

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0708
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, GREGORY
TJAPKES, for a term to expire 06-30-2025**

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 Gregory
10 Tjapkes to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances
11 (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2025.

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 Mr. Tjapkes is the Executive Director of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii. The
16 Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii (CDFH) serves Hawaii's children, families, and communities
17 with programs that strengthen health, wellness, and resilience against drug and alcohol abuse

1 with after-school programs for youth, family strengthening workshops, youth and family
2 counseling services, youth leadership development, training and capacity building with
3 communities, and the Hawaii Prevention Resource Center which offers educational materials and
4 resources to the general public. CDFH's mission is "to reduce and prevent drug abuse in Hawaii
5 through awareness, education, and action."

6 Mr. Tjapkes has extensive experience working with disadvantaged communities and
7 addressing difficult social issues. He specializes in substance abuse and with disadvantaged
8 youth. He is an advisory board member of the Hawaii Partnership to Prevent Underage
9 Drinking; member of the Prevention Workgroup for the Hawaii Opioid Initiative; board member
10 of the Hawaii Youth Services Network; and a member of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition.

11 Mr. Tjapkes earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Grand Valley State
12 University out of Grand Rapids Michigan. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology
13 from Calvin College, which is also out of Grand Rapids Michigan. He also completed the
14 Weinberg Fellows Program in 2018.

15 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration for the nomination
16 of Gregory Tjapkes to serve on HACDACS.

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

19 **Offered Amendments:** None



GM708: Greg Tjapkes: HACDACS - Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH:

- Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair; Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair
- Wednesday, Mar. 31, 2021: 1:00
- Videoconference

Hina Mauka Highly Recommends Greg Tjapkes to serve on HADACS:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current CEO of Hina Mauka, a non-profit Treatment and Prevention agency for substance use disorders, mental health disorders and other behavioral health conditions providing treatment for over 2,500 patients a year and providing prevention to thousands of youth and families each year.

We highly recommend Greg Tjapkes for a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS):

- Greg Tjapkes served one year already for HACDACS (replacing someone who resigned before the completion of their term) and is now experienced at providing value to the commission for a full term.
- As Executive Director of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i, Greg Tjapkes is extensively committed to our community as an expert prevention specialist. He will be able to advocate for our children and adults to improve the quality of care in our substance use disorder prevention and treatment systems.
- Greg Tjapkes has extensive experience having previously work with Hina Mauka as well as substantial service with community such as HACDACS, Advisory Board Member for Hawaii Partnership to Prevent Underage Drinking, steering committee for the Hawaii Opioid Initiative, Board member for the Hawaii Youth Services Network, leader of the Hawaii affiliate for Smart Approaches to Marijuana, and on the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition.
- Greg strives to do the greatest good for the most people because he understands the complex issues of policy and systems as they intersect among youth development and education systems, homelessness, substance use disorders, mental health disorders, criminal justice, and emergency departments. He is well positioned to address public policy to improve those systems as well as find a more cost-effective process to utilize limited resources.
- Because he is committed to reshaping our community, Greg can help us surge forward with innovative change ideas. With his leadership, we can create a better home for the people of Hawai'i.

We fully support Greg's nomination and believe he will be a valuable member of HACDACS.

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 904 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Carole Gruskin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Bay Clinic

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawaii

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Bobby Benson Center

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

Collins Consulting, LLC

Domestic Violence Action Center EPIC, Inc.

Family Programs Hawaii

Family Support Hawaii

Friends of the Children of West Hawaii

Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Children's Action Network

Hawaii Health & Harm

Reduction Center

Ho'ola Na Pua

Kahi Mohala

Kokua Kalihi Valley

Kokua Ohana Aloha (KOA)

Maui Youth and Family Services

Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native

Hawaiian Health Care Systems

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

PHOCUSED

PFLAG - Kona Big Island

Planned Parenthood of the

Great Northwest and

Hawaiian Islands

Residential Youth Services

& Empowerment (RYSE)

Salvation Army Family

Intervention Services

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Catalyst Group

March 25, 2021

To: Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

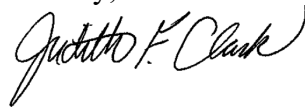
Testimony in support of GM 708 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, GREGORY TJAPKES, for a term to expire 06-30-2025

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports the nomination of Gregory Tjapkes to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

Mr. Tjapkes is well qualified to advise the State of Hawaii on substance use issues. I have worked with him throughout his tenure at the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii and his service on the Board of Directors of Hawaii Youth Services Network. He is hard-working, knowledgeable about substance abuse, and has good connections with youth and families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director