & GM 627

Dear Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health:

I am writing this letter of recommendation to appoint Kathi Calles to the Hawaii Advisory
Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

I have known Kathi Calles for over 24 years, first as a social worker at Child Protective Services,
then as a psychiatric social worker at the Hawaii State Hospital for the past 19 years.

Ms. Calles would be an asset to the commission. I have always found her to be innovative and
progressive in her approach balanced by a sensible and calm demeanor. She is also
exceptionally committed to her work with a "get the job done" attitude. She also evaluates
and analyzes issues with a clear mindedness that promotes confidence in her decisions.

Kathi Calles has the personal fortitude, experience, and wisdom to make a fine commission
member. I hope the committee will consider appointing her to the Hawaii Advisory
Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Nakanishi, LSW
Chief of Social Work
Hawaii State Hospital

March 16, 2020

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Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Gary Yabuta
Executive Director
Hawaii HIDTA



Guy Fujishige
1585 Kapiolani Blvd., Ste 1304
Honolulu, HI 96814
March 17, 2020

Date of Hearing Bill GM 626
March 19, 2020
9:00AM

I am submitting testimony in support of Kathi Calles for Bill GM 626.

I am a personal and professional friend of Kathi Calles and have known her for over 30 years. She is trusted and respected everyone on my team with an amazing work ethic. She focuses on her groups success and has a genuine care for everyone as individuals, professionally and personally. Kathi would be able to contribute valuable experience and knowledge to the HACDAC Committee when appointed.

I look forward to seeing her progress, and highly recommend her for this appointment.

Sincerely,

Guy Fujishige

March 17, 2010

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you in regard to my sister, who has been nominated to serve on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

As her twin sister, I have a special bond and obviously known Kathi Calles her entire life, and though my family connection might make me slightly biased, I still feel that I am a good enough judge of character to be considered a fair reference.

Kathi is a person of good moral character, who comes from a strong family. Our family has always believed in hard work, integrity, high ethical standards, and strong character, and Kathi has retained all those beliefs. She knows what it means to do an honest day's work, and also recognizes the value of her family obligations.

Kathi has excellent communication skills. In addition, she is extremely organized, reliable, has good judgement of others. Kathi can work independently and is able to follow thorough to ensure that the job gets done. She is flexible and willing to work on anything that is given to her to complete.

In her personal life, Kathi has many friends, among whom she is quite well respected and liked. She never has a bad word to say about anyone, and her kindness and generosity are unparalleled.

In closing, I too have dedicated my life to public service for 20 years and I was very happy that she followed my suit. I truly believe that Kathi would be an excellent choice to serve on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. Please contact me if you would like to discuss Kathi's qualities any further.

Thank you,

Kimberli M. Fujii

- 1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances?

I have worked in the substance abuse field for the past 20 years. I am passionate to those who are affected by substance use and abuse. I feel that my past knowledge in the substance abuse and the criminal justice field will provide some assistance with dealing with our clients who are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances?

I think the roles and responsibilities of a member is to provide knowledge and skills to each other on how we can assist the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. With our knowledge and skills, we can provide guidance on important issues that may help those in the substance abuse field.

- (3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances 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 feel that I am a qualified member because I have over 20 years in the substance abuse field, working in various levels of treatment. I have also been employed with The Judiciary for the past 15 years, working in the high risk drug unit and currently working as a Program Specialist, managing substance abuse contracts.

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

I am hoping that through HACDAC, I am able to provide positive, goal oriented, and reachable goals to ADAD and provide any future assistance they need to achieve these goals. I have worked with ADAD closely on several project and feel that I have great relationship with them as well.

- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

I am open-minded. I think it's important to be open minded because all of the members come from different experiences, thoughts, and education. We all have strengths and weaknesses, so if we are open-minded with everyone's experience, that we can achieve our goals.

I am honest. To be a part of this committee takes qualified and committed members. I would like to be a member because I will be honest with what is going on in the community, even if it is bad news. I think the members should not "sugar coat" anything because, in the long run, it won't help ADAD achieve their goals.

GM626 and GM627

Kathi Fujii

Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance

I am committed. If I am elected to be a member of HACDAC, I will be committed to attend all meetings, provide information or trainings to anyone, as well as assist ADAD with anything that they need assistance with.

- (6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances member.

By working in both the substance abuse field as well as in the criminal justice system, my experience will reflect on what is best for those in treatment as well as in the criminal justice system. I understand the therapeutic side of addiction as well as the courts reason/justifications as to why they do what they do. I feel that it is a good balance to have both.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

No, I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest. If there is a conflict of interest, I will inform the committee and find out what I need to do to resolve the issue.