

## The Senate Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Aloha Jawana Ready:

Congratulations on your nomination to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. To assist the Hawaii State Senate with its confirmation process, we request that you submit the following information to our office no later than March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to ensure that we proceed in a timely manner:

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

**Response:** I wish to be a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances because I am deeply committed to addressing the challenges posed by substance use disorder/problem substance use and advancing the health and well-being of community members. Serving on the Commission offers a unique opportunity to contribute my expertise and passion to meaningful initiatives that positively impact individuals and families across Hawai'i.

I believe that my background as a behavioral health professional, combined with my dedication to community-focused solutions, positions me to make a meaningful contribution. I am eager to work collaboratively with fellow members, stakeholders, and the community to develop evidence-based strategies, promote equitable access to resources, and combat the stigma surrounding substance use.

Ultimately, I view this role as a chance to give back to the community and I am honored by the opportunity to contribute to this important mission.

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

**Response:** As a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, I perceive the roles and responsibilities to include the following:

1. Advising on policy and programs
2. Advocating for public health
3. Collaborating with stakeholders

4. Prioritizing cultural awareness and understanding
  5. Monitoring trends and outcomes
  6. Promoting equitable access to resources, programs, and services
  7. Upholding ethical standards
3. Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities as a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, 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.

**Response:** Given my understanding of the roles and responsibilities as a member of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, I believe my qualifications as a behavioral health professional with extensive experience in clinical care, administrative, consultative, and leadership roles make me exceptionally well-suited for this position.

**Clinical Expertise:** With many years of experience in providing direct clinical care and supervising clinical care, I bring an in-depth understanding of mental health and substance use disorders. This expertise allows me to approach complex issues with a comprehensive and evidence-based perspective.

**Administrative and Leadership Skills:** In my administrative and leadership roles, I have successfully overseen multidisciplinary teams, implemented programs, and managed resources to achieve organizational objectives. These experiences have equipped me with the ability to navigate complex systems, coordinate stakeholders, and drive initiatives.

**Consultative Experience:** Through my consultative work, I have advised organizations on best practices for addressing BH-related matters. This has honed my ability to analyze data, identify trends, and develop strategic solutions that address both systemic and individual needs.

**Knowledge and Passion:** I have a strong understanding of social, cultural, and systemic factors that influence BH/SUD outcomes. My passion for improving the well-being of individuals and communities aligns with the core objectives of the Commission.

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

**Response:** During my term of service with the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, I aim to make a meaningful and lasting impact by focusing on the following goals:

1. Supporting advancement of evidence-based strategies, solutions, and care
  2. Supporting the role of community and collaboration in care
  3. Promoting access to care for all members across Hawai'i's diverse communities
  4. Reducing Stigma.
5. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

**Response:** These three qualities—intellectually curious, community-focused, and empathic—are defining attributes of who I am, and I believe that they align with the mission and responsibilities of the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

**1. Intellectually Curious:** I am driven by a deep passion for learning and understanding complex issues, especially those that impact individuals and communities. This intellectual curiosity enables me to analyze data, research evidence-based solutions, and approach challenges with innovative thinking. On the Commission, this quality would allow me to stay informed about emerging trends in substance use, advancements in treatment, and evolving community needs, ensuring well-informed and proactive decision-making.

**2. Community-Focused:** My commitment to serving and uplifting communities is central to everything I do. I understand the importance of building strong partnerships, engaging diverse perspectives, and advocating for solutions that truly address the needs of those affected. This focus would allow me to contribute meaningfully to the Commission's efforts to support programs that promote health and resilience across Hawai'i's communities.

**3. Empathic:** I believe empathy is essential for truly understanding the experiences and struggles of others. This quality allows me to approach issues with sensitivity, compassion, and an open mind, ensuring that the voices of those impacted by substance use are heard and respected. On the Commission, this empathy would guide me in fostering inclusive dialogue, addressing stigma, and prioritizing decisions that enhance the well-being of individuals and families.

Together, these qualities position me to effectively contribute to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances by bringing insight, collaboration, and humanity to its important work.

