

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State Capitol, Room 213
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination as Director of Human Services
Governor's Message No. 642

Aloha Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide responses to your questions regarding my nomination for the Director of the Department of Human Services. It is an honor to be nominated by Governor Green and be part of the DHS team.

1. Why do you wish to be Director of the Department of Human Services?

It is a great honor to be able to work in the Administration and partner with the Legislative Branch to support the people of the State of Hawaii. I am born and raised local boy with deep roots in our community and that has fostered a life-long commitment to improve the quality of life for our keiki and their ohanas. Throughout my career, I have emphasized the value of family, importance of social services and advocacy for policies that support people during various life challenges. I desire to serve as the Director because it is responsible for the operations, performance and vision of an organization that directly supports the lives of our families in Hawaii.

To be the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) is an opportunity to lead a value driven department that provides essential services to those who may be struggling. As Director, I can utilize my experience as a policy maker, social worker,

educator, and community leader to better the lives of families across our State. The role of the Director is a challenging one that would require that person to develop and improve the state's services to the most vulnerable ohanas and achieve the best quality of care possible. I wish to be the Director to support the mission of DHS which is "to provide timely, efficient and effective programs, services and benefits for the purpose of achieving the outcome of empowering Hawaii's most vulnerable people; and to expand their capacity for self-sufficiency, self-determination, independence, healthy choices, quality of life, and personal dignity." This honor would allow me to continue my passion for public service and be able to support the needs of Hawaii's people.

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of the Director of the Department of Human Services?

The Director of the Hawaii's Department of Human Services plays a critical leadership role in ensuring the delivery of essential federal and state programs to our most vulnerable populations, including our keiki, our kupuna, people with disabilities, and struggling low-income families. Responsibilities of this position include managing a large and diverse workforce, overseeing a \$4 billion dollar budget, developing and implementing policies passed by our State Legislature, ensuring compliance with State and Federal regulations, and advocating for needed resources. The Director is also expected to collaborate with various community organizations, numerous Federal/State/County government entities, and non-profit stakeholders to reduce barriers affecting the community, such as those experiencing poverty, homelessness, and lack of healthcare accessibility.

The Director of DHS is also responsible to communicate with our key partners in working collaboratively on addressing our community's needs. This role requires an open and collaborative relationship with our legislature, ensuring that the budget is addressed to support service delivery and to ensure that legislative policies passed are implemented to support the people of Hawaii. All of our State Directors need to be effective communicators, educators, advocates, and collaborators.

3. Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Human Services Director, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

As a leader with 30+ years of various professional experiences in both the public and private sectors, and serving in multiple levels of management with various

responsibilities, I believe I am qualified for the position. I have a background in public service, academia, non-profit human services, and various healthcare systems. I strive to be an engaging and dynamic leader who excels in various situations and with a wide range of stakeholders. During my 18 years of at the Legislature, among other committees, I specifically served as the former Chair of Health and Human Services in the Hawaii House of Representatives. These experiences gave me the opportunity to work with my legislative colleagues on executive level policies and assist during various crisis, including COVID and the national budgetary downturn in 2008. Additionally, I had participated in various executive level educational programs and developed my skills in communication, executive management, and mediation.

Prior and during my time at the Legislature, my decades of service as a social worker have afforded me a wealth of experience working with a diverse range of clients, across Hawaii as well as other states. My various professional social work roles include work with a variety of multidisciplinary teams, management of complex cases and navigating intricate health care systems. Over time, I had the privilege of supporting keiki and ohanas during crisis, individuals dealing with substance abuse and mental health struggles, and working on case management and crisis intervention to those of all ages. Helping people during very challenging times requires a high level of empathy, resilience, and focus. Seeing those in need overcoming barriers and improving their quality of life to find their own solutions has been one of the most fulfilling parts of my social work career.

Throughout my elected and social work career, I have had the opportunity to work with great interdisciplinary teams to analyze complex issues and implement solutions that ensured equitable and sustainable public service. The Human Services Director has a great responsibility to be that collaborator to work with our Governor, Legislators, and our Administrators to build a strong safety net for our community.

My brief statement would be: "I believe I am qualified for this very important position because of my extensive professional and personal experiences in social services. This includes working at an executive level, having diverse experience in leadership roles, and my ability to develop and implement strong relationships. My background in public health and community development has equipped me with the knowledge and expertise needed to address the numerous needs of our diverse population across our State. I will strive to use my skills in communication, planning, and team collaboration to help build a successful department."

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

I hope to implement changes that improve the lives of those we serve. The people of Hawaii and our legislators deserve leaders who are committed to listening to the voices of our communities and reducing barriers to services for our keiki, kupuna and underserved population. I would like to streamline service delivery, reduce bureaucratic delays, increase transparency and work with the community to expand our service array. As the Director, I intend to enhance efficiencies, improve our workforce, maximize our resources, and justify to the legislature how we effectively use our resources. DHS staff are our connection to our communities, so I would like to increase trainings, provide them service supports and equip them with resources that protect and support those we support.

When I was asked what my legacy would potentially be while I served as Director, I hope it would be that “my term was marked as a time when the department was efficient, effective, and successful in providing essential services to the people of Hawaii. During this period, areas of child welfare, income support and staff development flourished with improvements in quality care and staff support.” I hope that during my term I would have earned the legislature’s trust and that DHS has promoted a culture of excellence and compassion.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Department of Human Services.

DHS deserves a dynamic leader who can support and lead during challenging times. The Director should be versed in various skills and the three that best describe me is empathy, leadership and analytical problem solving.

Empathy: I believe I have the ability to understand and deeply connect with various individuals and hearing their experiences enables me to relate to those who we serve. As you can see from my resume, I have held diverse positions and participated in many programs that have given me a multitude of experiences where I was able to assist communities in need. Being a part of these experiences have helped shape my understanding of diversity of human needs. This quality of relating to people helps me remain focused on prioritizing the needs of our vulnerable populations in decision-making.

Leadership: I strive to promote a collaborative leadership style that fosters a positive, solution-oriented environment that encourages communication and teamwork. I have found that this skill helps to motivate a team focus and encourages people to work together toward common goals of supporting keiki, kupuna and our communities.

The goal is to inspire and guide all our DHS team toward fulfilling our mission and supporting others.

Analytical Problem-Solving Thinking: My diverse professional and educational background has supported my development in being adept at evaluating complex situations and developing collaborative solutions that build consensus. This mindset helps me consider both evidence-based data and include practical real-life experiences in planning potential solutions.

6. Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a member.

In my volunteer role with American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health, I was called to serve following a heart-breaking incident involving the shooting of students at a school in Florida. In preparation to support the community, I had to mentally and emotionally reflect and become “pono” with the role as a disaster responder. As soon as I arrived, my role changed and I led the mental health response on-site of the memorial park. My commitment was to listen and care for survivors, listen and support the community and staff, and provide an empathetic and open environment. This experience taught me that listening was the greatest tool to supporting people and building trust. Once trust was established, we were able to work together with local officials, develop new policies, partnering with public-private entities began, and healing started.

I have other experiences that can highlight examples of my management, stakeholder engagements, resource development and leadership, however, my greatest honor from past experiences is based in the relationships that I have had the privilege of having.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service in the Department of Human Services? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interests being the Director of DHS. It is essential to maintain transparency and integrity throughout the time of public service. If conflicts of interests arise, I will disclose them and work on ensuring that my position does not bias any action or decision. During the interim period as Director, I have fostered weekly meetings with our Attorney General’s Office to review current actions in the Director’s office and help build ethical standards of conduct.

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura
February 11, 2025
Page 6

If confirmed, I will diligently uphold the trust placed in me to remain objective and avoid conflicts of interests or situations that compromise ethical standards. It is very important to me to maintain the highest levels of integrity and fairness with the people we serve, DHS staff, our community partners, and the legislature.

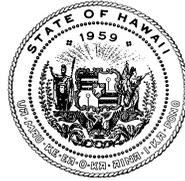
Thank you for this opportunity and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the information provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Yamane', written in a cursive style.

Ryan I. Yamane

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



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM642

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

SEN. JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025

Room Number: 225

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the nomination of
2 Ryan Yamane as Director of Human Services.

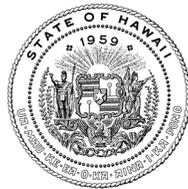
3 Mr. Yamane has years of experience in the field of social work, has earned the trust of his
4 community by being re-elected to represent House District 37 since 2004, and is a proven
5 problem-solver and collaborator as demonstrated by his years as part of the leadership of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 Throughout his legislative career, Mr. Yamane has chaired the oversight committee for DOH
8 several times, much to the department's and public health's benefit. As chair, he frequently
9 advocated for DOH during Floor Sessions on various Administration Proposals, and was a key
10 allie for critical public health policy measures.

11 Upon joining the Executive Branch as Deputy Director for the Department of Human Resources
12 Development, he immediately reached out to DOH to understand the department's HR needs,
13 and assist in maximizing a recently awarded federal grant to improve the recruitment and
14 retention of the public health workforce. Truly, an amigo of the Department of Health.

15 Mr. Yamane's passion for improving the well-being of Hawaii's residents, record of legislative
16 excellence, and a problem-solving leadership mentality is exactly what is needed during a time
17 where predictability and stability in federal policies are in question.

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 642

February 19, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Room 225 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN YAMANE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Ryan Yamane to the position of director of the Department of Human Services (Department). I currently work with Ryan Yamane in my professional capacity as Director of Finance, but I have also had the pleasure of knowing him for over 35 years.

Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward. Mr. Yamane is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Yamane has been serving as the director at the Department of Human Services since May 2024. Prior to that, he was the deputy director at the Department of Human Resources Development, and also served as a Representative with the Hawai'i State Legislature for nearly 18 years. While serving as a Representative, he chaired various committees including Health, Human Services, and Homelessness. He has been instrumental in landmark legislation and improving government operations. His extensive work experience will undoubtedly benefit the department and the State.

Ryan and I first met in 1990. We worked together as counselors for runaway teens during our college days and have remained dear friends since. I know him to be a person of strong work ethic, intense loyalty, and unwavering integrity. Even during his

long tenure as a legislator, his professional career and volunteer work has always kept him grounded in the social services field. He has worked with the American Red Cross, Civil Air Patrol, YMCA, Medical Reserve Corps, Lion's Club, and the Honolulu Police Department to name a few. His dedication to the field of social services is unparalleled and he will make a great Director of Human Services for our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:20:07 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Lopez	Testifying for Department of the Attorney General	Support	In Person

Comments:

Good Afternoon Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

I write in strong support of Ryan Yamane’s confirmation as Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). I have had the opportunity to work with Ryan in his capacity as Director for 10 months. I am impressed with his critical thinking about his role as a director and about the performance of the DHS. He has worked collaboratively on several matters with the deputy attorneys general who provide advice to DHS and with me. Ryan shares his knowledge freely and is always open to my questions. His attitude is one of working toward success and as a result, he addresses issues squarely, with a willingness to problem-solve, and in a timely manner. Ryan’s understanding of social services is excellent and as a result, he was able to hit the ground running last May when he started this job. He fits in perfectly with the current roster of directors and I look forward to being able to continue our work into the future..

Regards,

Anne



STATE OF HAWAII

Executive Office on Early Learning

Ke'ena Ho'okele Ho'ona'auao Pae Kamali'i o Hawai'i Moku'aina
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

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

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Testimony on G.M. No. 642 – Ryan Yamane, Director of the Department of Human Services
Committee: HHS
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 225

Executive Office on Early Learning's Position: **SUPPORT**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) offers the following comments in support of the appointment of Mr. Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

I first met Mr. Yamane at the Hunt Institute's Early Childhood Leadership Summit in August 2023, which focused on the role of collaboration in early childhood education. In 2024, we both attended the Summit once again and learned from keynote speakers, including elected leaders and some of the nation's foremost early childhood professionals. The Summit provided our Hawai'i team an invaluable opportunity to connect, collaborate, and network on critical early childhood issues while discussing how to address urgent early childhood needs in Hawai'i.

