

# GM 327

Darin H. Kawazoe

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i  
Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled  
Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, DARIN H. KAWAZOE,  
for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Office of Senator David Y. Ikeda  
The Senate  
State Capital, Room 215  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 28, 2009

Dear Senator Ikeda:

RE: Re-Nomination to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance.

I would like to express a heart felt thank you for considering my re-nomination for the Hawaii Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. I wrote an article for a company's newspaper and would like to share this with you to give you a better perspective about who I am. The article stated:

"For every person who ever decided to abandon the life of alcohol and other drugs for a new and profound way of living, who continues to have the courage to heal and recover without drugging or drinking, who has read countless number of self-help books, who uses the 12-step fellowship for love and support, who tirelessly works to repair the damage done, and who gives inspiration and hope to others...

For every mother, father and child who witnessed the devastating harm to their family as a result of ice, coke, weed or alcohol, who successfully continues to take care of themselves no matter what, despite the countless number of nights waiting for the return of a loved one, who has dropped more tears than anyone could ever image, who has ever been afraid to answer the telephone in fear of the inevitable, but continues to serve their community in healthy, productive ways...

For the men and women who have taken up the charge and provided drug treatment, prevention, mentorship and sponsorship despite the many obstacles and barriers, who have rolled up their sleeves to the proverbial message of "let's get busy," who have sacrificed time from family and friends, who responds to early morning wake-up calls from people stating, "I no more money...I feel like using..."

For every one of you and more, I mua...In my fifteen years of learning and teaching in the field of Chemical Dependency Treatment, I have heard personal stories of triumph and sometimes of defeat. These stories have surprised me and moved me, and sometimes they have made me laugh and cry. One woman recently called with the following story, "I finally got a home on Hawaiian Homestead. This is unreal," she said. "I can't believe I have ten years of recovery and things are finally coming together for my children and me. This is incredible. I am actually saving money...Thank you God!"

One of my favorite stories happened recently at a local restaurant with the resident valet. This man rushed up to me and handed me my car keys. "It's on me," he said, "Thanks for busting my brains in treatment; it's been eight years since I used drugs."

In the past years, as I've had the opportunity to talk stories with many recovering addicts and alcoholics, I've come to learn that many of the issues are quite similar, yet the pathway through recovery can also be very different. Some individuals opt for substance abuse treatment; others

choose Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous strictly, and still others participate in psychotherapy.

As you probably already noticed, the word "recovery" refers to children and adults who once abused alcohol and other drugs. The ability to stay clean and sober is a conscious choice. However, it's not as easy as it seems. It requires keeping cool and fighting back the impulses and urges to use substances, no matter how long one has been clean and sober. It requires shaking it off as well as holding on during stressful and tragic life events. It takes courage, faith, and a fearless attitude to ride through difficult times. It ultimately takes enormous community and family support. "I'm choosing freedom and peace," said one of my former clients at a local gas station. "That's what it's all about." These are some of the lessons of recovering people; lessons that we can all learn from.

Stand up and be proud of your accomplishments... You, who no one thought would remain clean and sober. You, who have changed your life and no longer are victims of circumstances or life events. You, who works tirelessly at remaining clean and sober... We salute you!"

I believe that everyone should be given a second chance to redeem oneself and be provided with opportunities for a better, more fruitful life. As a child, I remember my parents asking me, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" I replied, "An advocate for people who have hard lives." Approximately 18 years ago, I made a personal and professional commitment to see this childhood dream come to fruition. I have been blessed in so many ways. I have been given so many opportunities to see this dream become a reality. As a result, I started Hawaii's first Drug Court Program with a team of outstanding professionals. I have orchestrated outpatient treatment programs in neighborhoods such as Waimanalo, Honolulu, Kapalama - Kalihi, and Kapolei with an outpouring of community support. I continue to coach mental health workers who deal with patients who have co-occurring disorders. I have consulted with an organization which reduces the harm associated with illicit drug use and alcohol amongst Hawaii's transgender population. I have been a part of a faculty that worked to initiate prevention efforts in Guam, Saipan, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Today, I am the Chief Development Officer for CARE Hawaii, Inc. In my capacity as the organization's "planner," I am also responsible for our Company's addiction and mental health services for youth and adults.