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

**Response:** Project Coordinator. Primary project coordination responsibilities for a grant-funded project. This project was a study focusing on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the effectiveness of a 12-session, culturally-competent, community-based family intervention for African-American adolescent males with a substance abuse disorder.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

**Response:** I do not foresee any conflicts of interest. However, if any possible conflicts of interest arose, I would take proactive measures to ensure transparency and maintain the integrity of my role. Specifically:

1. **Disclosure:** I would openly disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the Commission at the earliest opportunity, allowing the team to assess and address them appropriately.
2. **Recusal:** In situations where a conflict of interest might compromise my impartiality, I would recuse myself from related discussions, deliberations, or decision-making to prevent any influence on outcomes.
3. **Adherence to Ethical Standards:** I would consistently follow the guidelines and ethical standards set forth by the Commission to ensure my actions align with its mission and values.
4. **Continuous Review:** I would regularly evaluate my affiliations and responsibilities to identify and mitigate any new or evolving conflicts of interest during my tenure.

By prioritizing transparency, accountability, and integrity, I am confident in my ability to effectively navigate and resolve any potential conflicts of interest that may arise.

Please be aware that testimony submitted to committees – including your responses to the above questions - is posted on the Legislature's website; you may wish to remind individuals who intend to submit testimony on your behalf of the public nature of the testimony.

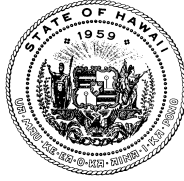
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Here is the link to your nomination on the State Capitol website:

[Measure Status Details for GM 547](#)

Mahalo,

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0547**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on**  
**Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, JAWANA READY, for**  
**a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

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

April 7, 2025, 1:00 PM, Room 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) strongly supports this measure.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination and  
4 confirmation of Jawana Ready, Ph.D. to the Hawaii Advisory Commission and Drug Abuse and  
5 Controlled Substances (HACDACS) for a term to expire on June 30, 2028. HACDACS  
6 appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not limited to,  
7 pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational, legal  
8 defense, enforcement, and corrections segments of the community, pursuant to HRS §329-2.

9

10 Dr. Ready serves an interim appointment for HACDACS within the Medical category. She is a  
11 clinical supervisory psychologist with over twenty-five years of experience in private practice  
12 and state and federal government behavioral health leadership positions. Dr. Ready is currently  
13 the behavioral health clinical manager of the Defense Health Network Indo-Pacific at Tripler  
14 Army Medical Center, serving as an expert on behavioral health to leadership on the behavioral  
15 health issues of beneficiaries, and ensures the implementation of operational vision and strategy  
16 for behavioral health to military commands and staff.

17

1 In addition to her extensive leadership roles and direct service, Dr. Ready has made significant  
2 contributions to the academic field through publications and serving in various instructor, and  
3 lecturer positions. We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration for the  
4 nomination of Dr. Ready to serve on HACDACS.

5  
6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of a committed volunteer whose  
7 appointment adds to the cross-section of community interests represented on HACDACS.

**GM-547**

Submitted on: 4/4/2025 7:38:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/7/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Errol Ingram Jr	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Support of GM547

Submitted to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

April 2025

Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances - Jawana Ready

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Errol A. Ingram Jr , and I am writing in strong support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Jawana Ready to serve on the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

As a current UH Manoa student/studying in social work, I understand the urgent need for culturally competent, community rooted leaders who are willing to confront Hawai'i's substance abuse challenges with compassion, knowledge, and accountability. Ms. Ready embodies these qualities.

Ms. Ready brings to this commission a background that reflects both professional expertise and a deep commitment to serving vulnerable communities. Her experience working with substance abuse prevention, rehabilitation, and community wellness programs aligns with the mission of this commission: to develop policies and practices that reduce drug related harm while uplifting affected individuals and families.

Her understanding of the local context especially the unique cultural and socioeconomic dynamics in our island communities makes her especially qualified to advocate for interventions that are not only evidence based but also respectful of indigenous knowledge and community voices.

In a time when Hawai'i faces a growing crisis in opioid misuse, methamphetamine resurgence, we need leaders like Ms. Ready who can navigate both data driven strategies and community based solutions. Her appointment would ensure that decision making at the state level remains grounded, inclusive, and responsive.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to confirm Jawana Ready to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Errol Ingram Jr.