



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM554  
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the  
State Council on Mental Health  
Gubernatorial Nominee, DANIELLE BERGAN,  
for a term to expire 06-30-2029**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATOR ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date and Time: March 13, 2026, 1:00 p.m. Location: Room 225 and Video

- 1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") supports Danielle Bergan's-
- 2 nomination and confirmation 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
- 15 Council to have members from the principal state agencies concerning mental health,

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

7           Danielle Bergan will fill a Council seat as a consumer advocate. Her lived experience,  
8 along with her work as a provider and trainer, brings a valuable perspective and understanding  
9 to this Council role. She has served for eight years as a member and chairperson of the Maui  
10 Service Area Board on Mental Health and Substance Use. She has shown strong commitment to  
11 suicide prevention, community engagement, and supporting efforts to strengthen the Council's  
12 work in a thoughtful and timely way.

13           Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination and your consideration of  
14 Danielle Bergan.

**LATE**

**GM-554**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:41:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/16/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danielle Bergan	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I want to thank the Governor for his appointment of me to join the State of Hawai'i Council on Mental Health. I am honored to be considered by the state legislature for confirmation of this opportunity to serve Hawai'i to the best ability on this council.

I am passionate about helping others who ask for help or those in need who have the stigma against reaching out for help. My personal experiences and many certifications as a trainer for local and state and national mental health trainings brings me the opportunity to reach others providing them and their loved ones the tools to help with deal with the stresses of life including suicide prevention.

I am grateful for this opportunity and am open to any questions you many have for me.

Sincerely,

Danielle Bergan