

**GM 632: Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances
Questionnaire Response for Jon Fujii
February 20, 2025**

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

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

- (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?

As an advocate for the needs and health disparities of the citizens of Hawaii suffering from a Substance Use Disorder (SUD). Additionally, I would also wear an alternate advocate 'hat' on for those in the Medicaid population suffering from SUD.

- (3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities as a member of 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.

I have worked in healthcare in Hawaii all of the nearly 36 years of my professional career and have a good understanding of the health care delivery system in Hawaii. Working for Medicaid for the past 19 years has given me an appreciation of the difficulties faced by Medicaid members who are struggling with an addiction related to an SUD. At Medicaid, we have worked specifically to target policies and stand-up programs that address the needs of those struggling with SUD. My work has exposed me to the difficulties with adequate provider capacity to deliver Medication Assisted Treatment services, especially on the neighbor islands. Finally, my past 3-year term as a member of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances has given me vital experience with leveraging the voice of the Commission to advocate for those suffering with SUD.

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

I hope to improve the lives of Hawaii residents who struggle with additions and SUD. Additionally, I hope to fortify and strengthen the collaboration between

ADAD and MQD to coordinate our efforts to better serve the people of the State of Hawaii.

- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances?

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

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

Working as the Health Care Services Branch Administrator (HCSBA) for the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) for the past 9+ years has exposed me to the many struggles that member of our community face as they struggle with addiction and the impacts it has on their everyday life. As MQD has rolled out our Community Integration Services program that provides pre-tenancy and tenancy sustaining services to Medicaid members struggling with homelessness, many of those in this program have had their SUD diagnosis impact their ability to find a place to call home and adapt their behavior to what is normally expected from a tenant in good standing. As a part of the screening process when members enter the CIS program, there are specific questions related to any SUD conditions so that the CIS provider is aware and can ensure specific supports are in place for a successful placement. Additionally, MQD have begun to enroll clean and sober homes as CIS providers so that those struggling with an addiction can also benefit from CIS services. MQD has also receive recent approval through our 1115 waiver process to begin providing Contingency Management services to our Medicaid members. This new benefit is grounded in over 30 years of evidence-based research, provides a series of motivational incentives for meeting treatment goals, and is available to Medicaid members that have a qualifying SUD diagnosis and who meet other eligibility criteria. MQD has also partnered with ADAD to strategize how Medicaid can pay for a greater proportion of the ADAD payments made to SUD provider, by tapping into the federal match open to services paid by Medicaid and subsequently 'stretching' how far the scarce State general fund dollars might go. We are looking at removing barriers that keep these providers from billing a Medicaid health plan for their SUD services, and are also working through sharing enrollment information with ADAD so they can be aware of when providers have failed to bill Medicaid health plans for these services. My past 9+ years in the HCSBA position has shown me the many challenges and opportunities that are present in our current delivery system for those who struggle with SUD.

- (8) 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?

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



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Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0632
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance, Gubernatorial Nominee, JON FUJII, for a term
to expire 06-30-2028.

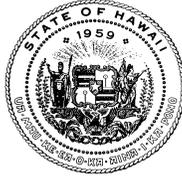
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENANTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: February 24, 2025, 1:05pm, Room 225

- 1 **Department Position**The Department of Health (Department) strongly supports this measure.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) provides the
- 3 following testimony on behalf of the Department.
- 4 The Department of Health strongly supports once more the nomination and confirmation of Mr.
- 5 Jon D. Fujii to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances
- 6 (HACDACS) for a term to expire 6/30/2028. HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of
- 7 the community, including, but not limited to pharmacological, medical, community and business
- 8 affairs, youth action, educational, legal defense, enforcement and corrections segments of the
- 9 community, pursuant to HRS §329-2. Mr. Fujii is the Health Care Services Branch (HCSB)
- 10 Administrator responsible for the overall management and execution of Quest Integration (QI)
- 11 and other medical assistance programs, including the contracting, monitoring and oversight
- 12 involved with these programs. He represented HCSB at various outreach meetings related to
- 13 healthcare transformation, including Hawaii Health Information Exchange integration with QI
- 14 Managed Care Organizations (MCO), finding a solution to Mental Health America providers
- 15 experiencing a Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) enrollment 'gap' period after client
- 16 transition to QI, planning and conducting annual QI waiver public forum, DOE initiative to pay

