

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF ANNABELLE STONE

APRIL 15, 2026 1:00PM

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Vice Chair

I strongly support the nomination of Annabelle Stone to serve on the Office of Language Access Council. Annabelle brings a powerful combination of policy expertise, community engagement, and lived experience as a former interpreter. She understands firsthand the barriers faced by individuals with limited English proficiency and has demonstrated a deep commitment to ensuring equitable access to services.

Her background in public outreach and policy development equips her to address the challenges our communities face and to strengthen language access systems across Hawai'i.

Her voice and leadership will be a valuable asset to the Council. I respectfully urge your support for her nomination.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tom, Director

Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center

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To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Francoise Culley-Trotman, Chief Executive Officer
Paula Arcena, Senior Vice President, External Affairs

Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 1:00 PM, Conference Room 225

RE: **GM717 Consideration and confirmation to the Language Access Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANNABELLE Stone, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of the confirmation of Annabelle Stone as a member of the Language Access Advisory Council.**

AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan founded by Hawai'i's Community Health Centers and the Queen Emma Clinics. We serve over 66,000 Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dual-eligible residents on all islands. Since 1994, AlohaCare has partnered with providers, government entities, and community-based organizations to meet the evolving needs of our safety net community as Hawai'i's only health plan focused solely on Medicaid-eligible individuals. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for equitable access to quality, whole-person care for all.

AlohaCare serves many limited-English proficient community members needed language access. Annabelle Stone is the Director of Health Equity for AlohaCare and brings a culmination of personal experience, professional skills, and years of service to Hawai'i's diverse communities. At AlohaCare, Ms. Stone leads the health plan's work at the intersection of health equity, community needs, and system improvements. The Language Access Advisory Council plays a key role in making sure Hawai'i's language access work is effective, accountable, and meets community needs. Annabelle Stone would bring the insight, integrity, and dedication needed to advance this mission.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **support of the confirmation of of Annabelle Stone as a member of the Language Access Advisory Council.**