

GM 548 Hannah Preston-Pita Questionnaire

A written statement that addresses the following questions:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea?

I wish to be a member of the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea because I want to be the voice for our health care systems on Hawaii island. Working in rural underserved areas, I noticed the gaps in health care services, geographically isolation in rural areas, provider shortage, and accessibility issues. Being a member of this council will provide me the opportunity to network, connect with other providers, attain information about what is happening on that state level that could impact our island.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea?

I perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawaii County Subarea as responsible individuals who have a global island understanding and are able to provide thorough guidance about the efficient use of health care system and resources, and who would be able to provide island focused comprehensive input on needs, opportunities, weaknesses, and strengths.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea, 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 Nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea.

I believe that I am qualified for the position because of my years of experience in the behavioral health care field on Hawaii Island. I am the only substance use provider that would be able to share knowledge, current trends, challenges/barriers, etc. that impact our island. Based on my doctoral degrees as a clinical psychologist and education and transformational leadership and sitting on several coalitions, task force, etc. will give me the knowledge needed to add value to council and input that will help our island community thrive.

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

During my first term of service, I would like to provide input from information that I have gathered on our island to help improve our health care systems.

5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea?

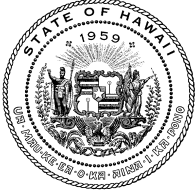
I am committed to helping our island community; I have a passion for helping people; and I am an expert and leader in substance use field.

(5) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea?

I have been recognized and received several awards as a leader in the field that will make me an asset to the council.

(6) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Nomination to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

There are not current conflicts of interest.



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

**KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

**John C. (Jack) Lewin, M.D.**  
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea St., #402, Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair,**  
**Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair,**  
**and Committee Members**

**GM 548, Gubernatorial Nominee to the**  
**Hawai'i County Subarea Health Planning Council**

**Testimony of John C. (Jack) Lewin, M.D.**  
**SHPDA Administrator**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m.**

1 **Agency's Position:** The State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) supports  
2 the nomination and confirmation of Hannah Preston-Pita to the Hawaii County Subarea Health  
3 Planning Council.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** none

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation of the  
6 Hawai'i County Subarea Health Planning Council Gubernatorial Nominee, Hannah Preston-  
7 Pita.

8 Ms. Preston-Pita has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Big Island Substance  
9 Abuse Council since 2012. Previously, she practiced as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist for five  
10 years in private practice and at the Big Island Substance Abuse Council and the Waimanalo  
11 Community Health Center.

12 Ms. Preston-Pita has a Doctorate in Education - Transformational Leadership from  
13 Concordia University in Portland as well as Masters and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from

1 Argosy University in Honolulu. She has co-authored multiple professional publications in her  
2 field and authored a number of self-published books and therapeutic resources.

3 Ms. Preston-Pita has received multiple awards for her work, including the Hawaii Public  
4 Health Institute Outstanding Service Provider in Tobacco Control, Hawaii Psychological  
5 Association Rural Psychologist of the Year, Mental Health of America Outstanding Mental  
6 Health Leader and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement 'Oiwī Leader.

7 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Ms. Hannah Preston-Pita to the Hawai'i  
8 County Subarea Health Planning Council.

9 Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**Mitchell D. Roth**  
*Mayor*

**Deanna S. Sako**  
*Managing Director*

**Robert H. Command**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

**County of Hawai'i**  
**Office of the Mayor**

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March 1, 2024

Committee on Health and Human Services  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Acquino, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Legislature  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 548 / Nomination of Hannah Preston-Pita  
to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea  
Term Ending: 06/30/2027  
Hearing Date / Time: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Via Videoconference and Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Acquino, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

I wholeheartedly endorse the governor's nomination of Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita to serve on the Health Planning Council. Dr. Preston-Pita is the current Chief Executive Officer of the Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC), which has just celebrated 50 years of dedicated service in Hawai'i. As a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Certified Substance Abuse Counselor Dr. Preston-Pita brings extensive expertise in healthcare, particularly in rural settings, and has actively participated in various coalitions, such as those focused on suicide prevention and intervention, drug-free initiatives, and homelessness projects.

Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita's exceptional qualifications and unwavering commitment to the well-being of the people of Hawai'i set her apart as an outstanding nominee for the Health Planning Council. I am confident that her diverse experience and leadership at BISAC make her an ideal candidate to contribute effectively to the Council's mission. If you have any questions or would like to discuss my recommendation further, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor/ County of Hawai'i

Tamia McKeague  
401 Haili St.  
Hilo HI 96720  
tamiamck@gmail.com

March 4, 2024

Chair, Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair, Henry J.C and  
Committee Members Jarrett Keohokalole, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Brenton Awa

Dear Senator San Buenaventura,

I am writing to express my support for the confirmation of Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea, as a member. As a constituent and current committee chair, I have been closely involved with the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea. In my role, I have witnessed firsthand Hannah Preston-Peta's exceptional dedication, expertise, and integrity.

Dr. Hannah Preston-Peta brings her extensive experience in substance abuse treatment, along with a deep understanding of health care in our community. Through her work at BISAC, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and a collaborative approach to problem-solving, invaluable for effective governance and decision-making.

Furthermore, Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita's integrity and dedication to serving the public interest are unwavering. She consistently prioritizes the needs of our community and strives to make a meaningful impact through her work. I am confident that Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita will bring valuable perspectives and insights to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea, contributing positively to its mission and objectives.

