



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0631
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSNELL PASCUAL-KESTNER,
for a term to expire 6-30-23.**

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

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Room: 229

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
2 of Rusnell Pascual-Kestner to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH). Mr. Pascual-
3 Kestner fills the mandated SCMH membership position of the principal state agency with
4 respect to vocational rehabilitation, pursuant to Chapter 334-10 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes
5 and Federal Law, Public Law 102-321, Section 1914(c).

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7 Mr. Pascual-Kestner is the Acting Vocational Rehabilitation Assistant Administrator for
8 the Hawaii State Department of Human Services. Trained and certified as a rehabilitation
9 counselor, Mr. Pascual-Kestner has had a wide range of experiences, from assisting individual
10 students with disabilities to transition from high school to employment, to coordinating statewide
11 service delivery to the most significantly disabled participants. Mr. Pascual-Kestner offers the
12 SCMH expertise in helping persons with disabilities obtain competitive employment aligned with
13 their skills, interests, and abilities.

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15 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of
16 Mr. Pascual-Kestner to the State Council on Mental Health.

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18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on his behalf.