

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of GM543
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL RICE,
for a term to expire 06-30-2023

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 2/18/2022

Hearing Time: 1:00 p.m.

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) **SUPPORTS** the nomination
2 and confirmation of Samuel Rice to the State Council on Mental Health.

3 **Department Testimony:** The role of the State Council on Mental Health is to advise, monitor,
4 review and evaluate the provision of mental health services in the state. The State Council on
5 Mental Health is an active advocate who provides a voice for children, youth, adults, and their
6 families on behavioral health issues. Its membership is comprised of twenty-one dedicated
7 volunteers representing consumers, family members, community members and state
8 employees who give their time, energy, expertise and experience to improve and advocate for a
9 system of care that provides quality mental health service to the people of Hawaii. The State
10 Council on Mental Health is administratively attached to the Department.

11 Mr. Samuel “Ray” Rice fills the mandated State Council on Mental Health membership
12 position of the principal state agency with respect to social services, pursuant to Chapter 334-
13 10 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Federal Law, Public Law 102-321, Section 1914(c).

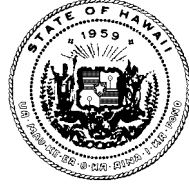
14 Mr. Rice is the Assistant Program Development Administrator for the Department of
15 Human Services (DHS), Adult Protective and Community Services, Social Services Division. He

1 has over 20 years of experience working in the social services field, particularly with the
2 children and families, and aging, disabled, and behavioral health populations. He is well versed
3 in addressing mental health issues from a community coordination perspective and sees
4 firsthand that there is a need for additional community mental health resources. His
5 motivation to serve as a member of the State Council on Mental Health is to offer his
6 experiences that may be useful in achieving the State Council on Mental Health's goals.

7 The Department strongly supports the appointment of Mr. Rice to the State Council on
8 Mental Health.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
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February 17, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **GM 543- Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, S. Ray Rice for a term to expire 06-30-2023**

Hearing: February 18, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

As the Director of the Department of Human Services, I am writing in strong support for Governor's Message 543 – nomination of S. Ray Rice to the State Council on Mental Health.

Mr. Rice joined the Department of Human Services in December 2015 as an Assistant Program Development Administrator in the Adult Protective and Community Services Branch. Mr. Rice oversees the Federal Repatriation Program, State Supplemental Payment Program, and APCS Case Management Program. He holds a Master of Education degree, as well as a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree. He keeps himself apprised on current issues surrounding mental health and dementia by attending training and conferences.

With his experience in the social services field working with children and families, the disabled and elderly, as well as those with mental illness, Mr. Rice is motivated to serve as a member of the council and is a qualified advocate for adults diagnosed with a severe mental illness and for children and youth diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance. He will be an

asset to have and will assist in improving the system of care that provides quality mental health services to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nomination.