



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0748
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health,
Gubernatorial Nominee, HEIDE ILYAVI,
for a term to expire 6-30-22.**

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

Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Room: 229

1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination and
2 confirmation of Heidi Ilyavi to the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH). Ms. Ilyavi fills the
3 mandated SCMH membership position of family member of a youth, pursuant to Chapter 334-10
4 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes and Federal Law, Public Law 102-321, Section 1914(c).

5 As a parent partner with the non-profit organization, Child and Family Services, Ms. Ilyavi
6 works closely with Big Island families caring for youth with emotional and behavioral challenges
7 to help them learn new skills or resources, have their voices be heard and to navigate systems
8 such as the DOH Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division and the Department of Education.

9 Ms. Ilyavi advocates for caregivers by attending various meetings and providing technical
10 assistance with completing necessary paperwork to access benefits for their child. Her firsthand
11 knowledge and perspective on the needs, resources, and service gaps facing youth experiencing
12 behavioral health challenges and their families is a will be an asset to the Council's deliberations.

13 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointment of
14 Ms. Ilyavi to the State Council on Mental Health.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on her behalf.

May 7, 2020

To whom it may concern,

Heidi Ilyavi, is my daughter. I am more than pleased to tell you what a wonderful woman she is. Heidi has always been someone who could be counted on to get the job done. She communicates well, is creative and takes on difficult challenges. She has the unique ability to communicate effectively with people of all social backgrounds, ages and economic status. She finds her work in the Social Services field to be personally rewarding. I'm sure that she would be a valuable asset to your council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Betty" and last name "Jones" clearly distinguishable.

Betty Jones

(515) 777-6234

May 10, 2020

Dear Esteemed Board Members,

It is with great confidence that I highly recommend Heidi Ilyavi to the Council on Mental Health. She is knowledgeable, resourceful, and compassionate. She is able to deliver sensitive information with empathy and will advocate on behalf of those in the mental health systems and will create and promote the bond of trust that will propel her clients and families forward.

Heidi truly loves the Big Island and the community and Ohana she has created here. She is dedicated and puts her time and her articulation and comprehension of her family's needs as a Parent Partner for the Ohana Support Services who have youths in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division program. Her diligence in pursuing resources in the state of Hawaii and county of Hawaii will assist in creating open dialogue for Mental Health Awareness and work to remove the misinformation and stigma often associated with these issues.

Heidi is kind and utterly competent and it is her desire to provide her kokua to the community. It is my honor to promote her abilities to all, and everyone in her care will be well looked after.

Warmest Aloha,



Katherine Harriman
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Houaloa, HI 96725

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Heidi Ilyavi
Parent Partner – Child and Family Service
Kona-Kailua, Hawaii
(847) 224-3223
hilyavi@cfs-hawaii.org

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board? To bring about Mental Health awareness and understanding to the greater community of Hawaii as well as support and increase resources and an understanding of what resources are needed and valued.
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board? To inform, promote and advocate as well as inform and provide knowledge of the Hawaii Community that I work directly with.
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer? I work with the Parent's and Caregiver's of youth in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division on the Big Island and can advocate for the needs within the community and provide insight into the resources currently available and offered on the Big Island.
- (4) 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.
I believe I can Advocate for my community and bring about appropriate policy changes and support the many people affected by Mental Health. I have skills in research, writing, communication and interacting with the greater community with training in Trauma, Secondary Trauma, Advocacy and Multicultural Care, Self-Advocacy Focused Learning, Cultural Issues, and continuing my knowledge/education and obtaining further training so I can continue to be informed and knowledgeable of the ever changing treatments and resources.
- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? Removing the stigma and engaging more people to openly communicate and become informed on mental health, while advocating for resources, support and education of Mental

Health. As a Parent Partner I encourage, support and empower my Participant and I hope to do the same for the wider community of Hawaii.

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

I am extremely diligent with the things I believe in. I am an Advocate by nature and have strong communication skills. A diligent advocator who can communicate well should offer much benefit to the Board to pursue the Boards established goals and priorities.

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

I was previously a Claim Consultant who traveled the world and worked on large property insurance claims, advocating for the insured/clients for business such as; Blackstone, American Samoa Power Authority and Avondale Mills, etc. I was a strong advocator for, my clients/insured. I've participated in mediation, subrogation and litigation, written white papers and have a strong ability to communicate and work to find resolution.

- (8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest? I do not foresee any conflict of interest, but should a situation arise I would take in the information and understand all sides in an attempt to find the best most suitable decision to overcome the conflict.