

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3962

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 29 2026

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 712

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health and Human Services, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 712, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

STATE COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

G.M. No. 712 KATHLEEN MERRIAM
for a term to expire 06-30-2028,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Kathleen Merriam for service on the State Council on Mental Health.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the reappointment of Kathleen Merriam from the Department of Health, Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, and one individual.


Your Committee finds that Ms. Merriam's background and dedication to serving the public qualify her to be reappointed to the State Council on Mental Health as a member representing a principal state agency with respect to mental health. Your Committee notes that Ms. Merriam has been a mental health professional for more than three decades, with extensive experience in program development, clinical operations, and service coordination, serving for over two decades in the Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) of the Department of Health. Ms. Merriam is currently a Mental Health Supervisor with the Windward Oahu Treatment Services Section of the AMHD, where she



oversees clinical operations, supervises staff, and leads performance management and quality improvement initiatives. Previously, Ms. Merriam served as a Service Coordinator and Statewide Psychosocial Rehabilitation Coordinator for the AMHD. Your Committee further notes that Ms. Merriam has served as a member of the State Council on Mental Health since 2022 and has a thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of council members. Your Committee finds that Ms. Merriam's extensive experience in managing statewide initiatives and community-based mental health services will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Council. Your Committee therefore recommends that Kathleen Merriam be reappointed to the State Council on Mental Health based on her knowledge, background, and dedication to public service.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health and Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, has found the nominee to be qualified for the position to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health and Human
Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* 712	Committee Referral: HHS	Date: 3/9/2024		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision.				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C)	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC)	✓			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	✓			
KEOHOKALOPE, Jarrett	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
TOTAL	4	0	0	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink				
File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes