



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0638
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, ADAM GRATZ, for a
term to expire 06-30-2024**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 3/31/2021

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure falls within 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 Adam
10 Gratz, MD, to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances
11 (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2024.

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 Dr. Gratz is a primary care physician in private practice who serves rural communities on
16 the Big Island since 2005. He is the owner of Mobile Doc which conducts house calls for
17 patients who need pain management, end of life care and ones who require medication-assisted

1 treatment for opioids. In 2020 he served as site medical lead for a Project Baselines initiative to
2 start drive through testing sites in California. In 2015 he served as an physician for urgent care
3 outpatient medicine in the Bay Area. He also served as Chief Medical Officer for Re-Docs, an
4 electronic medical records repository for medical records collection, verification and
5 dissemination in an effort to reduce costs for California's worker's compensation system. In
6 addition, he also served as a healthcare consultant to HMSA to implement rural telehealth care
7 delivery based on video chats and house calls, and to integrate the American Well telemedicine
8 system with the Microsoft HealthVault, a web-based personal health record that stores health and
9 fitness information.

10 Dr. Gratz earned a Doctor of Osteopathy from Touro University in Vallejo, California,
11 with an emphasis in neuromuscular-skeletal medicine. He received his Bachelor's Degree in
12 Cell and Molecular Biology from Portland State University.

13 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration for the nomination
14 of Dr. Adam Gratz to serve on HACDACS.

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

17 **Offered Amendments:** None