

**GM 558: Hawaii State Council on Mental Health Questionnaire Response for Jon Fujii  
February 22, 2024**

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

To better understand how to meet the mental health needs of the Medicaid population in Hawaii.

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

As an advocate for the needs and disparities of the citizens of Hawaii suffering from Mental Health (MH) disease. Additionally, I would also have an additional advocate 'hat' on for those in the Medicaid population suffering from MH disease.

- (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.

I have worked in healthcare in Hawaii all of the nearly 34 years of my professional career, and have a good understanding of the health care delivery system in Hawaii. Working for Medicaid for the past 18 years has given me an appreciation of the difficulties faced by Medicaid members who are experiencing mental health disease. At Medicaid, we have worked specifically to target policies that can service the continuum of care for mental health disease, understanding that what might work for the most acute members may not properly address the needs of less acute members. Finally, my past 3 year term as a member of the State Council on Mental Health has given me vital experience with leveraging the voice of the Council to advocate for those suffering with MH disease.

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

I hope to improve the lives of Hawaii residents who suffer from Mental Health disease. Additionally, I hope to fortify and strengthen the fragile (and sometimes broken) continuum of care for MH disease in the State of Hawaii.

- (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?

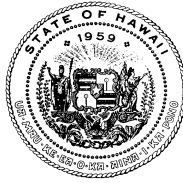
Steady, good listener, collaborator. My steadiness will help moderate the decisions of the Board, so as to not lurch to assumptions or trends that may not be beneficial in the long term. I will listen to all constituencies and the experiences that they are struggling with, and will consider all voices as decisions are made. Collaborating with other Board members will facilitate complete communication and informed decision making.

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

Working as the Health Care Services Branch Administrator (HCSBA) for the Med-QUEST Division for the past 7+ years has exposed me to the many facets of Mental Health disease in the Medicaid population in Hawaii. From the difficulty of getting Applied Behavioral Analysis services to those who suffer from Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnoses; to the importance of taking a person-centered approach when designing a suite of services for our Intellectually/Developmentally Disabled population; to the extremely difficult conditions that case management agencies face when delivering services to the adults who suffer from Serious Mental Illness/Serious and Persistent Mental Illness; to finding permanent supportive housing placements through our Community Integration Services program for the Medicaid population suffering from homelessness because of their struggles with MH disease; my past 7+ years in the HCSBA position has shown me the many challenges and opportunities that are present in our current Mental Health delivery system.

- (8) 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 do foresee possible conflicts of interest, for instance in my past tenure when the Council voted on whether to support proposed legislation that is supported by the Hawaii Medicaid program. In these past instances where there was a potential conflict of interest, I have recused myself from voting on that specific issue piece of legislation. If it becomes necessary for me to step down because of a certain potential conflict of interest that cannot be avoided by a simple recusal, then I would gladly step down to avoid any impression of my conflict of interest tainting the Council's decisions.



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 558  
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the  
State Council on Mental Health  
Gubernatorial Nominee, JON FUJII,  
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 JON FUJII to the Hawai’i State Council on Mental Health (“Council”) and
- 3 offers comments.
  
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Hawai’i Revised Statutes 334-10 call for a State Council on
- 5 Mental Health of twenty-one members. Members must be individuals representing the
- 6 principal state agencies for mental health, education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice,
- 7 housing, Medicaid, and social services; public and private entities concerned with the need,
- 8 planning and operation, funding, and use of mental health services and related support
- 9 services; adults with serious mental illness who are receiving, or have received, mental health
- 10 services; Families of such adults or families with children with serious emotional disturbances;
- 11 and The Hawai’i advisory commission on drug abuse and controlled substances. The Council’s
- 12 mandate includes advising the Department of Health on allocating resources, statewide needs,
- 13 and programs affecting two or more local areas. It reviews and comments on the statewide
- 14 comprehensive, integrated service plan. Collectively, it serves as an advocate for adults with
- 15 serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, other individuals with

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

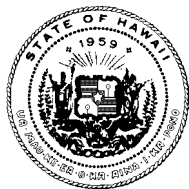
6 Mr. Fujii fills the mandated Council membership position of a State agency employee  
7 representing Medicaid and Chapter 334-10, Hawai'i Revised Statutes and Federal Law, Public  
8 Law 102-321, Section 1914(c). He is a member of the Hawai'i advisory commission on drug  
9 abuse and controlled substances ("HACDACS") and represents this commission on the Council.  
10 He is the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division Health Care Services Branch  
11 Administrator.