1 in-school health aides/LPNs/RNs on a per service basis with Medicaid dollars, Innovation
2 Accelerator Programs (IAPs) related to community integration with Long-Term Services and
3 Supports (LTSS) recipients and physical and mental health integration. We respectfully request
4 your expeditious and favorable consideration for the nomination of Mr. Fujii to serve on
5 HACDACS.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of a committed and very experienced
7 public servant whose appointment adds to the cross-section of community interests represented
8 on HACDACS.



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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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
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TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 23, 2025

TO: The Honorable Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director
Judy Mohr Peterson, Administrator, Med-QUEST Division

SUBJECT: **GM 632 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance, Gubernatorial Nominee, JON FUJII, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

Hearing: Monday, February 24, 2025, Time 1:05 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination and confirmation of Jon Fujii to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

PURPOSE: The Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance, sections 329-2 – 329-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is responsible to:

- (1) Assist the Department of Health (DOH) in coordinating all action programs of community agencies (state, county, military, or private) specifically focused on the problem of drug abuse;
- (2) Assist DOH in carrying out educational programs designed to prevent and deter abuse of controlled substances;
- (3) Create public awareness and understanding of the problems of drug abuse;
- (4) Sit in an advisory capacity to the governor and other state departments as may be appropriate on matters relating to the commission's work and
- (5) Act in an advisory capacity to the Director of Health in substance abuse matters.

Mr. Fujii is well-suited to serve on this Advisory Commission. He has been employed by the DHS Med-QUEST Division (MQD) since 2006 and has served as the Health Care Services Branch Administrator since 2015. He has led the management and implementation of many of MQD's medical assistance programs, including the Division's programs that address substance use disorders. He has brought a wealth of knowledge surrounding healthcare administration and finance to MQD to improve its programs. He also has served on the State Council on Mental Health since 2020 and will bring this valuable experience and expertise to the Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substance.

Mr. Fujii holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Mr. Fujii is passionate about improving the lives of Hawaii residents who suffer from behavioral health conditions through his work with MQD and the Advisory Commission.

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



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February 24, 2025
1:05 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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

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

Re: GM 632, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii
Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JON FUJII, for a term to expire 06-30-2028; **In**
Support

'Ohana Health Plan is pleased to offer our strong **support** of GM 632, the confirmation of Jon Fujii to serve on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

'Ohana Health Plan provides government-sponsored managed care services to families—from keiki to kupuna—and individuals with complex medical needs primarily through QUEST (Medicaid), Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans across the state. 'Ohana Health Plan is a Centene Corporation company, a leading healthcare enterprise committed to helping people live healthier lives.

Since 2013, 'Ohana Health Plan has also served individuals with severe mental illness (SMI) and severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) through the state's behavioral health program within Medicaid, known as Community Care Services (CCS). 'Ohana Health Plan works very closely with Mr. Fujii and the Hawaii Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division. As the division's Health Care Services Branch Administrator, Mr. Fujii leads the team that oversees the QUEST and CCS programs.

CCS provides additional benefits and resources to help those in our community dealing with behavioral health and substance use disorders, including a specialized intensive case management program for our most vulnerable members, who are 3.5 times more likely to experience homelessness.

As a member of the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health, Mr. Fujii is uniquely qualified to serve on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. Mr. Fujii understands the relationships between mental health, mental illness, and substance abuse, and we believe he will continue to advocate for and find meaningful solutions for the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on GM 632 and we respectfully ask for your support on the confirmation of Mr. Fujii to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.