



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0633
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, BEATRICE MARTINEZ,
for a term to expire 6-30-23.**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Room: 229

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
2 of Beatrice Martinez to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH). Ms. Martinez fills the
3 mandated SCMH membership position of the principal state agency with respect to housing,
4 pursuant to Chapter 334-10 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Federal Law, Public Law 102-
5 321, Section 1914(c).

6 Ms. Martinez is a Resident Services Specialist with the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority,
7 working with tenants of federally-assisted public housing statewide to address needs specific to
8 their respective communities. She has nearly two decades of experience in providing housing
9 assistance for homeless and low-income individuals. Ms. Martinez also has experience in the
10 field of behavioral health, having assisted with housing, case management and recovery support
11 service coordination for the Adult Mental Health Division.

12 As someone who has worked in the fields of housing and behavioral health, she holds a
13 unique vantage point in seeing the needs, gaps, and linkage opportunities between these two
14 critical areas. Her experience and knowledge about the homeless population is extremely
15 valuable during Council deliberations.

16 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of
17 Ms. Martinez to the State Council on Mental Health. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on
18 her behalf.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Tuesday, May 12, 2020
9:30 AM
Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
GM 633

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON
MENTAL HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BEATRICE MARTINEZ, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE
JUNE 30, 2023**

Honorable Chair Baker and Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Governor's Message (GM) 633, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Beatrice (Kauai) Martinez, for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

With over 18 years of experience working at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), as well as the Department of Health (DOH) Adult Mental Health Division, Ms. Martinez is an exceptional candidate who will build positive relationships and partnerships to positively impact the access and opportunities for mental health services offered to our community.

Ms. Martinez is a person of high moral character, knowledge, professionalism, compassion, care, and vision. She will bring a hard work ethic, integrity and constructive guidance with developing sound and thoughtful policy decisions as a member of the State Council on Mental Health.

The HPHA urges the Committee to pass GM633 and appoint Ms. Beatrice (Kauai) Martinez to the State Council on Mental Health.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

May 7, 2020

Chair Rosalyn H. Baker
And Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee
Thirtieth State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to strongly support the nomination of Beatrice Kau'i Martinez for the State Council on Mental Health. I have known Ms. Martinez for approximately five years in her current role as Resident Services Program Specialist at the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA). Ms. Martinez is an exceptional partner to our program at the Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP). In 2015, the DOH TPEP, DOH Public Health Nursing Branch (PHN), Hawai'i Public Health Institute/ Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i, and HPHA collaborated to launch a wellness initiative involving HPHA managers and staff who service over 80 properties throughout the state. Our initial goal was to help managers to implement and enforce the 2014 state law that prohibited smoking on all public housing properties, statewide. Ms. Martinez's professional background in mental health and case management brought valuable perspective to our collaborative team. She encouraged the team to approach the project through a mental health/ stress management lens, recognizing the connection between mental and emotional well-being and the physical body. Under Ms. Martinez's guidance as the primary HPHA representative, the team was able to complete a needs assessment and implement educational sessions to support managers in their ability to address their own mental health, as well as better address smoking, wellness, and the daily challenges facing their residents. She was creative and uplifting in her approach with staff as well as our team. I witnessed Ms. Martinez work diligently to not only meet the requirements of her job, but also extend herself to ensure that staff and teammates feel supported and encouraged.

I am pleased and honored to endorse Beatrice Kau'i Martinez in her nomination for this position and I am grateful that she will serve our state in this capacity.

Sincerely,

Jill Tamashiro
Secondhand Smoke Policy Coordinator
Tobacco Prevention and Education Program
Hawai'i State Department of Health

Charisse P Solomon
Kaiser Permanente
QUEST Integration
Housing Coordinator

May 6, 2020

Subject -
Kau'i Martinez
Resident Services Program Specialist
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Dear Senator Rosalyn H. Baker:

I highly recommend Kau'i Martinez as a candidate for Housing Representative on the State Council on Mental Health.

Both Kau'i and I previously worked together at the Adult Mental Health Division, Clinical Operations. She was the Case Management Specialist and I, Clinical Operations Specialist then the Housing Specialist. We have known each other professionally and personally for many years.

Kau'i is experienced in working with diverse populations. Her effective interpersonal skills with the ability to interact with people of varying social, economic and education levels is an asset.

Kau'i has excellent communication skills. In addition, she is extremely organized and reliable. Kau'i works independently but also collaboratively and effectively with community organizations, state agencies, Managed Health Care Plans and other social service agencies to promote and grow housing opportunities within the State.

It is my hope that she will continue to represent the State Council on Mental Health.

Sincerely,

Charisse P Solomon

To: Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

May 7, 2020

CPHTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony for Beatrice “Kauai” Martinez for Nomination for the State Council on Mental Health

Aloha All,

It is my pleasure to support my colleague and friend Beatrice Martinez in her nomination for State Council on Mental Health. I met Beatrice nearly 10 years ago when I began working for Adult Mental Health Division for the State of Hawaii where she had been working since 2006. We have worked side by side to provide mental health services for Hawai'i's Severe and Persistent Mentally Ill (SPMI) population. In her current position as resident Services Program Specialist with Hawaii public Housing Authority we collaborate to assist those consumers who may have mental health needs or intervention that reside in public housing.