As the office responsible for coordinating Hawai'i's early learning system – which spans multiple programs across various departments – collaboration with state agencies is essential to our mission. Since joining the Department of Human Services, I have found Mr. Yamane to be both approachable and collaborative. I look forward to continuing our partnership with the Department under his leadership and encourage the committee to support his appointment.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued investment in our youngest keiki and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments in support of Mr. Yamane's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

February 18, 2025

To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

Date: February 19, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: G.M. 642; Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Mr. Yamane is an experienced and dynamic leader with a background as a state Representative and a Clinical Director at Ho'okūpono. As a state Representative from 2004 to 2023, he chaired various committees including Health, Human Services, and Homelessness, working to address the various labor and training issues each department faced.

The DLIR appreciates its partnership with Mr. Yamane while serving as Deputy Director at the Department of Human Resources Development in addressing workforce retention, recruitment, training, and development which has been most challenging in recent times. As DHS Director, his leadership has been essential to our success in addressing the processing backlog of the Work Opportunity Tax Credits and other myriad issues facing DLIR and DHS. The DLIR, DHS, and Mr. Yamane share the important goal of *malama 'aina*. We look forward to working with him to ensure that we are as unailing as possible under our respective statutory authorities.

The DLIR believes that Mr. Yamane's compassion and dedication leading the DHS will ensure that there are social programs to support the most vulnerable overcome challenges and transition to a better life. Mr. Yamane will have no shortage of issues and problems to tackle, but we are confident that he will provide a strong and effective leadership as DHS Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 642.

DRAFT



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

JOHN MIZUNO
DIRECTOR
STATEWIDE OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Testimony of **John M. Mizuno**
Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225, State Capitol

In Consideration of
Governor's Message No. 642

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Committee Members,

My name is John Mizuno, and I serve as the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness and the Director of the Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions (SOHHS).

I am providing testimony in strong support of **Governor's Message NO. 642** for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire on 12-07-2026 as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

I served with Ryan in the Legislature from 2007 through 2022. During that time, I saw firsthand Ryan's expertise in the social services arena, along with his leadership. Ryan has significant experience and understanding in such areas as Medicaid, Child Welfare Services, Homelessness, SNAP, Disability rights, and Youth Services.

Another valuable aspect Ryan brings to the Department of Human Services is his relationship with the Legislature. This relationship will provide sound understanding and a good partnership between the Executive and Legislative branches.

Ryan is an analytical thinker, has a phenomenal work ethic, and is focused on advancing social services for the people of Hawaii. I am confident that Director Ryan Yamane has the experience and the knowledge necessary to serve the State of Hawaii well as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Testimony of John M. Mizuno

Governor's Message No. 642

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Page 2

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of **Governor's Message No. 642**, the appointment of Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Warmest Mahalo,

John M. Mizuno

Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol

In consideration of
Governor's Message 642
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Human
Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Yamane

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

As a former State Representative, Mr. Yamane has demonstrated a deep commitment to public service and a profound understanding of the needs of our communities.

Throughout his tenure as a State Representative, Mr. Yamane consistently advocated for policies that uplifted and empowered individuals and families across our state. His dedication to improving access to healthcare, addressing homelessness, and supporting vulnerable populations has been unwavering. Mr. Yamane's experience in crafting and advancing legislation that directly impacts the lives of our residents makes him an ideal candidate to lead the Department of Human Services.

One of Mr. Yamane's notable achievements during his time in the legislature was his leadership in passing legislation to expand healthcare coverage for low-income individuals and families. His efforts ensured that thousands of Hawaiians gained access to vital healthcare services, improving their overall well-being and quality of life. This demonstrates his ability to navigate complex policy issues and implement solutions that make a meaningful difference in the lives of our citizens.

Furthermore, Mr. Yamane has consistently demonstrated a collaborative and inclusive approach to governance, working across party lines to find common ground and enact positive change. His ability to build consensus and forge partnerships will be invaluable in leading the Department of Human Services, where cooperation with various stakeholders is essential to effectively address the diverse needs of our communities.

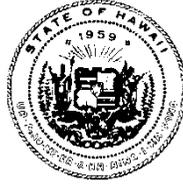
In addition to his legislative accomplishments, Mr. Yamane brings a wealth of experience in community engagement and advocacy. He has a proven track record of

listening to the concerns of constituents and working tirelessly to address them. His deep roots in the community and his genuine empathy for those in need make him a trusted and respected leader.

The DOT appreciates its partnership with DHS in addressing homelessness and believes Mr. Yamane has the compassion and drive to keep Hawaii's people and their families healthy and safe with opportunities to thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

25:OED

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
1:00 PM
Conference Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
GM 642

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN YAMANE,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026**

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 642, to consider and confirm Mr. Ryan Yamane to the position of Director of the Department of Human Services.

Since becoming the interim Director for the Department of Human Services (DHS), Mr. Yamane has provided leadership, support, and care to the State's often overlooked and under-served populations.

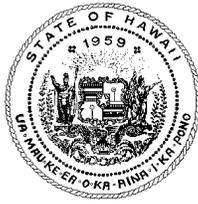
I have known Mr. Yamane for many years, and I am honored to be working alongside with him in Governor Green's Administration. He is an integral part of a team that is committed to addressing the many issues facing our State and I believe that he will be able to effectively fulfill his role through his life experiences and professional expertise.

There is no doubt in my mind that he will continue to bring a fresh perspective on how to deliver services, improve the experience of those we serve, and strive to maximize taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.

The HPHA urges the Committee to pass GM 642 and confirm Mr. Ryan Yamane to the position of Director of the Department of Human Services.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Pamela J. Sturz
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 642
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF RYAN YAMANE TO BE
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

by

Tommy Johnson, Director

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

Wednesday, February 19, 2025; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Via Video Conference



Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I submit testimony in strong support of the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Yamane, to be the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS), for a term ending December 7, 2026. Mr. Yamane has a diverse and wide-reaching work background needed to lead a large and complex operation such as the DHS.

Mr. Yamane, work experience with several organizations, state agencies, and his previous legislative experience is invaluable and will assist him in leading the DHS forward.

He possesses the prerequisite knowledge, honed leadership and managerial skills, interpersonal, and decision-making skills required of the Director's position.

I strongly urge the committee to recommend advice and consent for this qualified nominee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in very strong support of the Governor's Message No. 642 and Mr. Yamane.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 642

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

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 642, the appointment of Ryan Yamane to be the Director for the Department of Human Services.

Mr. Yamane is an experienced and motivated leader with a background as a Clinical Director at Ho'okūpono and as a state representative. During his time at Ho'okūpono, Mr. Yamane worked to provide clinical and supervision of four programs in an adolescent day treatment program for at-risk youths located on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island, worked with a variety of staff, including social workers, teachers, and counselors, and collaborated with various agencies and state departments to advocate and promote programs. Mr. Yamane also served as a state representative from 2004 to 2023, chairing various committees related to the department, including the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness where he helped to pass important legislation to cover all keiki through Medicaid in the state and supporting important priorities for the departments in his committee's jurisdiction.

I am confident that Mr. Yamane, with his over three decades of experience in the public and private sector, has the necessary skills and leadership to be the next Director of the Department of Human Services and I am pleased to offer my full support of his nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration.



JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

BRIAN K. FURUTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMŌHALA LIMAHANA
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

Statement of
BRENNA H. HASHIMOTO
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of

GM642 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.
(Position corrected by GM651)

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and the members of the committee:

The Department of Human Resources Development (HRD) supports the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services (HMS).

Mr. Yamane is well-qualified to lead in this capacity as he has a proven track record of public service - first as a legislator, then as a deputy director, and for the past 10 months, as the director of Human Services. His background as a social worker and his prior experience as a legislator has afforded him the opportunity to gain extensive knowledge of the legislative and budgeting processes and public policy, which will serve the department and the state well.

In the past couple of years of working with Mr. Yamane, I have found him to be a responsive, open-minded, and results-oriented leader.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 642

February 19, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Room 225 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN
YAMANE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Ryan Yamane to the position of director of the Department of Human Services. I have had the opportunity to work with Ryan Yamane over the past two years when he was at the Department of Human Resources and Development, as well as the Department of Human Services. I find Ryan to be an exceptional leader, who cares about the people and the communities that he works in and with, and is someone who is committed to making Hawai'i a better place.

Governor Green's administration's priorities are housing, homelessness, reducing the cost of living, climate, healthcare, and education. Ryan similarly shares these priorities and through his experience at the State Legislature, has developed a strong knowledge of the many programs within the Department of Human Services that pertain to these areas. He is passionate about serving the community and improving government services. He is committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Ryan is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in a transparent, accountable, and responsive manner. I have also had the opportunity to serve with Ryan on the Employer Union Trust Fund as a fellow trustee. Within a short year, he has risen to the Chairperson role, where he facilitates our meetings and allows the trustees to engage in fruitful and constructive dialogue.

Ryan has been serving as the director at the Department of Human Services since May 2024. Prior to that, he worked at the Department of Human Resources Development as the deputy director. He served in the Hawai'i House of Representatives from 2004 to 2023 where he chaired various committees including health, human services, and homelessness. His work experience will benefit the department and the State; therefore, I strongly support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 642

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

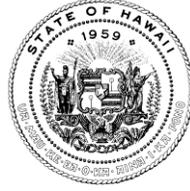
Chairperson San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Yamane as the Director, Department of Human Services (DHS). Ryan brings much experience to the work of the department, previously serving as state Representative and chairing the House Committees on Health, and Human Services and Homelessness, which augments his success as the Director of DHS.

Respectfully requesting your vote to confirm his nomination to serve as the Director of DHS. He is qualified, well-respected, and the right person for the position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225, and Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
**G.M. 642, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN YAMANE,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026**

Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. I support the appointment of Mr. Ryan Yamane to the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Mr. Yamane's educational background makes him well-suited for this role. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, a Master of Social Work, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. This blend of social services knowledge and management skills is crucial for effectively leading DHS. His experience as a medical social worker at Queen's Medical Center and as a Clinical Director for adolescent treatment programs further strengthens his understanding of the complex issues DHS addresses.

In addition to his academic and professional background, Mr. Yamane's nearly two decades of service in the Hawaii House of Representatives demonstrate his commitment to public service. From 2004 to 2023, he chaired several key committees, including Health, Human Services, and Homelessness, gaining invaluable insights into the challenges faced by Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

Most recently, Mr. Yamane served as Deputy Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, successfully transitioning from the legislative to the executive branch. This experience has further prepared him for the administrative challenges of leading DHS.

With his relevant education, professional expertise, and extensive public service experience, Ryan Yamane is an outstanding candidate for DHS Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540

FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

In consideration of G.M No. 642

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, gubernatorial nominee, Ryan Yamane

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 225

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

I believe that Mr. Yamane's prior experience as a state Representative, his past leadership role with the Department of Human Resources Development, and his current role leading the Department of Human Services (DHS) makes him an excellent candidate to continue leading DHS. Through my many interactions with Mr. Yamane, I know that he is committed to helping our residents through the many vital programs offered by DHS. Please allow Mr. Yamane to continue his role as the Director of DHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 642.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

PHILLIP L. MALLORY
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON GM 642

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BY

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on **GM642 in SUPPORT** of Mr. Ryan Yamane's appointment as Director for the Department of Human Services (DHS).

I have worked closely with Director Yamane dating back to my initial appointment as Deputy Adjutant General for the Department of Defense while he was a state legislator, as well as a fellow cabinet member and I wholeheartedly support him.

