



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM707**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the**  
**Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Kaua'i Service Area Board**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, KANWARDEEP KALEKA**  
**for a term to expire 06-30-2030.**

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

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 3:20 p.m. Location: Room 225 & Video

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health ("Department") supports the nomination and  
2 confirmation of Kanwardeep Kaleka to the Kauai Service Area Board on Mental Health and  
3 Substance Abuse ("KSAB").

4 **Department Testimony:** The Hawai'i Revised Statutes §334-11 provides for the establishment  
5 of service area boards within the Department for administrative purposes to advise service area  
6 administrators about service area needs to prevent and treat mental or emotional disorders,  
7 combined mental illness substance abuse disorders, and persons afflicted by these disorders.  
8 These Boards also provide advice, guidance, and recommendations to the State Council on  
9 Mental Health and the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances  
10 as they deem appropriate. Each service area board shall consist of up to nine members who are  
11 area residents and consumers or non-providers of mental health services and service area  
12 providers, with a majority being non-state employees and non-providers of mental health and  
13 other health services.

14 Dr. Kanwardeep Kaleka is well-qualified to fill a provider's seat on the Kauai Service Area  
15 Board (KSAB). His professional experience across emergency, primary care, and behavioral

1 health settings, along with a focus on trauma, addiction, and underserved populations, reflects  
2 the breadth of experience and community-centered perspective that will be supportive of an  
3 effective board service. This appointment is especially important as the island community  
4 rebuilds and reactivates its Kauai Service Area Board, which did not have members in the last  
5 few years.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination and your consideration of  
7 Kanwardeep Kaleka.