



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM653  
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the  
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Richard Jackson,  
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 Richard Jackson to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area  
3 Board (OSAB).

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. Jackson is a service area resident and mental health service recipient. If confirmed,  
12 he will fill the mental health service recipient (consumer) role on the OSAB, pursuant to Chapter  
13 34-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 Mr. Jackson is passionate about volunteering in his community. For example, he  
15 volunteered with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service

1 Pacific Region Headquarters before being hired as an employee who retired with 25 years of  
2 service. During that same time, he dedicated 15 years of service as a volunteer with  
3 CrimeStoppers Honolulu. Currently, Mr. Jackson volunteers with the Hawaii Air Force  
4 Association at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam.

5 Advocating for people who live with mental illness is another passion of his. After being  
6 away from the OSAB for a break, Mr. Jackson was motivated to reapply. His professional and  
7 life experiences provide meaningful perspective and insight during OSAB discussions. We look  
8 forward to him rejoining the OSAB.

9 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of  
10 Mr. Jackson to the OSAB.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Mr. Jackson's behalf.