

## **Testimony of the Board of Psychology**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Monday, March 25, 2024  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 657, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DON PEDRO,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2025**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Psychology (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Pedro's reappointment to the Board as a licensee member.

Dr. Pedro was appointed to the Board on March 16, 2017. He has held a psychologist license in Hawaii since December 2011. His license is current, valid, and in good standing.

Dr. Pedro currently works for the State Department of Adult Mental Health as the Forensic Section Head of the Oahu Branch, continuing his career with the State of Hawaii for nearly the entire 21<sup>st</sup> century. He also serves on the I Ola Lahui-Rural Hawai'i Behavioral Health Board of Directors, while also maintaining a part-time private practice providing clinical training to both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral interns. Dr. Pedro also teaches as a lecturer at University of Hawai'i-Kapi'olani Community College, and as an adjunct faculty member at Hawaii Pacific University.

Dr. Pedro is very familiar with the Board's responsibilities and tasks that include granting, suspending, and revoking licenses, establishing administrative rules, and enforcing provisions governing the regulation of psychology. He understands the expectation that individual Board members regularly attend and participate in the Board's functions. Importantly, Dr. Pedro continues to express a strong interest in participating in policy and consumer protection issues at the board level. The Board believes that Dr. Pedro's combination of experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to public service continue to make him a strong choice for reappointment to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.