



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM590 and GM591
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, KATHERINE AUMER,
for terms to expire 6-30-21 and 6-30-25, respectively.**

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 Katherine Aumer, Ph.D. 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 Dr. Aumer fills the mandated SCMH membership position of family member, pursuant
11 to Chapter 334-10 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Federal Law, Public Law 102-321, Section
12 1914(c).

13 Dr. Aumer has been involved with the work of the SCMH since October 2020. She is
14 currently serving as the SCMH Second Vice Chair. She brings to the SCMH her knowledge of

1 culture, diversity, and psychology, and a passion for educating, learning, and listening to people
2 from various backgrounds and experiences.

3 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of
4 Dr. Aumer to the SCMh.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Dr. Aumer's behalf.