



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM555
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Mental Health
Gubernatorial Nominee, MARGARET JACKSON,
for a term to expire 06-30-2028**

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 16, 2026, 1:00 p.m. Location: Room 225 and Video

- 1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") supports Margaret "Jackie"
- 2 Jackson's nomination and confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health ("Council").
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Hawaii Revised Statutes §334-10 provides for establishing the
- 4 State Council on Mental Health within the Department for administrative purposes to advise
- 5 the Department on the allocation of resources, statewide needs, and programs affecting two or
- 6 more service areas. It serves as an advocate for adults with serious mental illness, children with
- 7 serious emotional disturbances, other individuals with mental illnesses or emotional problems,
- 8 and individuals with combined mental illness and substance use disorders. The Council's
- 9 mandate includes reviewing and commenting on the statewide comprehensive, integrated
- 10 service plan. It also serves as the State Planning Council for federal Mental Health Block Grant
- 11 program purposes. The Council can have up to twenty-one members, of which a majority
- 12 should be non-providers of mental health services. The majority should also be non-state
- 13 employees. The mandate seeks that all service area boards of the State are represented and
- 14 adequate representation of parents and children with serious emotional disturbances. It
- 15 requires the Council to have members from the principal state agencies concerning mental
- 16 health, education, vocational rehabilitation, criminal justice, housing, Medicaid, and social

1 services; public and private entities concerned with the need, planning, operation, funding, and
2 use of mental health services and related support services; adults with serious mental illnesses
3 who are receiving, or have received, mental health services; the families of such adults or
4 families of children with serious emotional disturbances; and the Hawaii Advisory Commission
5 on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

6 This nomination will be the second term for Margaret “Jackie” Jackson for the seat of
7 the Oahu Service Area Board representative. We are grateful for her continued commitment.
8 Her dedication and steady involvement in Council meetings and committee work deepens the
9 Council’s understanding of the realities faced by children, families, and individuals living with
10 co-occurring conditions. She brings both personal experience as a family member of someone
11 with serious mental illness and substance use disorder and professional experience as a family
12 peer support provider. We look forward to the compassionate and collaborative spirit she will
13 continue to bring in her second term.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination and your consideration of Margaret
15 “Jackie” Jackson.