Director Yamane is uniquely qualified to lead the DHS and will selflessly serve the people of Hawaii. He holds a Master of Social Work degree and has worked both in the public and private sectors of the social services industry as a social worker, therapist, mental health specialist, and Director of the Ho'okupono Program. His broad experience and expertise, along with his seasoned leadership as a former Deputy Director for the Department of Human Resources Development and the Chair of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and Homelessness, will provide inimitable leadership, understanding and direction for our state.

I have great respect for Director Yamane as both a peer and friend. He embodies being a public servant and a member of the community and has dedicated his life to bettering

Hawaii. He has an intimate understanding of our state government and Hawaii law and can be trusted to lead the DHS with integrity and aloha. I sincerely believe the State of Hawaii and its people would be fortunate to have Director Yamane at the helm of the Department of Human Services.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

MG Stephen F. Logan, Stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Testimony of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
GM 642
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE,
for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the Committee.

I strongly support the appointment of Ryan Yamane to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Ryan has more than 30 years of proven leadership experience in both the public and private sectors, of which I have known him for the last 19 years as we were both members of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives. During his tenure as a Hawai'i State Representative, he received many awards including Legislator of the Year by the Hawai'i Medical Association and the Hawai'i Psychiatric Medical Association, State Representative of the Year by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, and countless other recognitions.

Previously, Mr. Yamane was an educator in social work, healthy policy, business and mathematics and served as a social worker and mental health specialist and therapist for entities including Queen's Medical Center, Child and Family Service, and the State Department of Health. In addition, he has also spent his time volunteering with the American Red Cross, Honolulu Police Department, FEMA, and Medical Reserves Corps, as well as a number of other organizations.

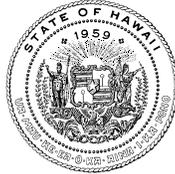
Testimony of James Kunane Tokioka
GM 642
February 19, 2025
Page 2

He has an extensive educational background in psychology, social work and business administration and has completed programs in health care and disaster preparedness and resilience, just to name a few.

We saw Mr. Yamane step up as the Director of the Department of Human Services at a critical time when we were supporting the recovery of Maui wildfire survivors. I look forward to continuing to work with him as he serves the individuals, families and communities in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for Ryan Yamane's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services. Mahalo for the opportunity to offer my strong support.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FEBRUARY 19, 2024, 1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 642

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN YAMANE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 642.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** the Governor's nomination of Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). Mr. Yamane's background as a state Representative and a Clinical Director at Ho'okūpono make him an excellent choice for the director's position.

Mr. Yamane's tenure as a state Representative for 19-years (2004 to 2023), involved tackling challenging policy issues as the chair of several committees including Health, Human Services, and Homelessness, where he worked on addressing various labor and training issues each state department faced. In addition to Mr. Yamane's

commitment to public service, he is also very community-minded and has volunteered over the years in support of numerous non-profits, including the American Red Cross. His selfless service to those in need, particularly in times of crisis, is a testament to his deep dedication to the people of Hawai'i and beyond.

Mr. Yamane's experience and skills that he has gained over his long career in public service combined with his passion for helping those in need makes him an excellent candidate to serve as the DHS director. He understands the issues and truly supports the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Hawai'i. It is for these reasons that I humbly request your consideration and vote in support of his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Testimony of
Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
February 19, 2025 at 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of
GM 642 Ryan Yamane
Gubernatorial Nominee for
Director, Department of Human Services

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Mr. Ryan Yamane's nomination as Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services for a second term. He is well qualified to fulfill this responsibility given his professional and life experiences, his leadership, and desire to serve.

Working with Mr. Yamane when our time serving at the State Legislature coincided, I witnessed firsthand his leadership skills as he chaired committees including Health, and Water & Land. He later chaired the Health, Human Services, & Homelessness Committee where his background in the health profession advanced their work. Mr. Yamane has always demonstrated a deliberate evaluation of situations and challenges, and works to find solutions that consider the voices of all impacted.

Mr. Yamane's early professional experience as a social worker, mental health specialist, and Clinical Director of the Ho'okupuono Program ensure his knowledge and sensitivity to many of the issues the Department of Human Services addresses. His experience with state systems and leadership during his tenure as the current Director of the Department of Human Services will support the delivery of the important benefits and services to the individuals and families in Hawai'i who are in need.

I am confident in Mr. Yamane's ability to continue to lead the Department of Human Services, and I respectfully urge you to **Advise and Consent** to his nomination and forward to the full Senate for their consideration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 642

TO: Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, & Members
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO
DATE: February 19, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Parents and Children Together (PACT) supports GM 642, the gubernatorial nomination of Ryan Yamane to the position of Director of the Department of Human Services.

Director Yamane is an experienced leader in government with a social work background that gives him a unique understanding and perspective of the challenges that Hawaii's individuals, families, and vulnerable populations face. As a former legislator that chaired committees responsible for health, human services and homelessness, Director Yamane has extensive knowledge of the competing priorities our communities and elected officials face.

The Department of Human Services fulfills a large and critical role in delivering basic social safety net services across the state and PACT stands with Director Yamane in our collective effort to improve the health and safety of the individuals, parents and children we serve. We have been working together for many years and are committed to continuing this collaborative and important relationship.

Founded in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 19, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TESTIMONY ON GM 642

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau strongly supports the confirmation of Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services. His extensive experience in public service, including his tenure as a State House of Representative and his leadership roles with the American Red Cross, demonstrates his commitment to the well-being of Hawai'i's communities. His deep understanding of the challenges facing local families, combined with his ability to develop and implement effective policies, makes him an excellent choice to lead the department.

Mr. Yamane served in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives for 18 years, where he worked on critical legislation supporting public health, social services, and economic development. During his time in the Legislature, he championed policies to improve access to essential services, strengthen support systems for families, and foster programs that align with the state's goals for food security and economic stability.

In addition to his legislative experience, Mr. Yamane has played a key role in disaster response and emergency management through his work with the American Red Cross, where he has demonstrated strong leadership in crisis situations. This expertise will be instrumental in ensuring that the Department of Human Services is prepared to support Hawai'i residents in times of need, including those in rural and agricultural communities who may be disproportionately impacted by emergencies.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau has worked with Mr. Yamane over the years and has found him to be a strong advocate for policies that support both Hawai'i's people and industries. His leadership has consistently prioritized collaboration and practical solutions to address the needs of residents, particularly those in rural and agricultural communities.

As an organization representing Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers, we recognize the important role the Department of Human Services plays in supporting rural and agricultural communities. Access to healthcare, childcare, food assistance programs, and workforce development resources is critical to ensuring that agricultural producers and their families can thrive. We appreciate Mr. Yamane's awareness of these issues and his willingness to collaborate with stakeholders to create policies that address the needs of Hawai'i's underserved populations.

Mr. Yamane's leadership will help strengthen partnerships between the Department of Human Services and organizations like the Hawai'i Farm Bureau to improve food access programs, support local food production, and develop initiatives that benefit both Hawai'i's agricultural industry and the broader community. His legislative experience, disaster response expertise, and dedication to public service make him well-qualified to lead the department in achieving these objectives.

We urge the committee to confirm Mr. Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services.



THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

From: Jason Chang, President & CEO, The Queen's Health System

Date: February 19, 2025

Re: **Support** for GM642 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Yamane, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to five hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide strong **support** for GM642, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Yamane.

Mr. Yamane has dedicated his career to public service. For eighteen years as a member of the Hawai'i House of Representatives, Ryan applied his institutional experience and professional sensibility to effectively address critical public health and social challenges facing our communities. These included issues around access to essential public health services and benefits, increasing support for Child Welfare Services, and expanding coverage for the neediest keiki through Medicaid. His adept leadership of the House Health Committee provided those of us in the healthcare sector a valued champion and strong advocate who strengthened the overall health of our state.

Queen's is also grateful for his professional experience as a social worker and clinical director at Ho'okupo. Mr. Yamane's appreciation for strengthened public and private partnership in the social services sector has resulted in better care for the neediest in our state. His ability to bring practical field and clinical experience to bear on public services – in this case, at the state Department of Human Services - is laudable and critically needed now more than ever.

Mr. Yamane is a trusted and capable public servant and will be a valuable leader and ally in his position as Director of Human Services. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM.642

The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.



February 19, 2025 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

From: Hilton R. Raethel
President and CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Support**
GM 642, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Yamane

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

We would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** the nomination of Mr. Ryan Yamane to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services. We have had the privilege of working with Mr. Yamane for many years on critical initiatives to improve the health and well-being of all people in Hawaii, and we are confident in his ability to lead this department with a deep commitment to serving our communities.

Throughout his years of public service, Mr. Yamane has demonstrated an ability to bring diverse stakeholders together to achieve meaningful policy advancements. His leadership in championing the Hospital and Nursing Facility Sustainability Programs has played a pivotal role in supporting Hawaii's nonprofit hospitals and nursing homes, ensuring that they can continue to provide high-quality care to the state's most underserved residents. His pragmatic and solutions-driven approach has allowed him to navigate complex challenges and build consensus in ways that produce real, lasting improvements.

As the Department of Human Services faces critical issues—from healthcare access to social services and public assistance programs—having a director that understands the intricacies of these systems and has a proven track record of working across sectors is needed. We are confident that under his leadership, DHS will continue to make strides in improving the lives of Hawaii's most vulnerable populations. For these reasons, we strongly urge the committee to confirm his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ryan Yamane's appointment.



February 19, 2025

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

Re: GM 642 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM 642, the confirmation of Ryan Yamane for the position of Director of the Department of Human Services.

As a legislator, Mr. Yamane has worked tirelessly on behalf of Hawaii's residents while chairing multiple committees such as Health, Human Services, and Homelessness. He has tackled numerous issues including homelessness, cost of living, and broad facets of healthcare while always being willing to listen to the various stakeholders to come up with solutions that have lasting and sustainable impact.

With a bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degrees in business and social work; Mr. Yamane has the educational and experiential background to navigate the size and complexity of a department that looks to serve Hawaii's most vulnerable residents while sharing his ability to bring stakeholders together to address many of Hawaii's most pressing challenges. Also taking into consideration the various volunteer and teaching efforts that he has taken on, we believe that all of his personal and professional life experiences have provided the foundation needed to make Mr. Yamane an excellent candidate for this nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 642. We appreciate your consideration of Ryan Yamane in his confirmation to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services for the state of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Diesman
Senior Vice President
Government Policy and Advocacy

Testimony of
Jonathan Ching
Government Relations Director

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

February 19, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 225

Re: GM 642, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on GM 642, which submits for consideration of Ryan Yamane as Director for the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i SUPPORTS GM 642.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i is one of the nation’s largest not-for-profit health plans, serving 12.6 million members nationwide, and more than 271,000 members in Hawai‘i. In Hawai‘i, more than 4,200 dedicated employees and more than 650 Hawai‘i Permanente Medical Group physicians and advance practice providers work in our integrated health system to provide our members coordinated care and coverage. Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i has more than 20+ medical facilities, including our award-winning Moanalua Medical Center. We continue to provide high-quality coordinated care for our members and deliver on our commitment to improve the health of our members and the people living in the communities we serve.

Mr. Yamane possesses broad experience and expertise as the Deputy Director of the Department of Human Resources from 2023-2025 and as a state representative from 2004 to 2023. During his nearly two decades as a state representative, Mr. Yamane served as the chair of the Health, Human Services, and Homelessness Committee, House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, House Committee on Transportation, House Committee on Health, and House Tourism and Culture Committee.

Before being elected to the State House of Representatives, Mr. Yamane served as the Clinical Director of the Ho'okupono Program, as a Mental Health Specialist IV and Therapist for Child and Family Service, and as a social worker III. He is a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a Master of Business Administration, a Master's degree in Social Work, and a Bachelor of Art in Psychology.

