



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM556**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the**  
**State Council on Mental Health,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, MARY PAT WATERHOUSE,**  
**for a term to expire 06-30-2028.**

SENATOR JOY SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATOR ANGUS McKELVEY, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date and Time: Friday, April 10, 2026, 1:00 p.m. Location: Room 225 & Video

- 1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") supports the nomination and
- 2 confirmation of Mary Pat Waterhouse to the State Council on Mental Health ("Council").
  
- 3 **Department Testimony:** Hawai'i Revised Statutes §334-10 establishes the State Council on
- 4 Mental Health within the Department for administrative purposes to advise the Department on
- 5 the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting two or more service areas.
- 6 It serves as an advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional
- 7 disturbances, other individuals with mental illnesses or emotional problems, and individuals
- 8 with combined mental illness and substance abuse disorders. The Council's mandate includes
- 9 reviewing and commenting on the statewide comprehensive, integrated service plan. It also
- 10 serves as the State Planning Council for purposes of the federal Mental Health Block Grant
- 11 program. The Council can have up to twenty-one members, of whom a majority should be non-
- 12 providers of mental health services. The majority should also be non-state employees. The
- 13 mandate seeks that all service area boards of the State are represented, and there is adequate
- 14 representation of parents and children with serious emotional disturbances. It requires the

1 Council to have members from the principal state agencies concerning mental health,  
2 education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid, and social services;  
3 Public and private entities concerned with the need, planning, operation, funding, and use of  
4 mental health services and related support services; Adults with serious mental illnesses who  
5 are receiving, or have received, mental health services; The families of such adults or families of  
6 children with serious emotional disturbances; and the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug  
7 Abuse and Controlled Substances.

8           This nomination represents a second term of Mary Pat Waterhouse in the non-provider  
9 family member seat, and we are grateful for her continued commitment. Her diligent,  
10 collaborative leadership has elevated the work of the Council. She was elected Secretary by her  
11 peers, chairs the ad hoc legislative committee, and contributes actively to several others. Her  
12 ability to bridge perspectives comes not only from her lived experience as a family member, but  
13 also from her service in government and long-standing community volunteer work.

14           Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination and your consideration of  
15 Mary Pat Waterhouse.

**GM-556**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:40:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Baker	Testifying for Hina Mauka	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Brian Baker. I am the President and CEO for Hina Mauka, a mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention agency for thousands of adults and adolescents on Oahu and Kauai, including recovery-oriented services and housing transitional living programs.*

Hina Mauka appreciates this opportunity to support the Gubernatorial nomination of Mary Pat Waterhouse for the State Council on Mental Health.

Ms. Waterhouse's extensive history and experience will prove a solid support for the important work of the council.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support her nomination.

**GM-556**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 4:42:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Mary Pat Waterhouse's appointment to the State Council on Mental Health. I've had the opportunity to work with Mary Pat at the City and County of Honolulu and on the Hawaii Community Development Authority. She is always thorough in carrying out her responsibilities. She will be an asset to the Council on Mental Health. Please confirm her appointment.

Mike Golojuch

**GM-556**

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 4:34:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/10/2026 1:00:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Connie Mitchell	Testifying for IHS, The Institute for Human Services, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in full support of Mary Pat Waterhouse's nomination to the State Council on Mental Health. Ms. Waterhouse has devoted years of her career and volunteerism to help improve our mental health system in Hawaii. I have worked with her for over 12 years advocating for legislation that would make mental health treatment more accessible for those who need it most. She was integrally involved in helping to facilitate the passage of legislation that facilitate Assisted Community Treatment and subsequent improvements to the statute to streamline the legal processes. Mary Pat's service on the Mental Health of America in Hawaii Board of Directors also speaks to her commitment to psychiatric treatment and support for persons suffering substance use disorders..

Please approve her nomination to the SMHC. We need informed and courageous Council members to continue improving our Behavioral health systems in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on her behalf.

Connie Mitchell, MS, APRN

Executive Director, IHS