



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

**Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 685**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE**  
**COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,**  
**CYNTHIA DANG**

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (HTH)

Hearing Date: April 17, 2015  
1:15 p.m.

Room Number: 414

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the nomination of  
2 Cynthia Dang to serve on the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) for a term to expire on  
3 June 30, 2016.

4 This SCMH nominee will occupy the federal mandated positions under Public Law 102-  
5 321, Section 1914(c) as the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board  
6 (OSAB) representative.

7 **Cynthia Dang, Psy.D.** (GM 685) is a mid-level manager for Lean Pathways, a business  
8 consulting firm, and works with groups ranging from 20-60 employees. She holds a Doctorate in  
9 psychology from Argosy University. Dr. Dang has experience working with various committees  
10 dealing with assessing and treating trauma, and she worked as a program coordinator for  
11 homeless veterans. She is currently the Chair of the OSAB.

12 Dr. Dang has extensive training in the public and private sectors on program  
13 development, workplace initiatives and mental health and substance abuse. She has done

1 research on the impact of culture and ethnic identify relative to treatment outcomes for substance  
2 abuse and domestic violence. She continues to be active in Veteran outreach programs and helps  
3 to coordinate annual events designed to inform Veterans and Veteran support groups on  
4 resources. As a member of the International Training Summit on the Assessment and Treatment  
5 of Trauma, Dr. Dang participates as a summit planning committee member.

6 Dr. Dang's interest in the SCMH stems from her background, both as a clinician and in  
7 her experience with program development. She supports the SCMH's goals for standardizing  
8 processes to minimize variation, streamlining proposals to eliminate cumbersome elements, and  
9 integrating diverse contributions for improved outcomes.

10 Dr. Dang fulfills the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, OSAB, representative segment  
11 on the SCMH.

12 The DOH respectfully requests your favorable consideration in confirming Dr. Cynthia  
13 Dang to the SCMH.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this volunteer.

Aloha Chair Green and Members of the Health Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. It is a privilege to be nominated by Governor Ige to be a member of the State Council on Mental Health.

Hawai`i undoubtedly has many unique volunteer opportunities in the public and private sectors. This enriches both the volunteer and the programs and provides the community with a wide array of talent. The State's Boards and Commissions are great opportunities to share diverse perspectives, encourage lively discussions and explore practical solutions to move us forward as innovative leaders in health.

There continue to be many challenges facing us as a community for mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence. I understand the significance of being a member of the Council and the importance of working collaboratively in eliminating the stigma of seeking services and improving acceptability of programs.

As a member of the Council, I would bring experience from both the public and private sectors. My work as a Best Practice specialist in streamlining workplace programs support initiatives that explore efficiency. My clinical training with assessing and treating trauma and substance abuse allow for multidisciplinary perspectives on examining initiatives. My planning contributions to training events contribute to practical goal setting. The State Council on Mental Health is a great opportunity to make a difference in our community.

Mahalo for considering my nomination to serve as a member.

Cindi Dang, Psy.D.