12 Since his first appointment in 2020, Mr. Fujii had the unique role of officially  
13 representing two areas: Medicaid and HACDACS. Last year, he patiently advocated for the  
14 mentally ill by explaining significant and dynamic changes in insurance program eligibility  
15 relating to the 2022 Congressional Act that decoupled Medicaid's continuous requirement from  
16 the COVID-19 public health emergency. Mr. Fujii continuously provided information resources  
17 and actions needed by QUEST members to stay insured, whether they remain eligible or must  
18 look elsewhere for health insurance coverage. He supported the alignment of efforts by sharing  
19 HACDACS planning and advocacy directions and actions on time. He also willingly shares his  
20 mana'o on Native Hawaiian worldview and perspectives when needed. Mr. Fujii is a thoughtful  
21 member of the Council and will continue to contribute to positive Council dynamics and results.

22 The Department respectfully requests your favorable consideration in confirming  
23 Mr. Fujii's appointment to the State Council on Mental Health.

24 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 28, 2024

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director  
Judy Mohr Peterson, Administrator, Med-QUEST Division

SUBJECT: **GM 558 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, JON FUJII, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 1:00 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconferencing, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination and confirmation of Jon Fujii to the State Council on Mental Health.

**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. Fujii seeks an appointment to the SCMH per section 334-10(a)(1), HRS, representing a principal state agency with respect to Medicaid. Mr. Fujii has been employed by the DHS

Med-QUEST Division (MQD) since 2006 and has served as the Health Care Services Branch Administrator since 2015. He has led the management and implementation of the Med-QUEST Division's medical assistance programs, including the Division's programs that address mental health. He has brought a wealth of knowledge surrounding healthcare administration and finance to the Med-QUEST Division to improve its programs and will bring that valuable experience to the State Council on Mental Health.

Mr. Fujii has been an active member of the SCMH since July 1, 2020. He holds a Master's degree in business administration and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Mr. Fujii is passionate about improving the lives of Hawaii residents who suffer from mental health disease through his work with Medicaid and the SCMH. Additionally, he hopes to fortify and strengthen the continuum of care for individuals with mental health disease and their families in the State of Hawaii.

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



820 Milliani Street, Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96813  
www.ohanahealthplan.com

March 6, 2024  
1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
The Honorable Vice Chair Henry J. C. Aquino  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: 'Ohana Health Plan  
Rachel Wilkinson, Manager, Government Relations, Marketing &  
Communications

Re: GM 558, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State  
Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, JON FUJII, for a term  
to expire on 06-30-2027; **In Support**

---

'Ohana Health Plan is pleased to offer our strong **support** of GM 558, the confirmation of Jon Fujii to serve on the State Council on Mental Health.

'Ohana Health Plan is a wholly owned subsidiary of Centene Corporation, a leading multi-national healthcare enterprise committed to helping people live healthier lives. Since 2008, 'Ohana Health Plan has provided government-sponsored managed care services to families—from keiki to kupuna—and individuals with complex medical needs primarily through QUEST Integration (Medicaid), Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans across the state.

The Hawaii State Council on Mental Health's mission is 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.

As a Medicaid and Medicare health plan with experience in serving individuals with severe mental illness (SMI) and severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), 'Ohana Health Plan works very closely with Mr. Fujii and the Hawaii Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division. Mr. Fujii leads the team that oversees the current Community Care Services (CCS) program within Medicaid that serves the SMI and SPMI populations.

The CCS program has additional benefits and resources to help those in our community dealing with behavioral health and substance use disorders, including a specialized intensive case management program for our most severely mentally ill. We believe he

will continue to be of great service to the council, as he brings a wealth of knowledge and experience dedicated to serving Hawaii's most underserved population.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on GM 558 and we respectfully ask for your support on the confirmation of Mr. Fujii to the State Council on Mental Health.





