



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM644
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, John Betlach,
for a term to expire 06-30-2024.**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 3/31/2021

Hearing Time: 1:00 p.m.

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) supports the nomination and
2 confirmation of John Betlach to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area
3 Board (HSAB).

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

11 Mr. Betlach is an experienced clinical professional having provided direct care,
12 treatment, intervention, case management, and counseling in both inpatient and outpatient
13 settings. If confirmed, he will fill the role of mental health stakeholder/community member on
14 the HSAB pursuant to Chapter 34-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

1 Mr. Betlach has shared about his commitment to volunteering. His passion for helping
2 people to address mental health challenges led him to apply for a position on the HSAB. We
3 look forward to him using his knowledge, skills and experience to address behavioral health
4 issues as a member of the HSAB.

5 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of
6 Mr. Betlach to the HSAB.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Mr. Betlach's behalf.