



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 GM646
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Tara Reed,
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 Tara Reed to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board
3 (MSAB).

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 Ms. Reed is a community member and mental health service advocate. If confirmed,
12 she will fill the community member/non-state employee role on the MSAB, pursuant to Chapter
13 34-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 Ms. Reed earned her bachelor’s degree in Social Work from the University of Hawaii at
15 Manoa and has completed at least a year of her master’s degree course work. She has been

1 involved in providing substance use services and has been a recipient of some of those services
2 as well. Having worked in the field of substance use challenges, she is acutely aware of the
3 critical nature of the issues facing her community.

4 Ms. Reed has been an active participant on the MSAB and hopes to continue
5 contributing innovative solutions to address the substance abuse needs of the Maui
6 community.

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

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

GM-646

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 4:31:58 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am writing in strong support of Tara Reed's nomination to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Use, Maui Service Area Board.

I have known Tara for several years and am inspired by her commitment and determination to support persons struggling with mental health issues.

Tara knows first hand the struggles associated with mental health challenges and courageously shares her journey in order to raise awareness and advocate for others.

Please confirm Tara Reed for the Mental Health and Substance Use, Maui Service Area Board.

Mahalo,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.