



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM534 and GM535**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the**  
**Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, DIANA SANCHEZ,**  
**for terms to expire 06-30-2022 and 06-30-26, respectively.**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 2/18/2022

Hearing Time: 1:00 p.m.

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") **SUPPORTS** the nomination  
2 and confirmation of Diana Sanchez to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service  
3 Area Board.

4 **Department Testimony:** The role of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service  
5 Area Board is to advise, monitor, review and evaluate the provision of mental health services in  
6 Kauai County. Its membership is comprised of nine dedicated volunteers representing  
7 consumers, family members, community members and providers who give their time, energy,  
8 expertise and experience to improve and advocate for a system of care that provides quality  
9 mental health service to the people of Hawaii. The Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu  
10 Service Area Board reports County updates to the State Council on Mental Health which is  
11 administratively attached to the Department.

12 Ms. Diana Sanchez fills the family member role on the Mental Health and Substance  
13 Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board pursuant to Chapter 34-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes. She is a  
14 mother who has provided over 20 years of direct care and support to her adult son who was  
15 diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

1           Although she has been retired for several years, Ms. Sanchez has remained active in her  
2 local community pursuing projects that she is passionate about. As an active volunteer with the  
3 Hawaii National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), she facilitates the monthly NAMI Family  
4 Support Group and presents at NAMI signature classes for Family-to-Family and Family and  
5 Friends. She has worked with other NAMI Hawaii members to develop a pilot project for  
6 Assisted Community Treatment (ACT 221, SLH2013).

7           The Department strongly supports the appointment of Ms. Sanchez to the Mental  
8 Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board.

9           Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM-535**

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 8:49:14 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
NAMI Hawaii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern.

I fully support Diana Sanches, GM 535 for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse. She is an amazing leader for NAMI Big Island, as a teacher and support group. She is committed to the cause for improved mental health resources on Hawaii Island as well as the entire state.

Mahalo,

Kumi Macdonald