

# STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

SERAFIN COLMENARES, JR., Ph.D., M.P.H.  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR

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## Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

### GM 735, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawai'i County Subarea Health Planning Council

#### Testimony of Serafin Colmenares, Jr. Acting SHPDA Administrator

Wednesday, May 13, 2020  
9:30 a.m.

1 **Agency's Position:** The State Health Planning and Development Agency supports the  
2 nomination and confirmation of Ms. Tamia McKeague to the Hawaii County Subarea Health  
3 Planning Council (HCSAC).

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the  
6 HCSAC Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Tamia McKeague.

7 Ms. McKeague is currently a Project Manager for the Kamehameha Schools West-  
8 Hawaii Regional Office. She assists in the development, implementation and tracking of  
9 regional and/or statewide portfolios around education, 'aina, and/or other community  
10 engagement outcomes. This includes working with internal and external partners,  
11 beneficiaries, community organizations, government and education institutions. She also  
12 supports regional and/or statewide planning, development, implementation, and assessment of  
13 key education and 'aina initiatives. She was formerly a School Counselor for Kua O Ka La  
14 Public Charter School and worked in adolescent development and mental health research as a  
15 graduate and undergraduate student.

1 Ms. McKeague received her Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology from the  
2 University of Hawaii-Hilo. She also received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with Honors at  
3 the University of Hawaii-Hilo. She is a proud graduate of Pahoa High School.

4 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Ms. McKeague to the Hawaii County  
5 Subarea Health Planning Council.

05/11/2020

To whom it may concern ,

I am writing to recommend Tamia McKeague as a member on the Committee on Commerce Consumer Protection and Health.

I have known Tamia McKeague for four years and have nothing but positive things to say. Another colleague of mine and myself hired Tamia to work for the Education section of the West Hawaii office for Kamehameha Schools.

We were also on the committee of the Puakalehua Early Learning Consortium and coordinated an Early Learning Conference for the island of Hawaii in February of this year. There is no doubt in my mind that Tamia will be an excellent addition to this committee.

Tamia is thorough and accurate when writing reports, organized when coordinating community activities, resourceful and ambitious when working on committees, and very efficient in all aspects of her position. She gets along with everyone and is always willing to lend someone a helping hand if necessary.

Please do not hesitate on contacting me at (808) 937-8450 or malanikpd@gmail.com if you have any further questions or requests.

Sincerely,

Malani DeAguiar  
Former Education Manager of West Hawaii for Kamehameha Schools  
74-551 Kaniohale Loop  
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740

Lovina H. Moevao-Kenui  
Program Manager  
Kamehameha Schools  
16-545 Old Volcano Road  
Keaau, HI 96747

May 11, 2020

*Aloha Committee on Commerce Consumer and Health:*

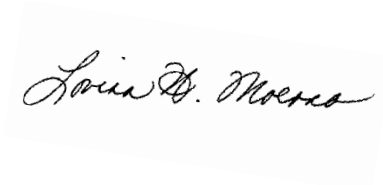
*Tamia McKeague* has been a graduate classmate, collaborator, colleague, and friend to me for about 15 years, so I know her in multiple facets and capacities. As a classmate in a competitive graduate program, she thrived while working and caring for her family. As an educational collaborator she was communitive, cooperative, and supportive. As a colleague she has been a key manager, facilitator, and bridge builder.

Tamia is genuine and does her research before sharing or forming an opinion on a subject. Her facilitation skills allow her to manage a meeting impartially and to use inquiry for clarification while ensuring everyone is on the same page and in agreement with next steps or actions. She is professional, ethical and intelligent.

She is doing great things for our communities advocating for support and services in education and health, particularly in the West Hawai'i region. Her role as a manager and facilitator with our West Hawai'i school partnerships has allowed us to be productive and aligned in serving haumana and families in this region. Her involvement in our collaborative efforts in West Hawai'i is a model for other regions as I have observed working with a statewide program.

