



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY**

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 594
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health
Gubernatorial Nominee, KRISTIN WILL,
for a term to expire 03-31-2026

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: Friday, March 31, 2023, 1:05 p.m. in Rm. 225/VIDEO

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) **SUPPORTS** the nomination
2 and confirmation of KRISTIN WILL to the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health (“SCMH”) and
3 offers comments.

4 **Department Testimony:**

5 Ms. Will fills the mandated SCMH membership position of a State agency employee that
6 represents the criminal justice system, pursuant to Chapter 334-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes
7 and Federal Law, Public Law 102-321, Section 1914(c).

8 Ms. Will is the Mental Health Unit Supervisor and Mental Health Court Coordinator for
9 the Hawaii State Judiciary. The Mental Health Unit provides oversight of defendants who are
10 participating in the Mental Health Court Program as well as defendants who have been
11 adjudicated of their crime and placed under supervision on conditional release. She has also
12 been temporarily assigned as Specialty Court Administrator overseeing the Mental Health
13 Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and Drug Court. She holds a master’s degree in clinical

1 forensic psychology and a bachelor's degree in public and justice administration. She has been
2 certified as a substance abuse counselor since 2016.

3 Since joining the SCMH as an interim member in July 2022, she has been actively
4 participating in meetings, sharing Judiciary updates, and providing input on agenda topics. She
5 is motivated to make the mental health and judicial cross sections work better, especially for
6 the disadvantaged and those at risk for recidivism. She is informed by her experiences as a
7 mother and a former youth counselor who has shared the importance of listening and letting
8 them know you genuinely care about them. She is most passionate about being someone who
9 supports and advocates for youth. Ms. Will's qualifications and experience assist her to make
10 valued contributions to the SCMH.

11 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of
12 Ms. Will to the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on her behalf.

14

15 **About the SCMH**

16 The SCMH is an active advocacy group with 21 volunteers representing service
17 recipients, family members, community members and state agency representatives who
18 provide a voice for children, youth, adults and their families on behavioral health issues.
19 Established in 1984, the SCMH's mission is to advise, monitor, review and evaluate the
20 provision of mental health services in the state. Collectively, the SCMH advises the Department
21 through the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD), and
22 Child Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) on issues of concern, policies and programs;
23 providing guidance in the development and implementation of the state mental health plan,
24 and serving as an advocate for adults diagnosed with serious mental illness (SMI) and for
25 children and youth diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance (SED).