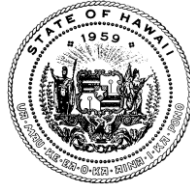


**HEARING
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
OCTOBER 29, 2013
8:35 A.M.
ROOM 225
TESTIMONY**

GM-11



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

**G.M. 11, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Hawaii Service Area Board, Gubernatorial Nominee,
ROBERT COLLESANO**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

Tuesday, October 29, 2013, 8:35 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the confirmation of Robert
2 Collesano to serve on the Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Maui Service Area Board (MSAB) for a
3 term to expire June 30, 2014.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this hearing is for the consideration and confirmation of
6 Gubernatorial Nominee, Robert Collesano for his initial appointment on the MSAB. Pursuant to
7 Chapter 334-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes on Service Area Boards, the members of the Service
8 Area Board are service area residents who are consumers or non-providers of mental health services and
9 service area providers with a majority being non-state employees and non-providers of mental health or
10 other health services.

11 **Robert Collesano (G.M. 11)** has been involved with mental health and substance abuse for the
12 past 25 years. He has worked in the capacity of case manager, counselor, supervisor and director of
13 programs in Florida, New York and Hawaii. He currently works as the Director of Mental Health

1 America on Maui. Mr. Collesano is certified as an Internationally Certified Alcohol and Drug
2 Counselor (ICADC), Hawaii Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC), Certified Chemical
3 Dependency Counselor (CCDS), and also has a Bachelors Degree in Sociology.

4 Mr. Collesano has a passion to help children and adults living with mental illness and substance
5 abuse to achieve respect and dignity and to develop their full potential. His work experiences and
6 leadership qualities make him a valued member of the MSAB.

7 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming Robert Collesano to serve on
8 the MSAB.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this volunteer.