



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

SUPPORT FOR GM 563: JUVENILE JUSTICE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL, NOMINEE, SARAH ANTONE

TO: Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
FROM: Shellie Niles, Vice President of Mission, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Monday, March 2, 2026; 1:00pm; CR 225 or Videoconference

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services

I am Shellie Niles from Catholic Charities Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of GM 563, which considers the confirmation of **Sarah Antone** to the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council, for a term to expire on June 30, 2029. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and the importance of selecting leaders who will strengthen the work of this Council.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax-exempt, community-based organization that has provided social services in Hawai'i for more than 78 years, now serving over 40,000 individuals statewide each year. CCH has programs serving children, families, kūpuna, individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for Hawai'i's most vulnerable.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly supports the nomination of **Sarah Antone** to this Council. Her extensive experience working with diverse populations has given her a deep understanding of the challenges our youth face. She brings valuable knowledge of community-based programs and will be able to make recommendations that promote prevention, diversion, fairness, and culturally responsive services for youth and families. She offers a thoughtful, compassionate, and informed perspective to this work.

Confirming Ms. Antone to the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council would bring her insight into how policy decisions affect providers, families, and youth on a practical level. Her leadership will help strengthen collaboration among state, nonprofit, and community partners; support efforts that reduce disparities and emphasize prevention; and promote approaches that are trauma-informed and grounded in cultural understanding.

Ms. Antone's enthusiasm, critical thinking skills, and dedication to caring for Hawai'i's youth make her an invaluable asset to the Council. We respectfully urge you to confirm **Sarah Antone** to the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