We believe this experience in the Executive and Legislative branches, coupled with his private sector expertise make him well qualified to lead DHS. The role is tasked with important responsibilities to encourage self-sufficiency and support the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Hawai'i. Mr. Yamane experience makes him well aware of the impacts of a slowing economy or higher consumer costs that have a direct relationship with more residents seeking public assistance. He is poised to lead DHS which oversees four major divisions, three attached agencies, and several attached commissions and councils. We have found Mr. Yamane to be extremely collaborative and look forward to continuing to have him lead this important department.

We request the committee to recommend the Senate Advise and Consent to Mr. Yamane's appointment as Director of DHS.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Conference Room 225

Testimony in Support of GM 642, Nomination of Ryan Yamane for Director of Department of Human Services

To: The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Henry Aquino, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee

My name is Stefanie Sakamoto, and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Credit Union League (HCUL), the local trade association for 45 Hawaii credit unions, representing over 877,000 credit union members across the state.

HCUL offers the following testimony in strong support of Ryan Yamane for Director of the Department of Human Services.

Hawaii's credit unions have long been dedicated to improving the financial well-being of our communities, particularly for underserved and at-risk populations. Our industry shares a deep commitment to financial inclusion, social responsibility, and economic empowerment—values that align closely with the mission of the Department of Human Services (DHS). As State Representative, Ryan Yamane's deep commitment to Hawaii's residents prepared him for this role, and we believe that he possesses the leadership, vision, and expertise necessary to guide DHS in addressing the diverse and complex challenges faced by our state today.

The challenges facing DHS are substantial, particularly in the areas of housing stability, child welfare, elder care, and economic security. We are confident that under Mr. Yamane's leadership, DHS will continue to advance initiatives that will empower individuals and families to achieve long-term financial independence. We look forward to working collaboratively with them to expand access to financial education, affordable banking solutions, and economic opportunity for those who need it most.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to confirm Mr. Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony and respectfully request your favorable consideration of his nomination.

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 12:44:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
amy agbayani	Testifying for Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in strong support of GM 642 Ryan YHamane

submitted by Amy Agbayani, co-chair. Hawai`i Friends of Civil Rights

I have worked with Ryan Yamane for many years and find him to be competent, thoughtful and accessible. He is able to look at evidence, listen and assess various positions and come to a fair judgment. He knows how to work with government organizations as well as community advocacy groups. He has the qualifications and experience to lead the department.

I take this opportunity to tpublically thank him for his leadership and support on language access and immigration issues.

I am confident Mr. Yamane will be a valuable administrator.and strongly support his nomination.

Amy Agbayani

February 19, 2025

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: January 19, 2025; 1:00 pm./Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in support of GM 642 – Ryan Yamane, Department of Human Services

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to express our support for GM 642, the confirmation of Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

HAHP supports Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services. As the former Deputy Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, a long-time state Representative, and the former Clinical Director at Ho'okupuono, Mr. Yamane has the experience and expertise needed to navigate the numerous issues that come before the Department of Human Services. He chaired various committees during his time as a state Representative, including the Health, Human Services & Homelessness Committee and the Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs Committee, working collaboratively with stakeholders to introduce and pass legislation to support and strengthen the health and well-being of Hawaii residents.

For these reasons, we strongly support GM642 and appreciate your consideration of Mr. Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members



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

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager
Sarielyn Curtis, External Affairs Specialist

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 1:00 PM, Conference Room 225

RE: **GM642 Consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of the confirmation of Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services.**

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 37 percent of our members 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 Medicaid plan, AlohaCare is grateful for our strong partnership with the Department of Human Services, and we are delighted to have a proven leader in Mr. Yamane to ensure the success of the Medicaid program for the benefit of our state's residents. Mr. Yamane has an extensive resume demonstrating his commitment to the people of Hawai'i, particularly his nearly decades of leadership in the Legislature and serving as Chair of the House Health, Human Services and Homelessness Committee. With the breadth of his experience in health and human services issues, we are confident that Mr. Yamane will advance the health and well-being of Hawai'i residents. For these reasons and more, we think Mr. Yamane is uniquely qualified for the position of Director of the Department of Human Services

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of the confirmation of Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services.**

Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
In Support of GM642
Before the Committee on Health and Human Services
February 19, 2025

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (Matson) supports GM642, which nominates Ryan Yamane to serve as Director of the Department of Human Services. He has been a dedicated, long-time public servant who has a deep understanding of the many issues in Hawaii. Mr. Yamane's decades of experience in state government strongly qualifies him to lead the Department of Health and Human Services.

Matson has worked very closely with Mr. Yamane for several years. We have found him to be open, fair, and collaborative. We believe he will execute his duties with fairness and competence.

Thank you for considering our testimony in strong support.



February 19, 2025 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Vice Chair Henry J.C. Aquino

From: Darlene H. Nakayama, CEO
Palolo Chinese Home

Re: **Support**
GM 642, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Yamane

The Palolo Chinese Home would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to **support** the nomination of Ryan Yamane to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services. We have had the privilege of working with Mr. Yamane for many years on critical initiatives to improve the health and well-being of all people in Hawaii, and we are confident in his ability to lead this department with a deep commitment to serving our communities.

Throughout his years of public service, Mr. Yamane has demonstrated an ability to bring diverse stakeholders together to achieve meaningful policy advancements. His leadership in championing the Hospital and Nursing Facility Sustainability Programs has played a pivotal role in supporting Hawaii's nonprofit hospitals and nursing homes, ensuring that they can continue to provide high-quality care to the state's most underserved residents. His pragmatic and solutions-driven approach has allowed him to navigate complex challenges and build consensus in ways that produce real, lasting improvements.

As the Department of Human Services faces critical issues—from healthcare access to social services and public assistance programs—having a director that understands the intricacies of these systems and has a proven track record of working across sectors is needed. We are confident that under his leadership, DHS will continue to make strides in improving the lives of Hawaii's most vulnerable populations. For these reasons, we strongly urge the committee to confirm his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ryan Yamane's appointment.

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 1:00pm

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Ray Vara
President & CEO

Re: **Testimony in Support of GM 642
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human
Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-
07-2026**

My name is Ray Vara and I am the President and CEO of Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in support of GM 642 which submits for consideration and confirmation Gubernatorial Nominee RYAN YAMANE as the Director of Human Services (DHS).

Mr. Yamane has over 30 years of experience in the public and private sector, serving in multiple levels of management and responsibility. He is experienced in government relations, public policy, academia, and healthcare. Having served in the House of Representatives from 2004 to 2023, where he chaired several committees including those focused on health, human services and homelessness, he has a sound understanding of the issues facing our communities. Through his work as a state representative, Mr. Yamane has demonstrated that he is skilled in communication, management, and mediation, with a talent for identifying opportunities and challenges and mediating creative solutions in challenging times.

Through his previous role as the deputy director of the state Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) from 2023-2025, Mr. Yamane gained a thorough understanding of the intricate operations of state government at the agency level. He will be able to utilize his experience at DHRD as he transitions to DHS and oversees its complex network of services. Additionally, his education, training and work as a social

worker will enable him to understand the challenges our State faces in the changing healthcare environment.

I support Mr. Yamane's nomination and urge this committee to recommend that his appointment be confirmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 1:00pm

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Jen Chahanovich
President and CEO

Re: **Testimony in Support of GM 642
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human
Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-
07-2026**

My name is Jen Chahanovich and I am the president and CEO for Wilcox Medical Center. Founded in 1938, Wilcox Medical Center is a not-for-profit hospital dedicated to providing the Kaua'i community with accessible, quality health care. Wilcox is the largest medical facility on Kaua'i and has been recognized as one of the nation's best small hospitals. With more than 200 physicians on staff, Wilcox offers island residents and visitors expert diagnosis and treatment for more than 22 specialties. Wilcox is a state-of-the-art acute care facility with a full suite of services including emergency, OB/GYN, pediatrics, cardiology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, pulmonology, nephrology, orthopedics, neurology, internal medicine, trauma, family medicine, radiology, urology, otolaryngology and general surgery.

I write in support of GM 642 which submits for consideration and confirmation Gubernatorial Nominee RYAN YAMANE as the Director of Human Services (DHS).

Mr. Yamane possesses the background to be at the helm of the DHS. He has masters degrees in social work and business administration, and has worked as a social worker with the Department of Health and Queen's Medical Center. He also lectures in health policy and social work at Hawai'i Pacific University and the Honolulu Community College. Mr. Yamane's education, training and work experience will enable him to understand the challenges our State faces in the changing human services and related healthcare environments.

In his more than 30 years of experience in the public and private sectors, Mr. Yamane served in multiple levels of management and responsibility. He is experienced in government relations, public policy, academia, and healthcare. Having been in the House of Representatives from 2004 to 2023, where he chaired several committees including those focused on health, human services and homelessness, he has a sound understanding of the issues facing our communities as well as the operations of the DHS.

Through his previous role as the deputy director of the state Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) from 2023-2025, Mr. Yamane gained a thorough understanding of the intricate operations of state government at the agency level. He will be able to utilize his experience at DHRD as he transitions to DHS and oversees its complex network of services.

I support Mr. Yamane's nomination and urge this committee to recommend that his appointment be confirmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 1:00pm

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Gidget Ruscetta
Chief Operating Officer

Re: **Testimony in Support of GM 642
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human
Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-
07-2026**

My name is Gidget Ruscetta and I am the Chief Operating Officer at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (Kapi'olani). Kapi'olani is an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health. Kapi'olani is the state's only maternity, newborn and pediatric specialty hospital. It is also a tertiary care, medical teaching and research facility. Specialty services for patients throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific Region include intensive care for infants and children, 24-hour emergency pediatric care, air transport, maternal-fetal medicine and high-risk perinatal care.

I write in support of GM 642 which submits for consideration and confirmation Gubernatorial Nominee RYAN YAMANE as the Director of Human Services (DHS).

Mr. Yamane possesses the education, training and work experience to be at the helm of the DHS. He has masters degrees in social work and business administration, and has worked as a social worker with the Department of Health and Queen's Medical Center. He lectures in health policy and social work at Hawai'i Pacific University and the Honolulu Community College. His background and continued involvement in matters of public interest will enable him to understand the challenges our State faces in the changing human services and related healthcare environments.

In his more than 30 years of experience in the public and private sectors, Mr. Yamane served in multiple levels of management and responsibility. He is experienced in government relations, public policy, academia, and healthcare. Having been in the House of Representatives from 2004 to 2023, where he chaired several committees including

those focused on health, human services and homelessness, he has a sound understanding of the issues facing our communities as well as the operations of the DHS.

Through his previous role as the deputy director of the state Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) from 2023-2025, Mr. Yamane gained a thorough understanding of the intricate operations of state government at the agency level. He will be able to utilize his experience at DHRD as he transitions to DHS and oversees its complex network of services.

In his current role as acting director of the Department of Human Services (DHS), Ryan has been very responsive in responding to matters our community is experiencing with respect to support systems available to children with complex medical needs. We have been impressed with his willingness to consider creative solutions to complex issues which will be a much needed skill in this position.

I support Mr. Yamane's nomination and urge this committee to recommend that his appointment be confirmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 50**

February 18, 2025

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 642 (Ryan Yamane)
Hearing date: February 19, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in **strong support** of Governor's Message 642 appointing Mr. Ryan Yamane to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services ("DHS").

Professionally, Mr. Yamane is well qualified to serve as Director of DHS, having significant experience as a social worker and health-related issues in Hawaii. This experience includes his long service as a State Representative. During his time as a State House Representative, Mr. Yamane has served as Chair, Vice-Chair and a member of Health, Human Services & Homelessness Committees. He is therefore, very familiar with the issues that DHS deals with on an ongoing basis.

On a more personal level, our union has known Mr. Yamane for many years now, and we can testify that he is of the highest honor, integrity and compassion.

Please vote to recommend Mr. Yamane's confirmation to serve as the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM 642.

