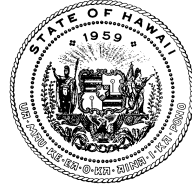


HTH HEARING

GM791

TESTIMONY



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

GM 791, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Health Planning Council, West O'ahu Subarea

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

Wednesday, April 10, 2013
1:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the nomination and confirmation
2 of Ms. Maralyn Kurshals to the West O'ahu Subarea Health Planning Council (WOSAC).

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose is for the consideration and confirmation to the
5 WOSAC, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Maralyn Kurshals.

6 Ms. Kurshals is currently a Quality Assurance Specialist for the Children and Adolescent
7 Mental Health Division of the Hawaii State Department of Health. Previously, she has worked
8 in various positions for the Paxen Group, Inc. and has provided consulting services for Healthy
9 Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii as well as the Institute of Native Pacific Education
10 and Culture. She was a facilitator for Good Beginnings Alliance and a Program Officer for the
11 Hawaii Community Foundation.

12 Ms. Kurshals is currently a member of the Waianae Hawaiian Civic Club and the
13 Women of Waianae. She was a former member of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health
14 Center Board of Directors, the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board, and the Kapolei
15 Toastmasters.

1 Ms. Kurshals holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Delaware.
2 We ask for your support on the confirmation of Ms. Maralyn Kurshals to serve on the
3 West O'ahu Subarea Health Planning Council.



**WAIANAЕ COAST
COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CENTER**
www.wcchc.com

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF MARALYN KURSHALS,
NOMINEE FOR HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL, WEST OAHU SUBAREA

April 9, 2013

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chair

FROM: Richard P. Bettini
President and Chief Executive Office

RE: SUPPORT FOR MARALYN KURSHALS

We strongly support the nomination of Maralyn Kurshals for the West Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council.

Maralyn is a long-time resident of the Waianae coast, has taken an active role in community projects, has worked within the health and human services field for many years, and was a valuable member on the Board of Directors of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.

Maralyn's commitment to the community and its health needs has been evident through not only her work, but her volunteer and civic involvement.

She is a strong, objective and energetic leader who will bring her years of experience in working with council members to address health planning needs for West Oahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to state our support for Maralyn Kurshals.

Dear Senator Green and Committee Members:

As Administrator of Child and Adolescent Mental Health I have seen the nominee Maralyn Kurshals in her professional position as Quality Assurance Specialist for almost five years. She has reliably performed her duties and has an ongoing interest in Health Care Reform and how behavioral health will be a component of that effort. I support her nomination to the Health Planning Council, West Oahu Area.

Thank you,

M. Stanton Michels, MD

Committee on Health

Senator Josh Green, Chair

Hearing: Wednesday, April 10th 1:30pm

GM791

Statement by Maralyn Kurshals, nominee for West Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council

Honorable Chair Joshua Green;

My name is Maralyn Kurshals, I would like to request your consideration for my appointment with the West Oahu Subarea Health Planning Council. I am currently the Quality Assurance Specialist at the Leeward Oahu Family Guidance Center for the Department of Health, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Division. I have resided on the Wai`anae Coast since 1999 and served on the board of the Wai`anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC), and on the Wai`anae Neighborhood Board. My professional work includes early childhood education, health and safety as the Wai`anae Community Facilitator for the Good Beginnings Alliance and working in the homeless shelters among other positions. I was also elected to the Board of Education in 2010 as the Leeward Representative.

I am dedicated to community based services and believe that the strongest way to implement change is when community members have authentic involvement in decision making. As a member of the WCCHC and resident of the Wai`anae Coast, I became familiar with the tragic health disparities in the Native Hawaiian community. In mental health services for five and a half years, I am confronted daily with the trauma and stigma attached to mental health challenges faced by children and adolescents.

I would like to bring my community based orientation and background to the WOSAC. As a resident of the Wai`anae Coast, community volunteer and in my present position with Department of Health, I can hopefully contribute towards WOSAC's goals and purpose.

Thank you for your consideration of my confirmation.