



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of G.M. 0730
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, Gregory J. Tjapkes,
for a term to expire 06-30-2021

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

Hearing Date: May 13, 2020

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure intersects with 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 Gregory
10 J. Tjapkes to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances
11 (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2021.

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 Mr. Tjapkes is currently the Executive Director of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii.
16 The Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii (CDFH) serves Hawaii's children, families, and
17 communities with programs that strengthen health, wellness, and resilience against drug and

1 alcohol abuse with after-school programs for youth, family strengthening workshops, youth and
2 family counseling services, youth leadership development, training and capacity building with
3 communities, and the Hawaii Prevention Resource Center which offers educational materials and
4 resources to the general public. CDFH's mission is "to reduce and prevent drug abuse in Hawaii
5 through awareness, education, and action."

6 Mr. Tjapkes has extensive experience working with disadvantaged communities and
7 addressing difficult social issues. He specializes in substance abuse and with disadvantaged
8 youth. He is an advisory board member of the Hawaii Partnership to Prevent Underage
9 Drinking; member of the Prevention Workgroup for the Hawaii Opioid Initiative; board member
10 of the Hawaii Youth Services Network; and a member of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition.

11 Mr. Tjapkes earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Grand Valley State
12 University out of Grand Rapids Michigan. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology
13 from Calvin College, which is also out of Grand Rapids Michigan. He completed the Weinberg
14 Fellows Program in 2018. The Weinberg Fellows Program fosters a collaborative, supportive
15 environment within which executive directors and key volunteer leaders of nonprofit agencies
16 can add to their knowledge, hone skills, develop common standards and understandings of best
17 practices, and position their services for maximum benefit to the community. The focus is on
18 leading and managing social service and community-based agencies to most effectively assist
19 disadvantaged people, deepening working relationships within agencies, and providing
20 opportunities to develop enduring cross-agency and cross-sector partnerships.

21 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration for the nomination
22 of Mr. Tjapkes to serve on HACDACS.

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

25 **Offered Amendments:** None.



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

GM 730 HACDACS Nominee: Greg Tjapkes

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

- Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair; Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
- April 11th, 2020
- Conference Room 229

HSAC Supports HACDACS Nominee Greg Tjapkes:

Aloha Chair; Vice Chair; And Distinguished Committee Members. My name is Alan Johnson, Chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, an organization of more than 30 treatment and prevention agencies across the State.

Greg Tjapkes is an excellent candidate for the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS):

- Greg Tjapkes is involved with various prevention action groups throughout our community:
 - Executive Director of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii,
 - Advisory Board member of the Hawaii Partnership to Prevent Underage Drinking,
 - Member of the Prevention Workgroup for the Hawaii Opioid Initiative,
 - Board member of the Hawaii Youth Services Network,
 - Leads the Hawaii affiliate efforts for Smart Approaches to Marijuana,
 - Member of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition.
- Mr. Tjapkes will be able to contribute to improving quality care in Hawaii because he is well versed in prevention and treatment practices for substance use disorders, having been in the field as a leader for almost a couple of decades.
- Because he is very engaged with people, Greg is aware of the various community activities and action groups throughout our community.
- As a member of HACDACS, Greg will be able to share about what are current policies and practices in drug abuse prevention and treatment; what is the vision for a better and more cost effective prevention and treatment system; and what are the gaps in services and programs.
- Given that Greg Tjapkes is well experienced in collaborative efforts, he will be a bridge between community and HACDACS to create a feedback loop that will greatly improve HACDACS's effectiveness for developing innovative and collaborative systemic changes to improve services and programs.

HSAC highly recommends Greg Tjapkes for service with HACDACS.

Testimony of Ku'uhaku Park
On Behalf of Matson
Support GM730
Before the Committee on Consumer Protection and Health
May 13, 2020

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee,

Matson supports GM730, which nominates Greg Tjapkes to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. Mr. Tjapkes has served as a nonprofit leader for over fifteen years and we believe that his experience qualifies him to serve on the Commission. We believe he will positively contribute to the solution of problems arising from the abuse of controlled substances in Hawaii. I have known Mr. Tjapkes for fifteen years and can vouch for his moral character and ethics.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.

GM-730

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 11:25:54 AM

Testimony for CPH on 5/13/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Boehm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Greg for at least 7 years. I began my dealings with Greg during the time of his leading The Coalition for Drug Free Hawaii. Greg's work and work ethic are commendable. Greg has a good grasp of client engagement, issues related to substance use prevention and treatment, and the continuum of clinical services to be provided for our Hawai'i residents who struggle with substance use disorders. He understands the challenges of working with this population. Greg is in a great position to leverage effective collaborations at the larger community level with the goal of increasing understanding of the issues and improving services as well as policy related to treating substance use disorders.

