

From: [Anna Matsunaga](#)
To: [Amelia Castro](#); [Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura](#)
Subject: FW: Regarding Your GM Nomination - On Behalf Of Senator San Buenaventura
Date: Sunday, April 2, 2023 3:57:00 PM

Questionnaire received from Kristin B. Will

From: Kristin B. Will <Kristin.B.Will@courts.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 1, 2023 5:33 PM
To: Anna Matsunaga <a.matsunaga@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Re: Regarding Your GM Nomination - On Behalf Of Senator San Buenaventura

Aloha,

Sorry for the delay however I wanted time to think and really address the questions presented. I hope this is sufficient. Please reach out to me on my cell phone or by this email if any thing else is needed. My personal cell phone number is (808) 781-2916. Thank You

Re: Governor's Message No. 594 Nomination of Kristin Will to the State Council on Mental Health

1) Why do you wish to be a member of the State Council on Mental Health?

I currently work for the State of Hawaii as a supervisor for the Mental Health Court /Mental Health Unit. I believe that the system we have for the mentally ill population definitely needs improvement. We need more services in place to help treat, house, and help the mentally ill due to the rise of mental health issues in people across the state.

2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Council on Mental Health?

I am new to being involved with the State Council on Mental Health (going into my 5th month of attending the meetings) however I believe that with all of the issues on the island that have impacted everyone's mental health (covid-19, Red Hill) it is hard to not face the fact that we are moving towards and experiencing a mental health crisis. I am a huge believer of communication and collaboration. That being said it takes more than one person to make changes and to address and advocate for the needs of mental health issues in the community in order to even begin to make changes. I think my role and responsibility as a member of the State Council on Mental Health is to listen and observe what is happening in the community and sharing that with other members of the council in order to present and address the mental health concerns across the state and the impacts it has on the community as a whole.

3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Council on Mental Health, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the State Council on Mental Health.

In the past I have worked with at risk youth and substance abuse issues, I also know the legal system (laws) on working with the mentally ill people on conditional release and in the Mental Health Court

Program. I have a masters degree in clinical forensic psychology and I am a certified substance abuse counselor. In addition, my current scope and purview in regards to my current position with the judiciary have allowed me to have develop expert knowledge on how to work and at times overcome barriers to some of the ongoing issues with mental health and community safety across the island.

4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I would like to at the very least want to start the process of addressing the changes that need to be made in the community regarding people's mental health needs such as rehabilitation of people in the judicial system with mental health issues. There are not enough mental health programs across the state. Our state is very limited even on substance abuse treatment for people with mental health issues. Housing, support, and even things we take for granted like fresh water, food etc.

5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the State Council on Mental Health?

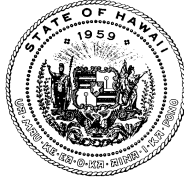
I am **passionate** about the work I do with mentally ill people, I am **empathetic** to others, and am **a team player**. All of these qualities would assist me in participation with the State Council on Mental Health.

6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the State Council on Mental Health?

I can name as few, one is that in my previous job I worked with at risk youth as a counselor, secondly in my current position with the judiciary I strictly work with people with mental health problems, and thirdly I currently reside in a non- military community that was directly affected by the Red Hill situation. All of these experiences directly relate to mental health issues that the community and island are experiencing at the present time and that could be presented and addressed within the State Council on Mental Health.

7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the State Council on Mental Health? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest? I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that any testimony submitted to Senate committees on your behalf will be posted on the Legislature's website as submitted.

I do not see any conflicts of interest however I have been working with the mentally ill population within the judiciary for the past 4 and a half years and the ongoing issue in the unit that I have worked in and now supervise directly relates to being able to fill the positions we have vacant. Our unit has been two positions short handed for almost a year and a half and prior to that we were usually one position short handed. As the supervisor in my unit I have had to cover most of the absences in our unit which has in effect been the biggest ongoing challenge to my ability to really focus on my primary position as a supervisor. As a supervisor I should carry a small case load so that I can focus on the duties of my position which would be to coordinate Mental Health Court and to provide direction and supervision to the probation officers/social workers in my unit. However, I currently have a caseload of approximately 70 to 75 clients which makes it challenging to be available for other things that come up.



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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).