



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 0537
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on
Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, KUNANE DREIER,
for a term to expire 06-30-2029

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

April 14, 2026, 3:20 pm and Room Number: 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) strongly supports this
3 measure.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of
5 Kunane Dreier to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances
6 (HACDACS) for a term to expire on 06-30-2029. HACDACS appointees represent a cross-
7 section of the community, including, but not limited to, pharmacological, medical, community
8 and business affairs, youth action, educational, legal defense, enforcement, and corrections,
9 pursuant to HRS §329-2.

10 Mr. Dreier currently serves as an interim appointee for the HACDACS within the Community
11 and Business Affairs category. Mr. Dreier is the Director of Training and Program Development
12 at the Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC), coordinating capacity building
13 activities, houseless outreach, prevention programs, and special projects. Supporting HHHRC’s
14 efforts to provide needed services and training to fight stigma of HIV, hepatitis, homelessness,
15 substance use, mental illness, and poverty within the community.

1 Mr. Dreier has over 20 years of experience working with Hawaii based non-profit organizations.
2 Providing community outreach, capacity building, and program administration focused on HIV
3 prevention. Providing training on a number of tests, including Rapid HIV and Hepatitis C Virus
4 testing, as well as on LGBTQIA+ cultural humility. In addition to his work in Hawaii, Mr.
5 Dreier coordinates training programs for six pacific island jurisdictions.

6 As a person with many years in recovery, Mr. Dreier brings this perspective to all aspects of his
7 work. Mr. Dreier is a leader within the LGBTQIA+ who continues to provide cultural humility
8 training to service providers and community organizations. In addition, Mr. Dreier is a member
9 of several organizations including Papa Ola Lokahi's Mahu Advisory Committee and the Native
10 Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Community Health Workers Alliance. We respectfully request your
11 expeditious and favorable consideration of the nomination of Mr. Dreier to serve on the
12 HACDACS.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of a committed volunteer whose
14 appointment adds to the cross-section of community interest represented on the HACDACS.



GM537 Kunane Dreier for Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Apr 14 2026: 3:20 : Room 225 Videoconference

As a member of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, we strongly recommend Kunane Dreier for HACDACS:

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader with the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition, providing support for services for substance use disorder and mental health disorders for adolescents and adults as well as recovery oriented services, harm reduction, and transitional housing including case management, and withdrawal management. HSAC services help all people from all islands.

Kunane Dreier is currently and has been in a leadership role for Prevention, Training and Program Development for around 20 years. We have known Kunane since he worked at Hina Mauka, behavioral health treatment center in 2002, about 24 years ago. He is most familiar with substance abuse treatment and prevention, as well as HIV Prevention. He currently works at Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center, a leading recovery-oriented services agency for substance use disorders (SUD).

Kunane is excellent in community action areas. He is quite often called upon to MC various community events that involve SUD conferences, recovery conferences, and celebratory events.

As a member of the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Community Health Workers Alliance and the National Native HIC Network and the Native Ending the Epidemic Advisory Committee and much more, Mr. Dreier has demonstrated his ability to be productive and respectful in a leadership or membership role with various community coalitions and committees.

Kunane Dreier is well versed with SUD needs, their respective policies, as well as behavioral health strategies to advance our field that he can make excellent contributions to HACDACS.

We highly recommend Kunane Dreier for HACDACS.

GM-537

Submitted on: 4/9/2026 5:54:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/14/2026 3:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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 Kunane Dreier for the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

Kunane's extensive history and experience will prove a solid support for the important work of the Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support his nomination.