



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM587
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JENNIFER RENFRO,
for a term to expire 06-30-23.**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 4/5/2021

Hearing Time: 1:00 p.m.

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) supports the nomination and
2 confirmation of Jennifer Renfro to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH).

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

10 Ms. Renfro fills the mandated SCMH membership position of the principal state agency
11 with respect to education, pursuant to Chapter 334-10 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and
12 Federal Law, Public Law 102-321, Section 1914(c).

13 Ms. Renfro is the Administrator for the Department of Education’s (DOE) Student
14 Support Section. In this role since July 2016, she continues to provide oversight and leadership
15 coordination for DOE staff who provide a variety of student support services and programs

1 including school-based behavioral health, counseling, social service and early intervention
2 services. Her background in educational administration spans over 14 years and includes
3 school-based operations management, monitoring of Individual Education Plans for students
4 receiving special education services, and facilitating planning meetings with members of the
5 campus administrative team. We believe her knowledge will increase the SCMH's awareness
6 and understanding of the need for school-based mental health supports.

7 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of
8 Ms. Renfro to the SCMH.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Ms. Renfro's behalf.