2240 Young Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

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808.955.9091

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PAINTERS
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GLAZIERS,
ARCHITECTURAL
METAL AND
GLASSWORKERS
808.946.3329

CARPET, LINOLEUM
AND SOFT TILE
808.942.3988

DRYWALL TAPERS,
FINISHERS
808.946.6621



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS
C O R P O R A T I O N

"Quality Healthcare For All"

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice-Chair

February 19, 2025
1:00 PM
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 225 & Via Videoconference

**Testimony in Strong Support of
Governor's Message 642**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. (Position corrected by GM651)

Edward N. Chu
President & Chief Executive Officer
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

On behalf of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) Corporate Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **in strong support of Governor's Message 642, nominating Mr. Ryan Yamane for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services.**

The Department of Human Services is critical to the continued success and support of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. Be it in support of Medicaid, healthcare quality, and the overall safety and welfare of the patients HHSC cares for, there is crucial intersections between DHS and HHSC.

As such, HHSC is extremely pleased to support Mr. Ryan Yamane in his role as Director of the Department of Human Services. Mr. Yamane has decades of healthcare experience, both in working for various hospital systems in Hawaii, as well as Chairing the House Health Committee for extended periods. Mr. Yamane is a proven leader who always pushes towards collaborative solutions and best outcomes for the challenges that face our complicated systems of care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 1:00pm

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Travis Clegg
Chief Operating Officer

**Re: Testimony in Support of GM 642
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human
Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-
07-2026**

My name is Travis Clegg and I am the chief operating officer at Straub Benioff Medical Center (Straub). Straub is an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health. Founded in 1921, Straub includes a 159-bed hospital in Honolulu, a network of neighborhood clinics and a visiting specialist program that reaches throughout the state of Hawai'i. With over 200 physicians who are leaders in their fields, Straub provides its patients with diagnoses and treatments for more than 32 different medical specialties, including bone and joint, heart, cancer, endocrinology/diabetes, family medicine, gastroenterology, geriatric medicine, internal medicine, vascular and urology.

I write in support of GM 642 which submits for consideration and confirmation Gubernatorial Nominee RYAN YAMANE as the Director of Human Services (DHS).

Mr. Yamane possesses the education, training and work experience to be at the helm of the DHS. He has masters degrees in social work and business administration, and has worked as a social worker with the Department of Health and Queen's Medical Center. He lectures in health policy and social work at Hawai'i Pacific University and the Honolulu Community College. Additionally, Mr. Yamane's background will enable him to understand the challenges our State faces in the changing human services and related healthcare environments.

In his more than 30 years of experience in the public and private sectors, Mr. Yamane served in multiple levels of management and responsibility. He is experienced in government relations, public policy, academia, and healthcare. Having been in the House of Representatives from 2004 to 2023, where he chaired several committees including

those focused on health, human services and homelessness, he has a sound understanding of the issues facing our communities as well as the operations of the DHS.

Through his previous role as the deputy director of the state Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) from 2023-2025, Mr. Yamane gained a thorough understanding of the intricate operations of state government at the agency level. He will be able to utilize his experience at DHRD as he transitions to DHS and oversees its complex network of services.

I support Mr. Yamane's nomination and urge this committee to recommend that his appointment be confirmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 18, 2025

TO: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino
Vice Chair, Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Gary Slovin

RE: **GM 642 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire on 12-07-2026.**
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room: 225

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

It gives me great pleasure in recommending your confirmation of Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

There was an opportunity to have a long discussion with Mr. Yamane soon after he was elected to the House of Representatives. I was impressed then by his enthusiasm and the principles he talked about. He saw his role as it should be, an opportunity to improve the lives of Hawaii's people. But along with his idealism Ryan also brought a feel for working with others, being realistic, being tough when that was needed. I saw him stick to his guns under pressure when that was what was called for. But he aimed to be informed, to listen and be reasonable.

I have the highest regard for Ryan because of what I saw over many years of his work as a legislator. I feel the qualities he demonstrated as a legislator are fully applicable to his duties as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in full and enthusiastic support.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports GM 642, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mariah Yoshizu, government affairs associate at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports GM 642, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Mr. Yamane has been a lifelong public servant, committed to making Hawai'i a better place to live for everyone — from keiki to kupuna to the most underserved and vulnerable community members in our state. He is most notable for representing Mililani and its neighboring areas for nearly two decades. As former chair of the House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness, Mr. Yamane is familiar with the needs of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and will be able to apply his extensive experience to lead the department and the community it serves. DHS has been supportive as a partner of DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks, which is a triple win solution that helps SNAP program beneficiaries, supports farmers, and benefits the entire community by keeping dollars local.

Ulupono humbly asks this committee and the Legislature for their support of Ryan Yamane for director of the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Mariah Yoshizu
Government Affairs Associate

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



February 19, 2025

RE: GM 642, Support for Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Hawai'i Foodbank, I am writing to express our strong support of the nomination of Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services, a position he currently holds on an interim basis.

For over 40 years, Hawai'i Foodbank has provided daily and emergency assistance to those facing food insecurity in Hawai'i. As the state's leading hunger-relief organization, Hawai'i Foodbank distributes food to families and individuals on O'ahu and in Kaua'i County through direct service programs and through our network of 266 agency partners and pantries. Last year, we served an average of over 150,000 people each month, distributing a total of 21 million pounds of nutritious food, including 5.9 million pounds of fresh produce. Hawai'i Foodbank is also contracted as a SNAP outreach provider through the State.

In our role, we work directly with the Department of Human Services in many capacities. Mr. Yamane's social work background, familiarity with the department, deep compassion for the people he serves, and solution-oriented way of working make him an excellent fit for this position. We urge you to confirm Mr. Yamane as Director and let him continue the good work he has been doing.

Mahalo for your consideration.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Miller".

Amy Miller
President and CEO, Hawai'i Foodbank



Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 1:00pm

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Gloria Brooks
Chief Operating Officer

**Re: Testimony in Support of GM 642
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human
Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-
07-2026**

My name is Gloria Brooks and I am the Chief Operating Officer for Pali Momi Medical Center. With 118 beds and more than 400 physicians on its medical staff, Pali Momi Medical Center offers a full range of services for the communities of Central and West O'ahu. The hospital is an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health, one of the state's largest health care providers and a not-for-profit health care system with over 70 locations statewide including medical centers, clinics, physicians and other caregivers serving Hawai'i and the Pacific Region with high quality, compassionate care.

I write in support of GM 642 which submits for consideration and confirmation Gubernatorial Nominee RYAN YAMANE as the Director of Human Services (DHS).

Mr. Yamane possesses the background to be at the helm of the DHS. He has masters degrees in social work and business administration, and has worked as a social worker with the Department of Health and Queen's Medical Center. He also lectures in health policy and social work at Hawai'i Pacific University and the Honolulu Community College. Mr. Yamane's education, training and work experience will enable him to understand the challenges our State faces in the changing healthcare environment.

In his more than 30 years of experience in the public and private sectors, Mr. Yamane served in multiple levels of management and responsibility. He is experienced in government relations, public policy, academia, and healthcare. Having been in the House of Representatives from 2004 to 2023, where he chaired several committees including

those focused on health, human services and homelessness, he has a sound understanding of the issues facing our communities as well as the operations of the DHS.

Through his previous role as the deputy director of the state Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) from 2023-2025, Mr. Yamane gained a thorough understanding of the intricate operations of state government at the agency level. He will be able to utilize his experience at DHRD as he transitions to DHS and oversees its complex network of services.

I support Mr. Yamane's nomination and urge this committee to recommend that his appointment be confirmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:40:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Sanada	Testifying for Oahu Region, HHSC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of the Oahu Region, HHSC, I write in strong support of the confirmation of Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services. We have had the privilege of working with Mr. Yamane on several important measures during his tenure as Chair of the House Committee on Health. Through these experiences, Mr. Yamane has proven himself to be a very thoughtful, innovative, and professional leader. As these qualities are vital for a successful DHS Director, especially with the myriad of important issues soon to be faced by the Department, we urge this Committee to vote in favor of confirmation. Mr. Yamane will be a true asset to the Department and the people of the State of Hawaii.



LATE

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 642:

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN
YAMANE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

TO: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Tina Andrade, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Hearing: Wednesday, 2/19/25; 1:00 PM; Videoconference and Room 225

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

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **supports GM 642** and urges your confirmation of Ryan Yamane for the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 77 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i. We serve over 40,000 people each year throughout the state.

Mr. Yamane's background in social work and public service, as well as his many years addressing the needs of Hawai'i residents in his legislative work, have provided him with the experience to lead the Department of Human Services in these very challenging times.

The mission of Catholic Charities Hawai'i intersects closely with the services provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS). We have a long history of working with DHS for many of our programs. We support the appointment of Ryan Yamane to the position and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with DHS.

We appreciate the Legislature's support for the Department of Human Services and the many programs that are essential for the well-being of our local communities.

If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson at (808) 527-4813.





LATE

**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

**Re: GM 642 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
RYAN YAMANE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.**

Aloha, Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Senate Committee on Health & Human Services. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901, RMH is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We are in support of the confirmation of Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

I have had the opportunity to work alongside Mr. Yamane during his tenure as an elected Representative in the State House of Representatives, where he consistently demonstrated strong leadership, a deep commitment to public service, and a passion for improving the well-being of Hawaii's residents.

Throughout his time in the legislature, Mr. Yamane championed initiatives that addressed healthcare, social services, and community welfare, making him uniquely qualified to lead the Department of Human Services. His extensive experience in policymaking, combined with his understanding of the critical issues affecting Hawaii's most vulnerable populations, will be invaluable in guiding the department toward greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Yamane's collaborative approach, deep knowledge of state governance, and unwavering dedication to serving the people of Hawaii make him an ideal choice for this role. I am confident that under his leadership, the Department of Human Services will continue to provide essential programs and services that support families, keiki, kupuna, and individuals in need.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony of Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH, Director, Department of Health

In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 642

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire at noon on 12-07-2026.

SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 19, 2025; 1:00 pm Room Number: 225

I am writing in my individual capacity in support of the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Yamane to serve as Director, Department of Human Services.

When I first began working for the State as the Med-QUEST Division Administrator, I didn't know what I didn't know. I made many mistakes. Ryan, who was then a Representative and Chair of the Committee on Health, reached out to me to offer guidance. This act of kindness, whether to support me personally or help me be successful for the benefit of the state, is something I have since found to be par for the course for Ryan. He simply cares about people, wants to help them be successful, and wants to do what's best for the people we serve.

I have more recently worked with Ryan in his previous role as a Deputy Director and in his current role as Director-nominee. I have seen these core values of his continue to shine. It is no wonder why he chose to become a social worker. With his motivation simply being for the betterment of Hawaii, collaboration with Ryan is easy.

Therefore, I respectfully ask for the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services' support for Mr. Yamane's confirmation as the Department of Human Services Director. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 19, 2025, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

From: Joseph Campos II, Ph.D., J.D.

Re: **Testimony in Strong Support**
GM642/GM651, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. (Position corrected by GM651)

This testimony is in my personal capacity and is informed by my current position as Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services. I am writing this letter in **Strong Support** of the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Director Yamane has an in-depth understanding of DHS and the essential services DHS provides to Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents. His experiences as a legislator (chairing the House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness), engagement in the field of social work, and educational background qualifies him for this position.

Director Yamane's professional commitment to public service and understanding of the administrative processes provides him the required skills to oversee a statewide staff of more than 1,500 who deliver benefits and services to more than 467,000 Hawai'i residents.

I believe that he will promote open communication and encourage the various units of DHS to be responsive and empathetic to the community's needs, while finding ways to improve access to benefits and services. He has worked collaboratively with legislators, other executive branch agencies, and community providers to ensure delivery of services and address community needs.

Under Director Yamane's leadership, DHS will continue to innovate and be responsive to the fundamental needs of Hawai'i's residents so that everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

I **strongly support** the nomination of Mr. Yamane to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

February 19, 2025
1:00 PM
Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of GM 642

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am Linda Rosehill here supporting the nomination of Ryan Yamane to serve as Director of the Department of Human Services.