In conclusion, I urge you and your fellow committee members to give Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita your full support and favorable consideration for confirmation. She is eminently qualified and possesses the qualities necessary to excel in this crucial role.

Mahalo, for your attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Tamia McKeague

Chair, Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea

**GM-548**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 2:31:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shari R. Lynn	Testifying for Ka Hale Pomaika'i on Molokai	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

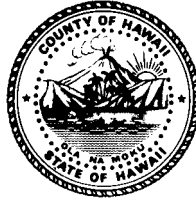
Aloha,

As the Executive Director of the only SUD treatment facility and provider on Molokai, I strongly support consideration and confirmation to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, HANNAH PRESTON-PITA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

I have had the pleasure of sharing the vision Dr. Preston-Pita holds for a safer, drug-free community both on Molokai in her past, and as a member of HSAC, our state's coalition. With my 35 years of experience I am encouraged by her track record and insight in management with our most challenging field.

Mahalo for considering her for the position and for accepting our whole-hearted support.

**Susan L.K. Lee Loy**  
Council Member  
District 3



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## **HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL**

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Hawai‘i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: GM 548: Nomination of Hannah Preston-Pita to the Health Planning Council,  
Hawai‘i County Subarea**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Mahalo for the opportunity to express support for Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita to the Health Planning Council.

Dr. Preston-Pita brings to the Council a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge having served on numerous health related organizations in several different capacities. She has been an active service provider and has proven leadership skills. Her education and commitment to the fields of education and psychology are a treasure to the Hawai‘i Island community.

I have every reason to believe Dr. Preston-Pita will continue to provide effective contributions to our communities by serving on the Health Planning Council. Our State and our County will benefit from her experience and leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan L.K. Lee Loy".

Susan "Sue" L.K. Lee Loy  
Council Member, County of Hawai‘i





## HINA MAUKA

### **GM548 Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita for Health Planning Council Hawai'i County.**

#### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Mar 6 2024: 1:00 : Videoconference

### **Hina Mauka strongly recommends Dr. Preston-Pita for Health Planning Council:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the CEO of Hina Mauka, providing services for substance use disorder and mental health including programs for prevention, adult addiction treatment, adolescent treatment, case management, and withdrawal management. We have services on Oahu and Kauai as well as help all people from all islands.*

We have known Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita for over 10 years after she became the CEO of the Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC) and joined the Hawai'i Substance Abuse Council (HSAC), supporting all behavioral health treatment and prevention agencies in Hawai'i.

As a licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Hannah is highly qualified to provide input about integrated behavioral health services. As a CEO along with her doctoral education in leadership, Dr. Preston-Pita has creatively developed and expanded BISAC's substance use disorder programs to better serve the Big Island as well as all of Hawai'i.

Under her leadership, BISAC has a reputation for professionalism in a service delivery system that is caring and compassionate, serving both youth in school-based services and adults using a system of treatment combined with housing. Dr. Hannah also developed co-occurring mental health services, recognizing that behavioral health needs often overlap between mental health and substance abuse. She is also known for creating a wellness center that includes counseling for families and has been recognized for her tobacco cessation programs.

Dr. Preston-Pita is culturally akamai, involved in leadership roles with various community groups. In recent years, BISAC developed an outpatient detoxification program and embraced harm reduction advocacy through Narcan and Fentanyl options. She has an expansive knowledge for insightful contributions to health planning.

**We highly recommend Dr. Preston-Pita for the Health Planning Council for Hawai'i County.**

**LATE**

**GM-548**

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 3:23:22 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Wailana Kukila	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: GM548 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea, Gubernatorial Nominee, HANNAH PRESTON-PITA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027

POSITION: Full Support of Nomination

Aloha Chair and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

My testimony is in full support of Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita for confirmation to the Health Planning Council, Hawai'i County Subarea. As a person and as a community leader, Dr. Hannah is a nominee who stands out due to her meaningful work on behalf of Hawai'i Island.

Dr. Hannah's heartfelt dedication to the mental health and welfare of the residents of our island home is a testament to her expertise in collaboration and thoughtful community care. Her hard work as Executive Director with the Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC) has resulted in positive change, including the standing up of two detox centers on the island, one on the west side and one on the east side. These detox centers were instituted in partnership with other community entities, all of which are invested in the betterment of our people who are in need, which benefits us all.

Dr. Hannah has also served in other capacities that have brought more awareness to the issues that face island residents. I personally know of her work on the Hawai'i County Committee on the Status of Women, of which she has faithfully served for several years as a committee member working to advocate for the women and girls of Hawai'i County. Her thoughtful expertise, careful insight, access to key community resources, and broad knowledge base have brought more meaning and depth to the work of this committee, and is much appreciated. I have enjoyed working with her on this committee over the past few years. It is exciting to anticipate what the future may hold as we see more women in leadership like Dr. Hannah who have the morals and integrity to lead us.

In conclusion, the people of the Big Island and the entire state will continue to benefit from having Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita to guide our leadership to a deeper focus on solutions to the healthcare needs of our island community. It is my hope that she continue in her many substantial roles that bring the health and wellness of our people forward in the spirit of Aloha, Mālama, Kūleana, and Lōkahi.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita.

Shana W. Kukila

Hilo, Hawai'i