



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

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

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOPE, 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 Dina Koyanagi 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. Koyanagi fills the mandated SCMH membership position of the principal state
11 agency with respect to social services, pursuant to Chapter 334-10 of the Hawaii Revised
12 Statutes and Federal Law, Public Law 102-321, Section 1914(c).

13 Ms. Koyanagi has been involved with the work of the SCMH since October 2020. With
14 over 30 years of state service, she brings to the SCMH her knowledge and a passion for assisting
15 adults, children and youth, many of whom live with undiagnosed and untreated mental illness.

1 She specializes in services provided by the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare
2 Services. As a social worker and the current Child Welfare Services Section 1 Administrator, she
3 oversees a team of staff who provide support to families, child protection from abuse and
4 neglect, child trafficking report investigation, and child/youth foster care, adoption, housing
5 and residential placement. Her background, knowledge and access to data helps the SCMH to
6 better understand these essential social services.

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

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