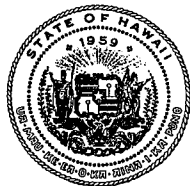
I am a "local boy" at heart. I have had many opportunities to leave the State. However, one thing that keeps me here and remains constant is my commitment to improving the quality of life for our people. I believe I can continue to manifest this intention through the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. Working with unified purpose, I would like to improve access to treatment in the State of Hawaii. Additionally, I strongly believe that all treatment agencies who receive State funding should be governed by a strict adherence to evidenced-based practices. These continue to be my goals during my term of service.

My godmother has been a strong influence in my life. With all due respect, my intention is never to stand out. Instead, humility, perseverance and love are my guiding principles in life. With your re-confirmation, I stand ready to serve the people of Hawaii. There are no possible conflicts of interests that could arise during my service with this Commission, and any possible conflicts of interest will be overcome through the Hawaii Ethics Commission.

Again, thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Darin H. Kawazoe

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## Senate Committee on Health

### G.M. 316 & G.M. 327, Nomination for Consideration and Confirmation for Commissioners of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health

March 4, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports confirmation of Stephen Kalani  
2 Brady, M.D. (6/30/2013) and Darin H. Kawazoe (6/30/2013) to serve on the Hawaii Advisory  
3 Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (HACDACS) for terms to expire as  
4 parenthetically indicated.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** Not applicable.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointment of Stephen Kalani Brady, M.D. and Darin H.  
7 Kawazoe to serve on HACDACS.

8 HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not limited to  
9 pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational, legal defense,  
10 enforcement and corrections segments of the community.

11 **Stephen Kalani Brady, M.D.** was first appointed to HACDACS on July 1, 2007. He is board  
12 certified in internal medicine and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. In 2003, he was  
13 appointed vice chairman of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health at the University of Hawaii, John  
14 A. Burns School of Medicine, where he serves as associate professor. Dr. Brady is known throughout  
15 Hawaii and beyond as a man of medicine and music. After graduating with honors from Harvard

1 University as a scholar in engineering and applied physics, he earned his master's degree and worked on  
2 his doctorate in biostatistics and epidemiology at the University of Hawaii. Subsequently, he studied at  
3 the University of Pennsylvania to complete his dissertation in acute lymphocytic leukemia and his  
4 medical studies in 1982. He returned home to Hawaii for residency training and then practiced internal  
5 medicine for several years. He has been the featured physician on the weekly program "Ask the Doctor"  
6 on KHON FOX Channel 2 Morning News and also co-hosted the weekly medical talk show, "Health in  
7 Paradise." Dr. Brady represents the medical segment of the community.

8 **Darin H. Kawazoe** was first appointed to HACDACS on July 1, 2007. He heads a consultant  
9 firm (dba Support Unlimited, LLC), which designs and develops community-based programs for  
10 organizations. His work focuses on education, health, prevention, culturally-relevant and criminal  
11 justice-appropriate treatment services, including but not limited to: developing strategies and learning  
12 modules for offenders; training, coaching and developing a continuum of evidence-based practices for  
13 substance abusing mentally ill consumers; and designing, facilitating and implementing community-  
14 based action plans to address drug use in high-risk neighborhoods. Mr. Kawazoe is a Certified  
15 Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC) who has extensive experience in the field of substance abuse  
16 treatment. He served as the Program Director for the State's first Drug Court and as the coordinator for  
17 the Hawaii Drug Control Strategy Summit convened in 2003. Mr. Kawazoe represents the community  
18 and business affairs segment of the community.

19 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration in confirming the  
20 appointment of Stephen Kalani Brady, M.D. and Darin H. Kawazoe to HACDACS.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of these volunteers who represent the  
22 medical, community and business interests of the community.

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