

A written statement that addresses the following questions:

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

RESPONSE: I began attending State Council on Mental Health meetings in December 2021 and was confirmed as a council member in July 2022. I have over 20 years of experience in the social services field working with and advocating for children and families, the disabled and elderly, and those with mental illness. Being a council member will allow me to continue advocacy in this area.

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

RESPONSE: I perceive the role and responsibilities of a member to be self-motivated in learning and identifying what mental health services are available in communities statewide, assisting the council in developing relationships with community advocates and leaders by providing a non-threatening space for the sharing of concerns and needs, and participating in constructive dialog aimed at ensuring mental health services are available and accessible in all communities.

- 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.

RESPONSE: I hold Master of Education and Bachelor of Social Sciences degrees with over 20 years of experience in the social services field working with and advocating for children and families, the disabled and elderly, and those with mental illness. As a social worker, I've advocated for children, parents, supporting family members who were in need of mental health and other support services. As a unit supervisor, I facilitated monthly meetings with community partners (mental health hospitals, mental health agencies, community support services agencies) to collaborate on developing plans that ensured the best chances of success in placing individuals with housing and mental health needs back into the community. As an Assistant Program Development Administrator, I work with federal grantee International Social Services (ISS) and the Administration For Children and Families via the Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response in relocating U.S. citizens who are experiencing financial, medical, and mental health issues in foreign countries. This involves collaborating with the Adult Protective Services (APS) Team in reviewing repatriation referral documents and determining the financial, medical, and mental health services these individuals will need for a successful transition to Hawaii. I believe this range of experience will continue to be beneficial to the council.

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

RESPONSE: I hope to assist the council in its mission to "...advocate for a Hawaii where all persons affected by mental illness can access treatment and support necessary to live a full life in the community of their choice."

- 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?

RESPONSE:

Three qualities that describe me are respectful, engaged, and objective. Being objective in listening to individuals and advocates reporting the mental health needs of individuals and communities, with the willingness to engage and learn more about each, I believe is important in the process of developing respective relationships with the diverse communities in Hawaii. I believe these qualities would benefit 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?

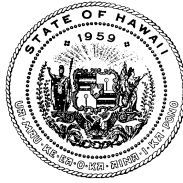
RESPONSE:

In a previous position, I facilitated a meeting with multiple community partners involving an operator of a community care home, mental health hospital staff (MH nurses, case workers, discharge personnel), a contracted community mental health agency, and a community support services agency. The goal was to assess resources in the community and develop a discharge plan that would be successful in resettling a chronically mentally ill individual back into community. This plan involved the creation of emergency response protocols by the MH agency, a time-limited exception-to-rate increase used by the care home operator to hire additional staff through the adjustment period, as well as case management services which involved monthly meetings with the MH client, the selected MH agency, the community support services agency, and the care home operator for case status updates. The plan was successful, and I believe this experience would benefit the State Council on Mental Health if similar topics of discussion arise.

- 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?

RESPONSE:

I foresee no conflicts of interests that could arise during my service on the State Council on Mental Health.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 556
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health
Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL "RAY" RICE,
for a term to expire 06-30-2027**

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

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 1:00 p.m. in Rm. 225/VIDEO

- 1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") SUPPORTS the nomination
- 2 and confirmation of SAMUEL "RAY" RICE to the Hawai'i State Council on Mental Health
- 3 ("Council") and offers comments.

- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Hawai'i Revised Statutes 334-10 call for a State Council on Mental
- 5 Health of twenty-one members. Members must be individuals representing the principal state
- 6 agencies for mental health, education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing,
- 7 Medicaid, and social services; public and private entities concerned with the need, planning and
- 8 operation, funding, and use of mental health services and related support services; adults with
- 9 serious mental illness who are receiving, or have received, mental health services; Families of
- 10 such adults or families with children with serious emotional disturbances; and The Hawai'i
- 11 advisory commission on drug abuse and controlled substances. The Council's mandate includes
- 12 advising the Department of Health on allocating resources, statewide needs, and programs
- 13 affecting two or more local areas. It reviews and comments on the statewide comprehensive,
- 14 integrated service plan. Collectively, members advocate for adults with serious mental illness,
- 15 children with serious emotional disturbances, other individuals with mental illness or emotional

1 problems, and individuals with combined mental illness and substance abuse disorder. In 2020,
2 the Council adopted the vision of a Hawai'i where people of all ages with mental health
3 challenges can enjoy recovery in the community of their choice. It adopted the mission to
4 advocate for a Hawai'i where all persons affected by mental illness can access necessary
5 treatment and support to live full lives in the community of their choice.

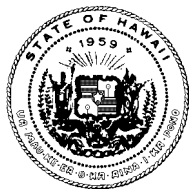
6 Mr. Rice fills the mandated Council membership position of a State agency employee
7 representing social services under Chapter 334-10, Hawai'i Revised Statutes and Federal Law,
8 Public Law 102-321, Section 1914(c). He is currently the Assistant Program Development
9 Administrator of the Department of Human Services Adult Protective and Community Services,
10 Social Services Division.

11 Since his first appointment in 2022, Mr. Rice has been an active and engaged Council
12 member. He joined the Council's Permitted Interaction Group on 2023 Legislation, lending
13 subject matter expertise on social service-related topics and asking questions that supported
14 better decision-making in the Council. He promoted alignment of effort in supporting mental
15 health, keeping the Council abreast of the needs assessment and training plans for workers in
16 adult protective, community and social services—for example, the delivery of crisis intervention
17 training through a collaborative effort. Mr. Rice has been a diligent member of the Council and
18 will continue to contribute to positive Council dynamics and results.

19 The Department respectfully requests your favorable consideration in confirming
20 Mr. Rice's appointment to the State Council on Mental Health.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on his behalf.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

February 27, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director
Daisy Hartsfield, Administrator, Social Services Division

SUBJECT: **GM 556 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, SAMUEL "RAY" RICE, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

Hearing: March 6, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: the Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination and confirmation of Samuel "Ray" Rice to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH).

PURPOSE: Per section 334-10(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the State Council on Mental Health advises the Department of Health on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting two or more service areas, reviews and comments on the statewide comprehensive integrated service plan, and advocates for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, other individuals with mental illnesses or emotional problems, and individuals with combined mental illness substance abuse disorders. Through monthly meetings, all members of the community are invited to share insights and concerns about the issues affecting mental health in the State.

Mr. Rice seeks an appointment to the SCMH per section 334-10(a)(1), HRS, representing a principal state agency with respect to social services. Mr. Rice joined DHS in December 2015 as an Assistant Program Development Administrator in the Adult Protective and Community Services Branch (APCS), Social Services Division. He began attending SCMH meetings as a member of the public in December 2021 and became a SCMH committee member in July 2022.

Additionally, Mr. Rice oversees the State's Federal Repatriation Program, State Supplemental Payment (SSP) Program, and APCS Case Management Program. He holds a Master of Education degree, as well as a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree. He keeps himself apprised on current issues surrounding mental health and dementia by attending trainings and conferences.

With his experience in the social services field working with children and families, the disabled and elderly, as well as those with mental illness, Mr. Rice is motivated to serve as a member of the council and is a qualified advocate for adults diagnosed with a severe mental illness and for children and youth diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance. He will be an asset to have and will assist in improving the system of care that provides quality mental health services to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nomination.