



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM642**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the**  
**Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, MARGARET JACKSON,**  
**for terms to expire 06-30-26.**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 4/8/2022

Hearing Time: 1:00 p.m.

**Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") **SUPPORTS** the nomination and confirmation of Margaret "Jackie" Jackson to the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board.

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

Ms. Margaret "Jackie" Jackson fills the family member role on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board pursuant to Chapter 34-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Ms. Jackson is employed as a parent partner for Hawaii Families as Allies, an organization primarily staffed by parents, grandparents, foster parents, or hanai parents of children with

1 emotional and/or behavioral health challenges. In her role, she encourages families she works  
2 with to be vocal advocates and to make their voices heard.

3 She came to Hawaii in 1987 and is a married mother of two adult sons as well as the  
4 legal guardian of an 11 year old child with special needs. She has compassion for family  
5 members who struggle with both mental health and substance abuse issues. Her passion for  
6 Hawaii youth and their 'ohana is fueled by being around family members who struggle with  
7 mental health and substance abuse. She has a keen understanding about the positive impact of  
8 proactive behavioral health resources and the need for services to be available and accessible  
9 at the time they are needed.

10 Ms. Jackson has been an active member of the Oahu Service Area Board since 2019.  
11 She finds her volunteer work with the Oahu Service Area Board rewarding and enjoys learning  
12 about the various ways that the board can effect positive change in Hawaii. We are pleased  
13 that she is willing to continue as a volunteer member of the Oahu Service Area Board and  
14 desires to expand her role by dually serving as the Oahu Service Area Board representative to  
15 the Hawaii State Council on Mental Health (GM644).

16 The Department strongly supports the appointment of Ms. Jackson to the Mental Health  
17 and Substance Abuse, Oahu Service Area Board.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.