Greg believes strongly in inter-agency collaboration. Working with other agencies for the care of mutual clients is a value of his. Greg is an effective leader for connecting clients with resources in our local community.

Greg will make a solid HACDACS member. He will contribute greatly to HACDACS efforts from the prevention, treatment, and awareness/clinical and community based practice perspective. Greg is a capable listener and will undoubtedly provide valuable input and leadership to connect people together in a collaborative way to accomplish the purposes of HACDACS.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie T. Boehm MA, LMHC, CSAC

May 12, 2020

Senator Rosalyn Baker,
Chair of the Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Health
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker,

I am writing in support of Greg Tjapkes' confirmation to the *Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances* (HACDACS).

Greg Tjapkes is currently the Executive Director at the *Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii* (CDFH) which provides innovative programs and services that help keep Hawai'i's children and families healthy, strong, and resilient against drug and alcohol abuse. Since 1987, the CDFH mission has been to "*reduce and prevent drug abuse in Hawai'i through awareness, education, and action.*"

Mr. Tjapkes would be a valuable addition to HACDACS with his extensive experience and knowledge in the field of substance use disorder, especially prevention policy and service. He is active in various prevention initiatives and efforts. Here are some examples of his involvement in the field. He is a member of the *Hawaii Opioid Initiative's* prevention workgroup to help develop a statewide response to the national opioid epidemic in Hawaii by minimizing the public health threat and mobilizing resources.

He is also an advisory board member to the *Hawaii Partnership to Prevent Underage Drinking*, a statewide community coalition to prevent alcohol and other substance use among adolescents and young adults.

Further, Mr. Tjapkes leads the Hawaii affiliate efforts for the national SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana) project, advocating for a science and public health-based approach to marijuana policy other than legalization.

Greg Tjapkes would be a valuable addition to the HACDACS and I hope that he will be confirmed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Shinn', with a small dot at the end.

Alan Shinn
Former Executive Director
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii

Greg Tjapkes, HACDACS

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

I believe that I can provide thoughtful contributions to addressing the problems of substance abuse in Hawaii. I've been in the field here in Hawaii since 2002 both on the treatment and prevention side. I do a lot of reading on the topic and am committed to the implementation of evidence-based best practices.

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

My understanding is that the role of the committee and members is to inform and advise the Dept. of Health/ADAD on strategic solutions to the myriad of problems resulting from substance abuse. The responsibility of members is to bring their expertise and perspective to help shape the proposed strategies and solutions.

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

Having worked in related nonprofits for many years including the substance abuse (SA) treatment field for ten years and SA prevention for three years I try to provide a balanced perspective that will protect our children, families, and community; and, hopefully prevent SA related harms and high demand for SA treatment for adults.

- (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 studied effective meetings, Robert's Rules of Order, etc. while getting my master's degree in Public Administration many years ago. I have chaired and been on many boards and committees; I like working on an effective board. I ask questions and work to get to a point that enough information has been gathered that a motion or decision can be made. I like to keep things moving, and understand that activity does not necessarily mean progress.

I don't know that I have expertise per se as I've always been a bit of a generalist; however, my role as Executive Director of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii and various related roles in the community have me continuously reading, learning, studying, and seeking knowledge on the prevention of substance abuse and related harms.

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

I will be advocating for the State and Department of Health to come up with a comprehensive prevention plan.

I will also be working with the commission to advise a plan for reducing the impact of crystal methamphetamine in Hawaii. I believe this can be done with the right framework.

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

- Agreeable – I am respectful, friendly and cooperative, which promotes a healthy working environment.
- Inquisitive – I am a learner on my own and in groups, and I ask questions seeking to understand situations, problems, and solutions.
- Decisive – I drive my inquiries not only to understand, but to make decisions. The decisions need to clearly demonstrate progress toward a viable solution.

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

I have had, and continue to have, lots of experience serving on boards. One interesting one was years ago serving on a planning committee for Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona's *Ice Summit*. I believe it was in 2003. This experience was interesting and helpful as it was the first governmental committee I had served on in Hawaii, and I learned much about a group trying to achieve a shared overarching goal, yet with many perspectives and competing interests. Unfortunately, for many reasons, it wasn't the ultimate success that Hawaii needed and still needs. I don't think that the situation is hopeless, and I believe that positive lasting change is achievable.

(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 could see that strategies or solutions could arise that could potentially create opportunities for my organization to be able to do the work/receive a contract. While I have no role in awarding contracts my role would be to advise on best strategies to address SA problems, which any qualified agency should be able to execute such evidence-based solutions.

If a situation came to a vote/decision making cross-roads that potentially involved my organization, I would state my perceived conflict and recuse myself if I was asked to do so or felt that it was necessary.