



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 640
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee,
LILINOE KAUAHIKAUA, for a term to expire 06-30-2023

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 4/8/2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The subject matter of this measure intersects with 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 Ms. Lilinoe
10 Kauahikaua to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances
11 (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2023.

12 HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not limited to
13 pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational, legal
14 defense, enforcement, and corrections segments of the community, pursuant to HRS §329-2.

15 Ms. Kauahikaua joined Papa Ola Lōkahi under Hale Ho'ona'auao: The Learning Institute in the
16 role of Population Health Specialist, focusing on addictions.

1 Ms. Kauahikaua has a Master of Social Work from the University of Hawaii, Manoa, (2021), a
2 Hawaii Lifestyles Certificate-Hawaiian Studies from the Hawaii Community College. (2018),
3 and a Bachelor's in Administration of Justice with a minor in Hawaiian Studies from the
4 University of Hawaii at Hilo (2015). At the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) her research
5 focus included data disaggregation, and indigenous approaches to: behavioral/mental health,
6 reentry services, incarceration, and substance misuse. Ms. Kauahikaua helped to develop the
7 Mālama Project, a culturally grounded collegiate recovery program at UH Mānoa for students
8 impacted by substance misuse.

9 We request your favorable consideration for the nomination of Ms. Kauahikaua to serve as the
10 educational sector representative on HACDACS.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of onewhose appointment adds to the
12 cross-section of community interests represented on HACDACS.

13 **Offered Amendments: None**



April 7, 2022

TO: The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President, And Members of the Senate Thirty-First
State Legislature Hawai'i State Capitol
Room 409 Honolulu, Hawai'i 9681

RE: In Support of Lilinoe Kauahikaua's appointment

Aloha Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

It is a great honor to support Governor Ige's nomination of Lilinoe Kauahikaua, MSW to Hawai'i's Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances through 6/30/2023.

Ms. Kauahikaua is passionate about this subject matter, especially as it pertains to marginalized and minority members of society. She is a continuous learner of best practices, a trained peer mentor and aspires to continue her academic journey to make a real difference in this field.

Ms. Kauahikaua is the first fellow with 'Ekolu Mea Nui, a non-profit organization committed to the transformation of Hawai'i's Criminal Justice system through Native Hawaiian values and practices. Ms. Kauahikaua has made strides to the social work practice in both these separate but very connected phenomenons: substance misuse and over incarceration. She will add great value to this committee. For these reasons, 'Ekolu Mea Nui strongly supports GM 640.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit my support,

Jamee Māhealani Miller, EdD, LSW

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Ekolu Mea Nui Board

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GM-640

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 4:20:59 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Burke	Testifying for The Mapuna Lab at the Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health at the University of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I submit this testimony in full **SUPPORT** for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS) for Gubernatorial Nominee, Lilinoe Kauahikaua.

As the first Population Health Specialist focusing on substance misuse at Papa Ola Lōkahi, Ms. Kauahikaua represents the Native Hawaiian Health Care System and is able to convey their needs and priorities to HACDACS. This is essential as Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented among those affected by substance use disorder (SUD).

Kauahikaua's advocacy as a social worker in recovery and her experience (1) leading collegiate recovery programming at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; (2) convening stakeholders in Native Hawaiian health specific to SUD; (3) establishing strategic partnerships with the Department of Health; and (4) publishing a framework to guide statewide response to the prevention and treatment of SUD for Native Hawaiians will be of significant benefit to HACDACS and support activities that are compassionate and culturally anchored.

We have enjoyed collaborating with Ms. Kauahikaua over the last two years through the Hawai'i Opioid Initiative and through our Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services-funded contract with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division and look forward to learning how we may endorse the recommendations of HACDACS in our work through our partnership as we continue to look to her expertise and Papa Ola Lōkahi for guidance on best practices to eliminate disparities in SUD experienced by Native Hawaiians.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Katherine Burke, MPH
Principal Investigator
The Māpuna Lab
Department of Social Work

Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Honolulu, HI 96822

GM-640

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 6:34:09 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susana Helm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Lilinoe Kauahikaua's nomination to HACDACS... She will be an excellent asset to the council. In her current role with Papa Ola Lokahi, she is uniquely situated to provide ongoing communication and advocate for the educational needs of those working with Native Hawaiians and Substance use.

