



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of GM644
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, MARGARET JACKSON,
for a term to expire 06-30-2024

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 4/8/2022

Hearing Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

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

12 Ms. Margaret “Jackie” Jackson fills the mandated Hawaii State Council on Mental Health
13 membership position of a family member, pursuant to Chapter 334-10 of the Hawaii Revised
14 Statutes and Federal Law, Public Law 102-321, Section 1914(c). Ms. Jackson is employed as a
15 parent partner for Hawaii Families as Allies, an organization primarily staffed by parents,
16 grandparents, foster parents, or hanai parents of children with emotional and/or behavioral

1 health challenges. In her role, she encourages families she works with to be vocal advocates
2 and to make their voices heard.

3 She came to Hawaii in 1987 and is a married mother of two adult sons as well as the
4 legal guardian of an 11 year old child with special needs. She has compassion for family
5 members who struggle with both mental health and substance abuse issues. Her passion for
6 supporting Hawaii youth and their 'ohana is fueled by being around family members who
7 struggle with mental health and substance abuse. She has a keen understanding about the
8 positive impact of proactive behavioral health resources and the need for services to be
9 available and accessible at the time they are needed.

10 Ms. Jackson has been an active member of the Oahu Service Area Board since 2019.
11 She finds her volunteer work with the Oahu Service Area Board rewarding and enjoys learning
12 about the various ways that the board can effect positive change in Hawaii. We are pleased
13 that she is willing to continue as a volunteer member of the Oahu Service Area Board (GM642)
14 and desires to expand her role by dually serving as the Oahu Service Area Board representative
15 to the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health.

16 The Department strongly supports the appointment of Ms. Jackson to the Hawaii State
17 Council on Mental Health.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.