I highly recommend her for your committee as I believe she can contribute to your valuable work at hand. She is someone who already is highly involved with the community and familiar with their voices and aware of available resources. She will bring added perspective, knowledge and skills to your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lovina H. Moevao-Kenui". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.



**Tamia M. McKeague**  
401 Haili St. Hilo HI 96720  
(808)-938-0303  
[tamiamck@gmail.com](mailto:tamiamck@gmail.com)  
[tamckeag@ksbe.edu](mailto:tamckeag@ksbe.edu)

May 9, 2020

Dear Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health:

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senator Laura H. Thielen  
Senator Glenn Wakai  
Senator Kurt Fevella

I am humbled and honored to submit my testimony for the position of, Council Member for the Hawai'i County SAC. Please find my answers to your questions below.

**1. Why do you want to be a member of the Board?**

- a. Honestly, the opportunity arose through a recommendation from our Hawai'i Island Director. I was asked if I would be willing to serve our community because of my background in mental health and passion for health. I was humbled and honored to be recommended and felt that this would be a wonderful opportunity to serve my community in a greater capacity.

**2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?**

- a. My understanding of citizen participation in committees and boards is that you are a representative for your community in government. As a representative you are responsible for helping to inform and advocate for laws and policy that may affect your community and or constituents.
- b. To understand the mission and vision of the Council/Committee
- c. To be present at all board meetings
- d. To be well prepared and understand the subject matter presented on the committee.

- e. To have knowledge about the legislative process and issues affecting the Council/Committee.
- f. To be able to and willing to work as a team with other committee members.
- g. To understand and recognize when to compromise is necessary to reach a group consensus.

**3. In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?**

- a. Through advocacy and representation;
  - i. By understanding the consumer's point of view
  - ii. By understanding the consumer's health care needs, community resources and health care access
  - iii. By developing alternative solutions or compromises that enable their needs to be met.
  - iv. By contributing to the overall role and direction of the Board.