I have known and worked with Ryan since he was first elected office in 2004. He is a conscientious and hardworking public servant who serves Hawaii well in all of the various capacities in which he has served.

I ask that this Committee give favorable consideration to his nomination.

Sincerely,

Linda K. Rosehill

February 18, 2025

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

FROM: Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD

SUBJECT: **GM 642 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. (Position corrected by GM651)**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconferencing, State Capitol

I am submitting testimony in support of Ryan Yamane as Director for the Department of Human Services (DHS). Although I serve as the Administrator of the Med-QUEST Division, DHS, I am not testifying in that capacity, rather as a member of the public.

Mr. Yamane brings a unique perspective and background to this role. He is a social worker by education and training, which is well-suited for serving at DHS. Additionally, he served for many years as a Representative at the Hawaii State Legislature, including as subject matter chair with oversight of Human Services. The knowledge of the legislative process, and key relationships will serve DHS well in continuing to support the safety net services that DHS provides for the most vulnerable residents of Hawaii. He has served in an acting capacity for many months, and these relationships, skills and abilities already have made an impact.

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

LATE

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:05:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mihoko Ito	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in **strong support** of the nomination of Ryan Yamane as Director for the Department of Human Services. I have worked with Ryan closely over his many years at the Legislature, as well as in his roles as deputy director for the Department of Human Resources and interim Director for the Department of Human Services.

Ryan has extensive experience in human services issues, going back to his early experiences working as a social worker and his longtime role as House Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. I have worked extensively with Ryan on many health care and human services issues, and have always found him to be hard-working, approachable, principled, collaborative and results-oriented. He has demonstrated leadership in making tough policy calls, and is incredibly committed to serving the community and State as a public servant in the best way he can.

For the above reasons, I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Yamane and ask that the committee advise and consent to his nomination.

Mihoko Ito

Melissa Pavlicek, J.D.
Stephen M. Teves, J.D.
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

DATE: February 19, 2025
TIME: 1:00 pm
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 225
**BILL: GM 642, Nomination of Ryan Yamane as
Director of the Department of Human Services**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee,

We are attorneys and small business owners in Honolulu, writing in strong support of the nomination of Ryan Yamane as the director of the department of human services, a position he currently holds on an interim basis. We have known Mr. Yamane for well over ten years and we have often worked in collaboration with him on a weekly or monthly basis.

We know Mr. Yamane to be a very hard-working dedicated public servant, truly committed to advancing the interests of the people of the state of Hawai'i. He has demonstrated many times over that he has the best interests of the community at heart. He is collaborative and thorough. His social work background, pursuit of education (e.g. , and deep familiarity with the people and issues at DHS by virtual of his work as the House Health chair will all inure to the benefit of the state.

The most important things to know about Mr. Yamane are his can-do spirit and a deep love for the state of Hawai'i. We have no doubt in his abilities and hope that you will confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Melissa Pavlicek

Stephen M. Teves

February 18, 2024

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

FROM: Lea Dias

SUBJECT: **GM 642 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN YAMANE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 225 & Videoconference, State Capitol

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and HHS Committee Members,

I am the Administrator of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Department of Human Services (DHS), and am submitting testimony in my personal capacity. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my strong support of Ryan Yamane's appointment as Director of DHS.

I have had the privilege of working under Director Yamane for the past year, and during this time I have observed his exceptional leadership, dedication, and responsiveness firsthand. His unique blend of experiences—having a degree and experience in social work, serving as an Assistant Administrator at DHRD, and of course doing important work for the people of Hawaii during his time in the legislature—equips him with an in-depth understanding of both the legislative process and the practical needs of our staff and our community. This background enables him to navigate complex policy challenges while keeping the wellbeing of Hawaii's most vulnerable individuals and families at the forefront of his efforts.

Mr. Yamane's commitment to transparent communication and collaborative problem-solving has fostered an environment where I feel valued and heard. His proactive approach in addressing concerns and streamlining processes not only enhances the effectiveness of our department but also ensures that the services we provide are responsive to the evolving needs of our citizens.

I am confident that under Mr. Yamane's leadership, DHS will continue to evolve and expand its positive impact on our community. His experience, insight, and commitment make him the ideal candidate to steer the department towards a future of improved services and greater community trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Lea Dias, M.Ed.



Imanaka Asato
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

LATE

February 18, 2025

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

RE: Governor's Message No. 642
Hearing date: February 19, 2025 at 1:00 pm

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 642, confirming Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Ryan Yamane is a distinguished leader with over 30 years of experience spanning the public and private sectors. His expertise includes working in the government sector, academia, and healthcare, making him exceptionally well-qualified to lead the department. Throughout his career, Ryan has demonstrated a strong ability to navigate complex policy and management decisions at the executive level. He is widely recognized as an effective communicator and problem-solver—qualities essential to leading an agency responsible for serving Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

His extensive experience in government and community service, including serving as the chair of the House Health committee, underscores his deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within Hawaii's social services landscape. Ryan's leadership will be instrumental in ensuring that the Department of Human Services continues to deliver critical programs that support families, individuals, and communities across the state.

Most importantly, Ryan is a person of high integrity, strong ethical values, and a deep commitment to public service. His leadership will undoubtedly strengthen the department and enhance its ability to address the needs of Hawaii residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to confirm Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Michael Iosua

Trista N. Speer

February 19, 2025, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee Health and Human Services

To: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Trista N. Speer

Re: **Testimony in Strong Support**
GM642/GM651, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026 (Position corrected by GM651)

Hearing: February 19, 2025, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

My name is Trista N. Speer, and I write this in my personal capacity, however it is informed by my experience as a Deputy Director for the Hawai'i Department of Human Services. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Ryan Yamane for the position of Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Ryan's long, dedicated career to public service—including his experience as a legislator, social worker, and community partner—provide him the background and experience to have a unique perspective of both the inner-workings of DHS, as well as the external demands and desires for the services the department provides. Since appointed to the position of Director, Ryan has been steadfast in demonstrating his dedication to our "DHS Ohana" by meeting with all levels of our more than 1,500 team members, including team leadership visits to nearly all neighbor islands. He made a point to take time to hear from the team, and ensure their voices and concerns are heard. Ryan's strategic approach has enabled the department to achieve progress in operations across multiple divisions, including his support within Child Welfare Services to strengthen our commitment to the children and families of Hawai'i.

Ryan consistently reiterates his commitment to keep an open-door policy for both employees and community members alike to ensure all voices are heard, and to maintain a solutions-based approach to our work and values. He embodies the mission of the department, and the crucial role DHS plays in a large majority of our community state-wide. I look forward to the achievements we will make together under his leadership. His dedication to DHS and the people of Hawai'i is evident, and I strongly support his confirmation.

Scott Nakasone
February 15, 2025

This testimony is in strong support of Ryan Yamane as the Director of Human Services.

Ryan's public calm and jovial demeanor downplays a person who has the passion to do what's right with a balance of what makes sense for those that receive services, those tasked with the delivery of services, and the community as a whole.

His understanding of the Department as a former Human Services Chair, experience as a former Social Worker for the State, and his relationships developed with the community, the Legislature, his fellow State agencies, and Congressional and federal agency partners provides the Department with access to the resources needed for DHS to be successful and makes him the logical choice for the appointment of Director of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to support this nomination.

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

RE: GM 642 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

HEARING: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia and I **support** the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services ("DHS").

Mr. Yamane has an extensive record of public service as a social worker and as an elected official, having served for over 18 years in the Hawaii State House of Representatives. His tenure in the legislature demonstrated his deep understanding of legislative processes, public governance, and the challenges and opportunities facing Hawaii's residents.

In addition to his legislative experience, Mr. Yamane has shown strong leadership and expertise in managing complex organizations, operations, and programs. His roles as Director of the DHS and Deputy Director of the Department of Human Resources Development highlight his ability to oversee critical state services and programs, implement policy initiatives, and directly manage human resource and budgetary responsibilities.

Mr. Yamane's proven record of accomplishment coupled with his unwavering commitment to public service makes him an ideal candidate for this role.

For the foregoing reasons, I support the confirmation of Ryan Yamane as Director of DHS.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 5:51:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pankaj Bhanot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services!

My name is Pankaj Bhanot and I am testifying in my personal capacity and in strong support for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. (Position corrected by GM651)

I have known Mr. Yamane and have the privilege and pleasure of working with him since 2005.

Mr. Yamane's educational background and professional experience in social work arena and his substantive experience as a legislator/policy maker has prepared him to successfully assume the duties and responsibilities of the DHS Director.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully urge the Committee to unanimously recommend Mr. Yamane to be confirmed by the full Senate as the Director of the Hawaii Department of Human Services.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

February 19, 2025

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street

Re: GM 642 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the committee,

I strongly support GM 642, the appointment of Mr. Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Having known Mr. Yamane for over 15 years in various professional and social settings, I can attest to his exceptional capabilities and character. His unique combination of skills, knowledge, and passion make him ideally suited for the role of DHS Director.

Mr. Yamane's diverse background in matters related to health and human services sets him apart. His extensive experience in the state capitol, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and public sector provides him with a comprehensive understanding of Hawaii's social landscape, which is crucial for leading DHS.

As a leader, Mr. Yamane offers clear direction and strong interpersonal skills. His ability to build relationships and foster collaboration is key to organizational success. His effective communication and teamwork skills will undoubtedly advance the goals and mission of DHS.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration and consent to confirm Mr. Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services.

Myoung Oh

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 9:47:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Morishige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as an individual in strong support of Ryan Yamane's appointment as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

I currently work for DHS and have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Yamane in his current role as the Department's Director, and also in his prior role as Chair of the House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness. Mr. Yamane has a strong understanding of the Department and its mission. He has also demonstrated a willingness to listen directly to our staff to further his understanding. One of his first actions as Director was to reach out to the Division Administrators and schedule visits to see front line staff throughout the state.

Once again, I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Yamane. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Senator San Buenaventura and committee members,

As an advocate for families in the child welfare system for the last decade, I cannot support the appointment of Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services due to concerns about his leadership abilities and understanding of constitutional protections.

In November, DHS attended an information briefing to address an audit of Child Welfare Services and the final report of the Malama Ohana working group. Mr. Yamane's summary of CWS goals appeared to focus only on long-term objectives, including the ongoing issue of short-staffing and recruitment. Given the urgency of the foster care licensing failures, he did not present any immediate steps to address child safety. When asked about the department's funding requests, he replied that the department was "working on it." DHS could not explain the whereabouts of 10 million dollars in funding, except that various organizations meant to use the money to support hiring qualified staff were unsuccessful in finding new hires. Yamane and his two subordinates, Daisy Hartsfield and Elladine Olevao, attended the all-day Malama Ohana working group in-person event in August. They were also present at the November briefing but said nothing about the progress of the working group. Instead, the focus was on the long-term solution to foster placement through updated IT and a plea for help regarding safety from potential physical harm to the workers in the field and offices (with no specific incidents). A Director with strong leadership skills would recognize the urgency to provide more positive and detailed assurances from a department that has been the focus of a year-long working group aimed at reform.

In 2022, Mr. Yamane served as the chair of the HHH Committee, which processed HB2424 in response to the tragic death of Ariel Sellers. During the first hearing, testimony from the Attorney General raised concerns about the bill's language, specifically the term "expanded" investigative power, which suggested potential constitutional issues. Subsequent media coverage raised questions about these concerns, while Mr. Yamane assured us that the bill was proper. During the fourth conference committee meeting, Yamane stated, "We are going to maintain in here the checks for both adoptive and foster families." He also noted that there were questions about amendments to the bill that might affect the Hawaii Constitution, particularly the requirement to hold public hearings. On May 3, Mr. Yamane introduced a severability clause to the House floor "to protect the state" from a lawsuit.