Testimony of  
Michelle Devol  
Medicaid Market Senior Director  
and  
Anthea Wang, MD  
Assistant Associate Area Medical Director, Government Program  
& Population Community Health Solutions

Before:  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

March 6, 2024  
1:00 pm  
Conference Room 415

**GM558** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, JON FUJII, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on GM558, the confirmation of John Fujii for the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH).

**Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports the nomination and confirmation of John Fujii to the SCMH.**

Mr. Fujii is currently the Acting Health Care Services Branch Administrator for the Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division and has worked in the Med-QUEST Division for the past fourteen years. He has over 30 years of healthcare administration experience and has an excellent understanding of the health care delivery system in Hawaii. Similarly, his extensive experience in the Med-QUEST Division gives him a first-hand perspective of the difficulties and challenges faced by the Medicaid population who suffer from mental health disease.

Mr. Fujii's experience, background, and commitment to public service qualify him for appointment to the SCMH where he will be an effective moderator and communicator to the members of the Board to promote collaboration and facilitate informed decision making. Kaiser Permanente works very closely with Mr. Fujii and the Hawaii Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division to improve the continuum of care for the residents of Hawaii who suffer from mental health disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM558 and Jon Fujii's nomination to the SCMH.



To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Francoise Culley-Trotman, CEO  
Gary Okamoto, MD, Chief Medical Officer  
Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President  
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager

Hearing: Tuesday, March 6, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 225

RE: **GM558 - Consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, JON FUJII, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

---

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of the confirmation of Jon Fujii to the State Council on Mental Health.**

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 80,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 40 percent of our membership are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

As a Med-QUEST health plan, we have worked closely with Mr. Fujii as the Branch Administrator of Med-QUEST Division Health Care Services, over the past nine years. His knowledge about Hawai'i's healthcare systems, its public financing, and service delivery models is wide and deep. He is an expert in Hawai'i's QUEST Integration, its five managed care health plans, health plans for those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, and navigating the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Combining his current role with a prior decade of leading the Department of Human Services Data Analysis and Provider Network and contracting for a large health system, Mr. Fujii has proficiency in value-based-purchasing, pay-for-performance, coding and risk adjustments, prospective payment methods, and other healthcare programs.

Mr. Fujii has experience in developing or overseeing solutions for integrating medical and behavioral health and strategies in mitigating the negative impact of Social Determinants of Health. Mr. Fujii has served as an appointed member of the State Council on Mental Health since 2020, and he has served on the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance during a period of escalating opioid related deaths, rising heart failure from Hawai'i's endemic methamphetamine addiction, and an increasing homeless population struggling with psychiatric conditions. He has addressed problems that Mental Health America providers have faced in caring for adults with serious mental illness and has played a key role in guiding Community Care Services through QUEST Integration. He embraces a whole person philosophy. His continued service will contribute to the diversity of community interests and expertise on the State Mental Health Council.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of the confirmation of Jon Fujii to the State Council on Mental Health.**



March 6, 2024

**To: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS)**

From: Hawaii Association of Health Plans Public Policy Committee

Date/Location: March 6, 2024; 1:00 p.m./Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony in support of GM558– Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jon Fujii, for a term to expire 6-30-2027.**

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM558, the confirmation of Jon Fujii for the State Council on Mental Health.

Mr. Fujii has spent the past 14 years serving the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Hawaii through his work for the Hawaii State Department of Human Services, MedQUEST Division, where he is currently the Acting Health Care Services Branch Administrator. He earned his Bachelor’s of Arts degree in finance and his Master’s of Business Administration degree in finance and real estate from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Mr. Fujii has the experience needed to fill this role as he previously served as a Board Member for the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health where he represented DHS’s MedQUEST Division Medicaid Program and the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM558 and Jon Fujii’s nomination to the State Council on Mental Health.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members

**Commented [RK1]:** I think I'm reading this correctly. He's listed as a board member on their site, but it looks like his term expired.  
<https://scmh.hawaii.gov/meet-the-board-members#title12>