I enjoyed working with her and is a great candidate for this position as she is pleasant, easy to get along with, dependable, efficient, punctual, very professional and takes pride in her work and proficiency. Beatrice is a great speaker and very knowledgeable in her skill set. She gives great attention to detail, is patient when handling difficult situations and resolves conflict with tact.

Beatrice has participated in various community volunteer opportunities including her Alumni Kamehameha Schools Pauahi Foundation. She is very involved with her family, takes care of her parents and enjoys spending time with her grand babies.

It has been a pleasure working with Beatrice directly and indirectly for the past 10 years and getting to know her on a personal level as well. She always presents herself well, is personable and very funny. I humbly request you to consider her for a position on the State Council on Mental Health as I am sure you will not be disappointed.

Aloha,

Desiree Kanani Tai

DOH/AMHD Utilization Management

Eligibility Determination Specialist

Desiree.tai@doh.hawaii.gov

808-453-6929

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I want to be a member of the Board so residents who live in low income public housing, affordable housing, or have housing related issues can have a voice. I want to be part of something that positively impacts the lives of people who suffer from mental illness, their families who support them, to bridge any gaps in mental health services, and to ensure quality services are in place to provide continuity of care for anyone receiving mental health services.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

I perceive the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board to be an advocate for consumers, to ensure decisions on policies or law being put forth by government bodies positively impact the lives of consumers and their families, to bring public awareness and education on mental health issues, to improve the quality of care and lives of consumers and their families, and to monitor, review and evaluate the mental health services in the state.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, 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 current member of the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH), and having experienced being on the SCMH, I believe I am the right person to fulfill the Housing Representative seat. I believe that I am qualified for this position because I am compassionate, dedicated, caring, empathetic, enjoy serving others and firmly believe that everyone should be treated equally.

As a former employee of the DOH-Adult Mental Health Division I worked closely with providers in the community who provided an array of services to consumers, such as case management, representative payee, homeless outreach and interim case management, family psychoeducation, housing, and transportation. I also assisted with managing the Hawaii Certified Peer Specialist Internship program which was designed to train and equip consumers with the necessary skills to allow them to work with and support other consumers in their journey to recovery.

Being able to manage, coordinate and fulfill my responsibilities daily took being organized, dedicated, detail-orientated, understanding the impact of appropriate mental health services and knowledgeable in the programs I was responsible for. I believe possessing these types of skills will aid me as a member of the Board.

Combined with my current position at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority as a Resident Services Program Specialist in the Property Management Branch, I have a wide range of experiences working with and coordinating supportive services to individuals and families who are in need.

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

During my term of service, I hope to continue with improving access and availability of services for consumers, specifically for individuals and families with housing needs, to increase public awareness and education on mental health services within the State of Hawaii, and to actively participate in the State Council on Mental Health.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

a. Integrity: I believe in being truthful, honest, and moral. I believe this quality will benefit the Board because it will help me to make ethical and moral decisions that will benefit the consumers and their families within the state. This also means, if something is not right, I would not be afraid to speak up and be that voice of concern and reason to ensure collectively as a Board we are doing what is best for the consumers and their families.

b. Good Listener: Being a good listener is a quality that will benefit the Board because I have an ability to focus on and hear what the person is saying when they're not saying it, I understand and care about what someone is saying, I'm not afraid to make eye contact and be present while listening, and I am empathetic. This will help to make sound decisions that will benefit the consumers, their families, and the community.

c. Genuine: I have always been a genuine person and truly care for others and their well-being, no matter their status or station in life. I was raised in a home with a firm foundation in compassionate service to others and was taught to give freely of oneself to anyone in need. This quality has remained with me and has helped me to become the person I am today. I believe the Board will benefit from this quality because it will help to advocate for the consumers and their families because I genuinely care about their quality of life and having programs in place to provide services for their continuity of care and journey in recovery.

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

In my current position with the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), I engage with many residents on the phone or in person (walk-ins) who need assistance or want to make a complaint. Sometimes some residents come more frequent than others.

On one particular morning, a resident of HPHA walked-in (as they have done on many other occasions) and seemed very agitated and frustrated. He came in to make a complaint, and another staff member began to engage him publicly at the front counter. I quickly noticed communication broke down between the two parties (voices were raised) as he kept requesting to speak where his information wasn't heard by everyone. The resident felt he wasn't being understood and got more frustrated. I immediately intervened and asked if he would like to speak with me in our conference room. He gladly followed me complaining the whole way as we walked away from the counter.

After about 5 minutes, he calmed down and began to share with me his diagnosis and struggles he has had living on his own and how his neighbors and some staff treat him because they think he is "crazy" so no one listens to him. I continued to listen and was able to get to the source of his complaint, which was related to this unit. I asked him if he

was alright with me calling the Management office to speak on his behalf. After speaking with the Manager, a work order was issued to address the plumbing issue in his unit.

This experience demonstrated to me how people with mental illness are stigmatized and often not “heard” because of our own fears and misunderstanding. I believe education and awareness of not only mental illness is important, but also how we react to and treat others who may display behaviors related to mental illness. Everyone just wants to be “heard” and understood but sometimes their voice isn’t heard. I know being a member of the State Council on Mental Health will give me a greater opportunity to do this on the council and within my agency at the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

- (7) **Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?**
No, I do not foresee any conflicts of interest. If I had to overcome a conflict of interest, I would address it immediately with the Board Chairperson and the DOH representative and proceed with the necessary course of action.