On July 12, the Governor vetoed the bill, citing two concerns in writing: the privacy right violation of expanded home visits and the fact that the bill had been amended without a public hearing, which violated the Hawaii Constitution. I am not certain today, three years later, that the legislators involved in SB2424 understand the privacy rights in the Fourth Amendment as expressed by the Governor.

As a House Representative, Mr. Yamane ignored the constitutional rights of families in HB2424 despite having access to legal counsel. As DHS Director, he did not assure the Senate during the informational briefing that there would be proper screening of kinship caregivers to minimize risk of harm. It took 50 years to pass a measure aligning with the Fourth Amendment rights of all citizens, which is set to take effect on July 1, 2025. I have serious concerns that Mr. Yamane will not ensure the training and oversight necessary to protect the constitutional rights of families accused of child abuse or neglect and the transparency that the public needs from DHS is not promised or guaranteed.

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 11:56:43 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandie Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an attorney, I have known and worked with Ryan Yamane for many years and am confident that he will be do a good job if confirmed. Ryan is a hard worker, but most importantly he has heart and that is what is needed in this position.

I strongly support his nomination.

Thank you,

Sandie

Testimony of Isaac W. Choy, CPA
3313 Keahi Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

IN SUPPORT OF GM 642
Ryan Yamane
For the Director of Human Services

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair and Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Most testimonies for cabinet positions proclaim that the candidate is uniquely qualified for the appointed position. I can, without reservation, state that Mr. Yamane is very “unique.” His clairvoyant ability to stay well-informed is of an oracle quality. Regarding his qualifications, I have experienced his ability to provide quality services to people. His qualifications for this position are unquestioned based on his experience, education, and training in teaching others in social work.

I have had the honor of serving with Mr. Yamane in the Hawaii State House of Representatives. He was invaluable and informative in areas I had little knowledge or experience. His communication style is very good, and he can take complex subjects and personalize them to an understandable level.

It is for these qualifications that I support and recommend the confirmation of Mr. Yamane.

Isaac W. Choy, CPA

February 18, 2015

(Testimony - Written Only)

Senator Joy Buenaventura
State Capitol Room 213
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Re: Confirmation of Ryan Yamane, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.
(Position corrected by GM 651)**

Chairperson Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support on the confirmation of Ryan Yamane as Director for the Department of Human Services. My name is Dwight Takamine and I served with Ryan in the State House of Representatives from 2005 through 2008. I knew him as a colleague then, and was able to follow his career since then. (I also served with his father, Brian Yamane, in the State House.) I feel that Ryan would be an outstanding Director, not only because of the experiences that he has had, but because of his knowledge of the Department's programs and the skill sets that he possesses.

I have learned that it is rare to have someone who has had a long legislative career (focussed in a particular area of the law), and who also has administrative experience in administering those laws. Such a career provides Ryan with the legislative perspective of passing legislation to help benefit people, while providing them with rights and protections to help improve their quality of life. However, it is his experience in the administrative branch (both as the Interim Director as well as Deputy) which is probably the most instructive - on the practical concerns of delivering these services to those who need them.

I believe that Ryan has always had a special set of values, and at the very heart was his sincere concern and caring about others. I've seen and known him for fighting for the "underdog" and that says a lot about a person, who has been in positions of influence. I also feel that Ryan has a lot of personal integrity, a quality that is essential for anyone who continues to deal with the Legislature.

Ryan has proven that he has the necessary skill sets and the ability to effectively communicate with people in the Legislative Branch of government. This is not only a

critical asset for the Director of the Department of Human Services, but Ryan has repeatedly demonstrated his ability to bring people together, to resolve many challenges.

Ryan's commitment to public service has been reflected in the decades of work that he has spent helping others. Serving for eighteen years in the House of Representatives is only one source of many lessons. This is probably the best "gauge" of how he will perform in the future. Finally, I believe that the basic courtesies and respect that he extends to everyone, reflects upon his strong people skills.

For all of the foregoing reasons, I am honored to support Ryan Yamane, and I hope the Committee Members will positively support his confirmation. Again, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DHS Director Confirmation Testimony

GM 642 (Ryan Yamane)

February 18, 2025

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on GM642 in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Mr. Ryan Yamane's appointment as Director for the Department of Human Services, and humbly ask that you support his confirmation.

I have known Director Yamane for over 22 years dating back to our time as classmates in the University of Hawaii's Executive Masters in Business Administration (MBA) program, and have worked and collaborated closely with him during his time as a member of the Hawaii House of Representatives, as well as the Deputy Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, and I have the absolute confidence that he will do outstanding work as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) in service of the people of Hawaii.

Director Yamane is uniquely qualified to lead the DHS. In addition to his MBA, he possesses a Master of Social Work degree with a focus on Children and Family Services, and has worked at all levels in the social services industry as a social worker, therapist for child and family services, mental health specialist and Director of the Ho'okupono Program. This experience and expertise combined with his leadership at senior levels of the state where he served many years as the Chair of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and Homelessness will provide inimitable leadership, understanding and direction for the DHS.

I have great respect for Director Yamane. He embodies being a public servant and a member of the community. He has dedicated his life to helping others and making Hawaii better and has dedicated countless hours volunteering for community services. He has an intimate understanding of the operations of state government and Hawaii State law. He can be trusted to lead with integrity and aloha and has a moral compass and style that will shape the culture of the department to the benefit of the state.

I am a retired servicemember with over 32 years of service with my last assignment as the J4MA, Directorate of Logistics and Engineering, US Indo-Pacific Command. I have served in all components of the Army, am a veteran with multiple combat tours, and have served in senior roles and commands in the Hawaii National Guard, as well as in senior executive positions at the Department of Defense, State of Hawaii. I truly believe the State of Hawaii and its people would be lucky to have Director Yamane leading the Department of Human Services.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Neal S. Mitsuyoshi,
Brigadier General (Ret.)
U.S. Army

Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
1:00 p.m.; Conference Room 225

RE: GM 642 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026 – IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of the nomination of Ryan Yamane to serve as Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

I have known Ryan for many years and have had the pleasure of working with him on various community issues in his former capacity as a State Representative. He chaired key committees, including Health, Human Services and Homelessness, during his 18 years in the State legislature.

Ryan is hard working, collaborative, compassionate and fair and balanced in his approach. He has integrity, strong communication and leadership skills and is committed to serving the community and improving the lives of Hawaii's residents.

Ryan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and dual master's degrees in Social Work and Business Administration. He is a long-time volunteer with the Hawaii Chapter of the American Red Cross. His background and relevant experience make him well suited for the Director of Human Services position.

I am confident he will make significant, positive contributions at DHS and ask for your favorable action on his confirmation. Mahalo.

Lori Lum

THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

1:00 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

GM 642 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Governor Green's nomination of Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services.

For over 20 years, I've known Ryan Yamane and have been fortunate to work with him directly in his multiple roles serving our Hawaii community, including his role as a social worker, the House Representative for Central Oahu, a volunteer serving on nonprofit boards, and a fellow parent who cares about the Hawaii our children are growing up in.

As the mother of a social worker, Ryan has been generous in sharing his time and personal experiences regarding the rewards and realities of the social work field with students who are pursuing the same field that he chose in college. He has shown that social work and social workers not only play a critical role in caring for our community, but it's a rewarding career choice in which the knowledge gained can lead to leadership opportunities, having a greater and long-lasting impact. In working with Ryan as a fellow nonprofit board member, and as a fellow House Representative, he's been able to take part in clear and direct conversations regarding difficult discussions, in order to move issues forward.

Ryan has shared his own unique knowledge, perspectives and experiences as a social worker, a House Representative, a parent, and fellow caring community member, in order to improve our Hawaii community, and I am confident that he will bring the same in his role as Director of the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute my input as part of your consideration.

Mahalo,

Luella Costales

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:49:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meoh-Leng Silliman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Ryan Yamane’s appointment to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

The Department of Human Services is responsible for the delivery of an array of needed services responsive to the needs of the people of Hawai‘i. With his commitment to public service and a deep passion for the work of the department, along with a genuine interest in working with those who serve alongside him, Mr. Yamane will serve the department well as the head of the department.

I respectfully recommend that the committee act favorably on GM 642. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 12:18:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanne Gillespie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I submit testimony in strong support for Ryan Yamane's appointment as Director of the Department of Human Services. In my current work in a government youth serving agency, I have had the opportunity to work along side Mr. Yamane. During this time, I have found him supportive, genuine and resourceful, and look forward to working with him in the future. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Leanne Gillespie

SHAN S. TSUTSUI

12th Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawaii

Testimony of
Shan S. Tsutsui

Before the Senate Committee on
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225 & Video Conference

In Support of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 642

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Yamane, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am honored to submit testimony in strong support of Ryan Yamane's nomination as Director of the Department of Human Services. Having known Ryan for many years, I can confidently attest to his qualifications, leadership abilities, and deep commitment to serving the people of Hawaii.

Ryan's extensive public service experience, combined with his academic and professional background, makes him exceptionally well-suited for this critical role. As a Master of Social Work, Ryan has a strong foundation in the principles of social welfare, public administration, and community advocacy—an essential skill set for leading the Department of Human Services. His career has been marked by an unwavering dedication to improving the well-being of individuals and families across our state, ensuring that our most vulnerable populations receive the care and support they need.

Throughout his tenure in public service, Ryan has consistently demonstrated a keen understanding of the challenges facing Hawaii's social services network. His leadership and policy experience, particularly in legislative and community-based settings, have prepared him to navigate complex issues and implement effective solutions that prioritize the needs of our residents.

Moreover, Ryan's integrity, work ethic, and collaborative approach will be invaluable assets as he takes on this leadership position. He has always been a steadfast advocate for policies that uplift families, protect our kupuna, and enhance services for those in need. His ability to work across sectors and build meaningful partnerships will strengthen the department's efforts to serve Hawaii's communities.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to confirm Ryan Yamane's nomination as Director of the Department of Human Services. His qualifications, experience, and commitment to public service make him an outstanding choice for this role.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 12:51:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayson Watts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am pleased to submit testimony in strong support of Ryan Yamane's nomination as Director of the Department of Human Services. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with Ryan and have seen firsthand his dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of Hawaii's people. His extensive experience in public service, coupled with his ability to navigate complex challenges, makes him exceptionally qualified to lead the department with integrity and effectiveness.

Senator San Buenaventura and Committee Members,
RE: Strongly OPPOSE the Appointment of Ryan Yamane

As an advocate for families in the child welfare system for the last four years I Strongly Oppose the appointment of Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services due to concerns about his leadership abilities and understanding of constitutional protections.

In November, DHS attended an information briefing to address an audit of Child Welfare Services and the final report of the Malama Ohana working group. Mr. Yamane's summary of CWS goals appeared to focus only on long-term objectives, including the ongoing issue of short-staffing and recruitment. Given the urgency of the foster care licensing failures, he did not present any immediate steps to address child safety. When asked about the department's funding requests, he replied that the department was "working on it." DHS could not explain the whereabouts of 10 million dollars in funding, except that various organizations meant to use the money to support hiring qualified staff were unsuccessful in finding new hires.

In addition, Mr. Yamane, Daisy Hartsfield and Elladine Olevao, were invited to attend an all-day, in-person Malama Ohana working group event on August 19, 2024. At the time Mr. Yamane openly stated that he was, "committed to Child Welfare Reform." Yet, at the November informational briefing he said nothing about the progress of the working group. Instead, the focus was on the long-term solution to foster placement through updated IT and a plea for help regarding safety from potential physical harm to the workers in the field and offices (with no specific incidents). A Director with strong leadership skills would recognize the urgency to provide more positive and detailed assurances from a department that has been the focus of a year-long working group aimed at reform.