GM-640

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 10:50:43 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheri Daniels	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support the nomination and selection of Lilinoe Kauahikaua to this seat on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

April 6, 2022

Testimony supporting the confirmation of Lilinoe Kauahikaua to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. (GM640)

I would like to support the nomination of Ms Lilinoe Kauahikaua to the Hawaii Advisory Council on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

- I have worked and known Lilinoe for a little over a year, both personally as a friend, in her capacity with Papa Ola Lokahi, Native Hawaiian Health Systems.
- Ms Kauahikaua maintains a professional approach to her work throughout the various island communities. She has the background experience and education to support best practices; both (Western) academic and cultural, in her work with substance abuse and mental health providers.
- Ms Kauahikaua engages with community treatment providers on a regular basis and is knowledgeable in regards to treatment modalities and options.
- I highly recommend Ms Kauahikaua to the Council as she would provide a fresh perspective. Being from the Big Island, she is also very connected with neighbor island communities and not just “Oahu centric”.

I am a retired Native Hawaiian social worker with a Masters in Social Work and 40+ years of experience working across all islands in the areas of substance abuse and mental health. My specialty in this area concentrated on integrating Native Hawaiian cultural practices into Western treatment modalities. Currently, I serve on an island wide substance abuse group with Papa Ola Lokahi. The group is managed and led by Ms Kauahikaua.

Please feel free to contact me at jackiehong64@gmail.com if you have a question and or concerns.

GM-640

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 11:31:03 AM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Ann Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support bringing Lilinoe Kauahikaua on board to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. As someone who knows Lilinoe and has had the wonderful privilege of working along side her, Miss Kauahikaua is a dedicated, compassionate, passionate, and definitely reliable Natvie Hawaiian woman who strives for the utmost highest of qualities in everything she does and works towards. She is definitely someone who deserves to be part of the Advisory Commission.

Mahalo, Lindsay Ann Pacheco

To:

Hawaii Senate Committee on Health
Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

For:

GM640

Date:

Friday, April 8, 2022, at 1:00 pm

Where:

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Aloha, Hawaii Senate Committee on Health, Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, and respective committee members, my name is Creelyn Eisenberg. I am a Maui resident and a constituent of District 6, a community mental health worker, and a master of social work student at UH Mānoa's School of Social Work and Public Health, specializing in Behavioral Mental Health. However, with appreciation, I submit testimony today on behalf of myself in *strong support of GM 640*. I strongly support the nomination of Lilinoe Kauahikaua to hold a place in the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

Over the last couple of years, I have met and enjoyed working alongside Lilinoe Kauahikaua in school and with a national nonprofit organization known as SAFE Project (Stop Addiction Fatality Epidemic Project). Lilinoe has been a fantastic mentor who has guided me and continuously fueled my passion for mental health, addiction, and ending the stigma surrounding the two. I have witnessed many of her outstanding accomplishments and have seen her pioneer the way for collegiate recovery at UH Mānoa and across other Hawai'i college campuses. What I have had the pleasure of seeing her accomplishments thus far leaves me with

no doubt that she has much more to achieve and contribute. Working with Lilinoe Kauahikaua is a pleasure, and it would be an honor for the state to nominate her for this position.

Thank you for your time and consideration on GM640 and for this opportunity to provide my support for Lilinoe Kauahikaua and on GM640 as well.

Respectfully,

Creelyn Eisenberg

GM-640

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 12:02:39 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeri gertz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lilinoe Kauahikaua is a hard worker and a tireless advocate. She puts all her heart into those things that she is passionate about. She is eager to use her hard won knowledge to assist others. You can count on her to be a good collaborator and Lilinoe would be an asset to any team.

Stephen Morse, MSW

TO: Senate Committee on Health

RE: GM 640 – Confirmation of Lilinoe Kauahikaua to Hawai`i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

POSITION: **STRONGSUPPORT**

April 8, 2022

Aloha Chair Keohokalole and Vice-Chair Baker. My name is Stephen Morse. I have been a practicing social worker in the State of Hawai`i for over 50 years. I strongly support the confirmation of Lilinoe Kauahikaua to the Hawai`i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

I had the great pleasure of supervising and mentoring Lilinoe two years ago when she served as both a volunteer and Field Study Student while she was completing her Masters in Social Work program at the UH Thompson School of Social Work. She was an excellent volunteer and student who exhibited solid creative and critical thinking skills.

But, I was most impressed with the kuleana (responsibility) she has accepted in helping others overcome their addictions. She had to overcome many personal challenges to get to this point, and I am so proud of her for what she has achieved.

I believe that through her personal experiences, study, and work experiences, she is positioned to be an active and tremendous asset for the State on this Commission.

I strongly urge the committees to confirm Ms. Kauahikaua. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

GM-640

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 12:08:31 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Kauahikaua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lilinoe Kauahikaua certainly knows a great deal about these issues, especially among native Hawaiians. Her policy work at Papa Ola Lokahi has been exceptional and I think she would be a great asset to the Hawaii ADvisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

LATE

GM-640

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 3:08:51 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosanna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the Gubernatorial Nominee of Lilinoe Kahuahikaua to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. She is of upstanding character and every space is greatly benefited by her presence. She brings expert knowledge to this field and has experience facilitating policy change in various capacities.