

TESTIMONY
OF
LOUISE K CRUM
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON
March 6, 2013

GM 556

Re: Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, Gubernatorial Nominee, Louise K. Crum, for a term to expire June 30, 2016.

Chair Green and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to express my willingness to serve, and to respond to any questions you may have in your consideration of my confirmation. I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me and I truly consider this an honor and a privilege to be considered as the Judiciary's representative on the State Council of Mental Health.

I have twelve years professional experience working with the mental health population and very much enjoy my work. I would like to offer my knowledge and experience with the mentally ill and the criminal justice system to further the goals of the State Council on Mental Health.

At the present time, I am the Coordinator for the First Circuit Mental Health Court. This position enables me to oversee all daily operations of the Mental Health Court which include responsibility for program admissions; for the administrative, financial, and contractual aspects of the program; and for public relations and collaboration with other criminal justice and community agencies. I have been in this position since it took its first participant in 2005 and I am honored to be a part of this successful court program that reduces recidivism and incarceration rates for the mentally ill.

I've also worked in the private sector providing direct supervision, counseling and skill building to seriously mentally ill patients at Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health Hospital and also assisted the civilly committed and court ordered patients with discharge planning and satisfying legal mandates.

In the spring of 2000 I completed my Bachelors of Arts in Social Sciences with a Specialization in Psychology and a Certificate in Substance Abuse and Addiction Studies from the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. I went on to pursue graduate school at University of Hawaii at Manoa and in 2004 I received my Master of Education in Counseling and Guidance.

It is my goal to combine my range of experience with my ability to be a team player in making a positive contribution to the State Council on Mental Health. I offer my experience and knowledge of the issues and challenges faced by those with mental illness in the criminal justice system. The population of consumers who suffer from mental illness and encounter the judicial system is significant. The cooperation between agencies that work with these individuals is extremely important to both assure that they receive appropriate services and to address the needs of public safety.

In closing, I would like to thank this Committee for giving me the opportunity to be here today. I want to also extend a warm mahalo to everyone that submitted letters of support on my behalf and to everyone here in attendance to support me. Thank you for considering my nomination.

Louise Crum
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