In 2022, Mr. Yamane served as the chair of the HHH Committee, which processed HB2424 in response to the tragic death of Ariel Sellers. During the first hearing, testimony from the Attorney General raised concerns about the bill's language, specifically the term "expanded" investigative power, which suggested potential constitutional issues. Subsequent media coverage raised questions about these concerns, while Mr. Yamane assured us that the bill was proper. During the fourth conference committee meeting, Yamane stated, "We are going to maintain in here the checks for both adoptive and foster families." He also noted that there were questions about amendments to the bill that might affect the Hawaii Constitution, particularly the requirement to hold public hearings. On May 3, Mr. Yamane introduced a severability clause to the House floor "to protect the state" from a lawsuit.

Finally, as a House Representative, Mr. Yamane ignored the constitutional rights of families in HB2424 despite having access to legal counsel. As DHS Director, he did not assure the Senate during the informational briefing that there would be proper screening of kinship caregivers to minimize risk of harm. It took 50 years to pass a measure aligning with the Fourth Amendment rights of all citizens, which is set to take effect on July 1, 2025.

In closing, I have serious concerns that Mr. Yamane will NOT ensure the training and oversight, transparency and accountability necessary to protect the constitutional rights of families accused of child abuse or neglect.

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 12:58:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheri-Ann Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services, I am writing today in strong support of the nomination of Ryan Yamane to lead the Department of Human Services. I have had the privilege of working with Ryan while volunteering on the Board of a nonprofit organization in Hawai'i, and I saw firsthand his deep commitment to serving our community. Ryan's background as a social worker and his experience as a legislator have given him the understanding and practice of balancing the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Hawai'i with the fiscal responsibilities of our State. That, coupled with his ability to collaborate with multiple stakeholders while honoring the Aloha spirit, makes him uniquely qualified for this position. I believe that Ryan will excel in this role, and I respectfully request your support of Ryan's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo, Sheri-Ann Lau Clark

LATE

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 1:19:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aphirak Bamrungruan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Aphirak Bamrungruan. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity in strong support of the nomination of Ryan Yamane for the position of Director of the Department of Human Services. With his extensive experience in public service, deep commitment to community well-being, and strong leadership skills, Director Yamane is exceptionally qualified for this role. As a former state legislator, he has demonstrated a steadfast dedication to addressing social issues, advocating for vulnerable populations, and implementing policies that promote equity and support for families in need. His ability to collaborate across sectors and his passion for improving social services, makes him an ideal candidate to lead the department effectively. I am confident that under his leadership, the Department of Human Services will continue to make meaningful strides in serving and uplifting our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Aphirak Bamrungruan

Blake K. Oshiro, Esq.
222 S. Vineyard Street, Suite 401
Blake.Oshiro@808cch.com

Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Sen. Henry Aquino, Vice-Chair
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

Support for GM642 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, **RYAN YAMANE**, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members -

I write in strong support of Ryan Yamane's confirmation to serve as the Director of Department of Human Services (DHS).

I worked closely with Mr. Yamane when we both served in the State House of Representatives and continued to work with him when I left the House in my various positions, and then getting the chance to work together again in the Governor Green Administration. During his time in the House, he served as Chair for several committees. He was always known for being prepared, running an efficient, but fair, public hearing, and providing thoughtful outcomes for decisions out of any committee he led. But, more importantly, I found that he was not afraid to take on the tough, complicated and often controversial issues.

Throughout all those years and interactions, I found Mr. Yamane to be highly knowledgeable about issues and very thoughtful in his approach to handling sensitive issues and topics.

I believe these skills and attributes will serve him well, and indeed, serve our state well taking on the leadership for DHS. As the primary safety net for many of our community in times of need, I believe his social work background, as well as his years of experience helping in emergency situations for the Red Cross, and his extensive knowledge and networks within the legislative and political landscape of our state, will be crucial during these times of uncertainty with the federal government and programs that are funded by the federal government. I believe Mr. Yamane's leadership will be rooted in solid values and principles that when guided with his experience and knowledge, will result in decisions and actions that will lead DHS on the right path to continue and maintain its core mission, despite the headwinds that will come from federal uncertainties.

I hope that you will look favorably upon his appointment to this position. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

LATE

OCCUPIED

NATION

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THE STATE OF HAWAII #aloha #MastersTools

LATE

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:01:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Nakao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

My name is David Nakao and I am a Licensed Social Worker. I am submitting testimony in strong support for Ryan Yamane, as Director of the Department of Human Services.

I have known Ryan for many years and have seen him serve our State passionately during his time as a legislator. I believe he continues to make a positive impact at the Department of Human Services and that his knowledge and experience will be invaluable to leading the Department.

Thank you,

David Nakao

February 18, 2025

LATE

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 1:00 PM Conference Room 225

Re: GM 642 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07 2026.

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

I write in **strong support** of Mr. Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services.

I have known Mr. Yamane for many years and can attest to his strong work ethic, effective leadership skills and compassion for people, which are key assets that he will bring to the role of DHS Director. Mr. Yamane is a true public servant having served 18 years in the Legislature. As Chair of the House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness for years, Mr. Yamane also possesses a wealth of knowledge of the Department's programs and needs. Having worked as a social worker for many years prior to being elected to office, Mr. Yamane also has strong ties in the community and more importantly a pulse on our community's most pressing social needs.

I respectfully ask the Committee to support Mr. Yamane's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Yajima

LATE

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:07:53 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gladys Quinto Marrone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Aquino, members of the Committee,

Please accept my testimony in strong support of GM 642, for the consideration and confirmation of Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services.

I have worked with Ryan in a professional capacity and am confident that his background, experience, and education, make him well-qualified to lead the Department. I have known Ryan for close to 20 years, and bear witness to his integrity and strong character that will guide him in working to support our State's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you,

Gladys Marrone

LATE

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:55:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
K. Piltz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I write in support of consideration and confirmation as Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Yamana, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

I have known and worked with Mr. Yamane over several years as both a legislator, as well as an administrator. He is well informed, knowledgeable and carefully considers all facts before decision making. He is a leader both in his community as well as amongst his peers.

I believe that Mr. Yamane will serve the State well in the position as Director of the Department of Human Services and ask for your strong support of his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to testify.



LATE

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Senator Joy A San Buenaventura – Chair

Relating to the Nomination of
Ryan Yamane, Director, Department of Human Services

February 19, 2025

Madame Chairperson and members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Sabas, and I am pleased to submit testimony in support of Ryan Yamane to serve as Director of the Department of Human Services.

Ryan is a public servant. He has broad and deep experience. He was a legislator for 18 years, serving as chair for major committees, including most recently, as House Chair of Health, Human Services, and Homelessness. He worked as Deputy Director at the Department of Human Resources Development and is now the Interim Director for the Department of Human Services. Ryan's education and continued training point to his passion - social work, emergency training, human services and leadership.

We live in increasingly challenging times for an increasing number of Hawaii's families, which will be compounded by the uncertainties coming from the new White House. Having a director with both the experience and compassion to protect the most vulnerable and be creative with available resources will be critical. Ryan Yamane will do an excellent job in this position.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Ryan over these many years as a legislator, at DHRD and now at DHS. He has always been responsive and supportive. I recommend Ryan Yamane to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services fully and without reservation.

Aloha,
Jennifer Sabas
Owner and President
Kaimana Hila

Bruce A. Coppa
600 Queen Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 223-7971 brucopp@gmail.com

February 19, 2025

LATE

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

RE: GM642 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. (Position corrected by GM651)

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to offer my unwavering support for Director Yamane's continued leadership of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHS). During their tenure, Director Yamane has demonstrated exceptional dedication, vision, and effectiveness in guiding the department through a period of significant challenges and opportunities.

- **Improved Service Delivery:** Director Yamane has spearheaded initiatives to streamline and modernize service delivery, making it easier for Hawai'i's residents to access essential programs and benefits.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Despite budget constraints, Director Yamane has managed the department's finances with prudence and accountability, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Director Yamane has fostered strong relationships with community organizations, service providers, and other stakeholders, recognizing the importance of collaboration in achieving the department's mission.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** Director Yamane has championed the use of data and evidence to inform policy and program decisions, leading to more targeted and impactful interventions

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Committee on Health & Human Services
February 19, 2025
Page 2

Director Yamane has outlined a clear and compelling vision for the future of DHS, which includes:

- **Equitable Access to Services:** Ensuring that all residents, regardless of their background or circumstances, have equitable access to the services they need.
- **Prevention and Early Intervention:** Shifting the focus from crisis response to prevention and early intervention, addressing the root causes of social and economic challenges.
- **Workforce Development:** Investing in the department's workforce, providing training and support to ensure that staff have the skills and knowledge to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Director Yamane's leadership has been instrumental in advancing the mission of DHS and improving the lives of countless Hawai'i residents. The Director's commitment to public service, and deep understanding of the complex issues facing our state, and with his proven ability to lead and inspire makes him the ideal candidate to continue leading the department into the future.

I urge you to support Director Ryan Yamane's confirmation.

Bruce A. Coppa

ROSS I. YAMASAKI
222 South Vineyard Street, Suite 401, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 227-3650 ryamasaki808@gmail.com

February 19, 2025

LATE

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

RE: GM642 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN YAMANE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. (Position corrected by GM651)

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the appointment of Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Hawaii State Department of Human Services (DHS). Mr. Yamane's exceptional qualifications, extensive experience, and unwavering commitment to public service make him the ideal candidate to lead this critical department.

Mr. Yamane has extensive experience both as a legislator and in his professional career that uniquely qualify him for this role. His deep understanding of the department's intricate operations, coupled with his proven leadership abilities, positions him to effectively manage the complexities of this vital agency.

Throughout his career, Mr. Yamane has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service and the well-being of the people of Hawaii. His passion for improving the lives of the most vulnerable members of our community is evident in his tireless advocacy and innovative approaches to social service delivery.

Mr. Yamane possesses the visionary leadership and collaborative spirit necessary to lead the Department of Human Services into a new era of effectiveness and efficiency. His ability to bring together diverse stakeholders and forge consensus on critical issues will be invaluable in addressing the complex challenges facing our state.

I firmly believe that Ryan Yamane is the right person to lead the Hawaii State Department of Human Services. His appointment will ensure that the department continues to provide essential services to the people of Hawaii with compassion, efficiency, and innovation.

I urge you to support Mr. Yamane's appointment as Director of the Hawaii State Department of Human Services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ross I. Yamasaki

LATE

GM-642

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:27:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/19/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Betts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in support of Mr. Ryan Yamane's confirmation as Director of the Department of Human Services. Ryan's entire career has been dedicated to public service and helping marginalized communities. I have no doubt that he will continue to serve the public while ensuring our most vulnerable residents receive the dignity, care, and services they are entitled to. As former Chair of the House Human Services Committee, Ryan understands the needs of the department, the hardworking staff of DHS, and our broader community. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Catherine Betts



Imanaka Asato
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

LATE

February 19, 2025

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

RE: Governor's Message No. 642
Hearing date: February 19, 2025 at 1:00 pm

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino and members of the committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 642, confirming Ryan Yamane as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Ryan Yamane is a distinguished leader with over 30 years of experience spanning the public and private sectors. His expertise includes working in the government sector, academia, and healthcare, making him exceptionally well-qualified to lead the department. Throughout his career, Ryan has demonstrated a strong ability to navigate complex policy and management decisions at the executive level. He is widely recognized as an effective communicator and problem-solver—qualities essential to leading an agency responsible for serving Hawaii's most vulnerable populations.

His extensive experience in government and community service, including serving as the chair of the House Health committee, underscores his deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities within Hawaii's social services landscape. Ryan's leadership will be instrumental in ensuring that the Department of Human Services continues to deliver critical programs that support families, individuals, and communities across the state.

Most importantly, Ryan is a person of high integrity, strong ethical values, and a deep commitment to public service. His leadership will undoubtedly strengthen the department and enhance its ability to address the needs of Hawaii residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to confirm Ryan Yamane as Director of the Department of Human Services.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kimberley W. Yoshimoto