



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

**JOSH GREEN, MD**  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

**KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

**JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD**  
ADMINISTRATOR

---

1177 Alakea St., #402, Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 [www.shpda.org](http://www.shpda.org)

March 2, 2026

**TO:** THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair  
And Honorable Members

**FROM:** John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to  
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

**RE:** **GM557 -- Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Statewide Health Coordinating Council for a term to expire  
06-30-2029.**

**HEARING:** Monday, March 2, 2026 @ 1:00 pm, Room 225 & Videoconference

**POSITION:** The State Health Planning and Development Agency supports the  
nomination and confirmation of Ms. Hannah Preston-Pita to the Statewide  
Health Coordinating Council

---

Testimony:

The purpose is for consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Candidate,  
Ms. Hannah Preston-Pita to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

Ms. Preston-Pita currently serves as the CEO of the Big Island Substance Abuse  
Council.

Ms. Preston-Pita is a Clinical Psychologist with years of experience in providing  
care for and building service capacity for our residents both on Oahu and now on the  
Big Island.

Ms. Preston-Pita is actively involved in the community. She is a recognized  
leader in her field and a recipient of numerous awards. She has also served on a  
number of boards and councils.

Ms. Preston-Pita has a Doctorate in Education as well as being a Licensed  
Clinical Psychologist.

*GM 557: testimony of SHPDA (2026), continued.*

With her extensive experience in executive healthcare leadership and community development, Ms. Preston-Pita is well-equipped to serve on the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. We respectfully request your favorable support for her confirmation.

Mahalo for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to testify.

- -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



**GM557 Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita for Statewide Health Coordinating Council**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair

Monday, Mar 2 2024: 1:00 : Room 225 Videoconference

**The Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition strongly recommends Dr. Preston-Pita for the Statewide Health Coordinating Council:**

*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.*

We have known Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita for well over 10 years after she became the CEO of the Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC) and joined the Hawai'i Substance Abuse Council (HSAC), supporting all behavioral health treatment and prevention agencies in Hawai'i.

As a licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Hannah is highly qualified to provide input about integrated behavioral health services. As a CEO along with her doctoral education in leadership, Dr. Preston-Pita has creatively developed and expanded BISAC's substance use disorder programs to better serve the Big Island as well as all of Hawai'i.

Under her leadership, BISAC has a reputation for professionalism in a service delivery system that is caring and compassionate, serving both youth in school-based services and adults using a system of treatment combined with housing. Dr. Hannah also developed co-occurring mental health services, recognizing that behavioral health needs often overlap between mental health and substance abuse. She is also known for creating a wellness center that includes counseling for families and has been recognized for her tobacco cessation programs.

Dr. Preston-Pita is culturally akamai, involved in leadership roles with various community groups. In recent years, BISAC developed an outpatient detoxification program and embraced harm reduction advocacy through Narcan and Fentanyl options. She has an expansive knowledge for insightful contributions to health planning.

**We highly recommend Dr. Preston-Pita for the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.**

**GM-557**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 5:02:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/2/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Heather Lusk	Testifying for Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Dr. Hannah Preston-Pita for the Statewide Health Coordinating Council.

Dr. Preston-Pita has the expertise, experience and skills to ensure that rural areas, such as the island of Hawaii where she lives, are represented on the Council. HHHRC has worked with Dr. Preston-Pita for over a decade, and have seen first hand her ability to assess community needs, respond with culturally appropriate services and ensure a feedback loop with all key stakeholders. It is this perspective, along with her expertise in behavioral health and community building that will make her an incredible asset to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Heather Lusk

Hawaii Health and Harm Redcution Center

**GM-557**

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 4:10:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/2/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Brian Baker, President and CEO of Hina Mauka, absolutely supports the nomination of Dr. Hannah Preston Pita for the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. Dr. Preston-Pita's experience and clinical acumen will help ensure positive momentum.

**GM-557**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:35:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/2/2026 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shari R. Lynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the adoption of this bill to affirm Hannah Pita-Preston. She is a worthy candidate and will be an excellent addition.