**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.**

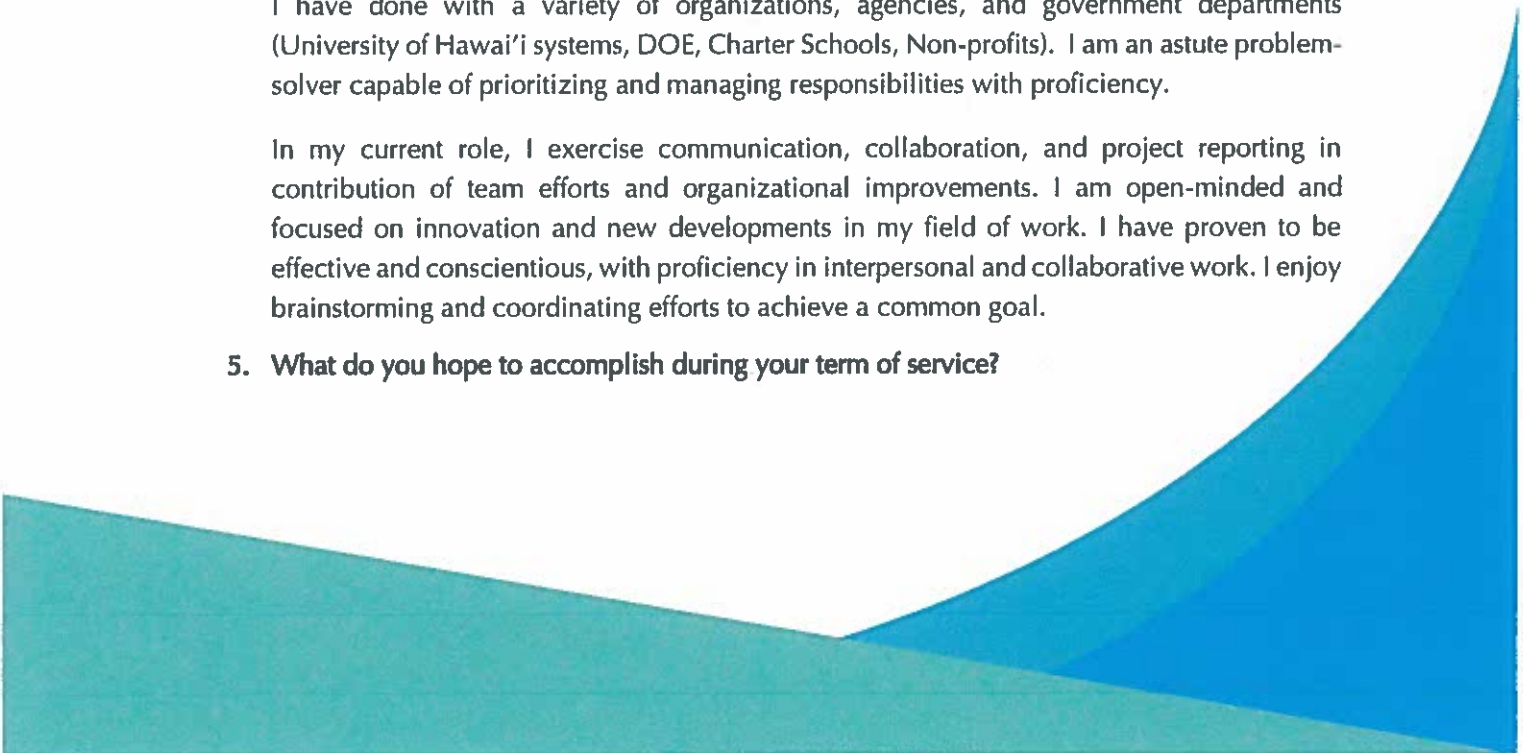
- a. I believe my work in the West Hawai'i community as a Project Manager and Program Coordinator as well as my role as a K-12 Counselor, have helped me develop the skills and qualities needed to serve as a Board member.

I am self-motivated and progress-driven with an extensive background in Education and community work. Whose passion is working with our local communities. With a long-standing record of initiative and innovation, I have developed and executed strategies while working as a Project Manager and Program Coordinator that have had a positive impact on Kamehameha Schools and the communities we serve.

Over the years, I have honed my ability to work in and with communities, through the work I have done with a variety of organizations, agencies, and government departments (University of Hawai'i systems, DOE, Charter Schools, Non-profits). I am an astute problem-solver capable of prioritizing and managing responsibilities with proficiency.

In my current role, I exercise communication, collaboration, and project reporting in contribution of team efforts and organizational improvements. I am open-minded and focused on innovation and new developments in my field of work. I have proven to be effective and conscientious, with proficiency in interpersonal and collaborative work. I enjoy brainstorming and coordinating efforts to achieve a common goal.

**5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?**



- a. Engaging the community and the Board members to work towards a healthier Hawai'i
  - b. Increasing availability and access to quality health care for underrepresented and underserved populations.
  - c. Promote awareness of healthy lifestyles
- 6. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.**
- a. Motivated**
    - i. I am a driven individual who is motivated to make change happen. This will benefit the Board's work by having a team member who is enthusiastic about getting the job done.
  - b. Integrity**
    - i. I am honest and have strong moral principles. This will benefit the board by having someone they can count on to be honest.
  - c. Compassionate**
    - i. I have compassion for and understanding of others. This will benefit the Board by bringing empathy to the table.
- 7. Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.**
- a. I am a member of the West Hawai'i Early Learning Consortium and work with various community and industry representatives to bring awareness to and promote EL in West Hawai'i. In February of 2020 we held our first annual Early Learning Conference.
- 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?**
- a. I don't foresee any conflicts of interest during my service to the board. However, if any should arise, I will report the conflict to the Board immediately and recuse myself from further participation in said circumstance.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,



Tamia M. McKeague

