

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 11, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

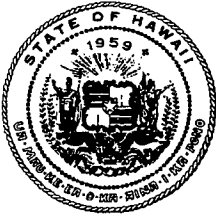
SUBJECT: G.M. 351 - gubernatorial nomination of Louise R. Horio to the Statewide  
Independent Living Council

Hearing: Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Louise R. Horio to the State Independent Living Council (SILC). The SILC was established in the 1992 Amendments to the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and acts in partnership with the Department's Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division (VRSBD) on services that address the independent living and employment needs of individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Louise R. Horio is seeking reappointment to her second term on the Council. Ms. Horio is a retired elementary school teacher and an individual with a sensory disability. She provides SILC with the perspective of older individuals who are blind.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee.



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 11, 2008

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

#### GM 351 - Appointment of Louise R. Horio to the Statewide Council on Independent Living

The Disability and Communication Access Board offers comment on the nomination of Ms. Louise R. Horio to the Statewide Council on Independent Living. Ms. Horio represents the blind and visually impaired population.

Ms. Horio has recently become very active with our office as a member of the Working Group to develop the 2008 Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs. She has tirelessly spoken up for the population of people who are elderly or who have low vision with respect to their needs and experiences in emergency situations, shelter simulations, and other evacuation scenarios. Ms. Horio's prior experience as a teacher has given her skills to be an effective expressive communicator who will clearly and unabashedly offer her opinions in a positive manner.

Ms. Horio is an excellent example of a person who promotes and lives the independent living philosophy. Ms. Horio will be an asset to serve on the Statewide Council on Independent Living.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

**Presentation before the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing**

**From: Louise R. Horio (GM 351)**

**To: Chair Chun-Oakland, Committee on Human Services and Public Housing**

**March 11, 2008**

**Chair Chun-Oakland and members of the Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, thank you for this opportunity to present background about myself and to ask for consideration, my request for reappointment to the Statewide Independent Living Council. This past year, I had the honor of serving as a replacement for someone who could not complete his/her term. I am here today to ask for the opportunity to serve a full three year term on this Council.**

**I was born in Haleiwa, Waialua, Oahu and lived with my extended family until I was five years old. My Japanese mother married my wonderful Filipino step-father and we moved to Aiea in 1950 and lived in the Halawa Veteran's Housing which took care of the influx of veterans of World War II and the Korean War.**

**I graduated from Radford High School in 1961 and worked at one of the pineapple canneries and sold shoes at Sears to pay for tuition at the University of Hawaii. I graduated in 1965 with a B.Ed and a 5<sup>th</sup> year Diploma, in 1966, which at that time, was considered equivalent to a Master's Degree in Education. I also have a Professional Certificate in Elementary Education.**

**I taught in various elementary schools for nearly 30 years. I taught children on military bases and at local communities that included families in varied economic situations: children who were homeless, or lived in housing, or from extremely wealthy families. I enjoyed every minute of it!**

**I began losing my sight after I retired about ten years ago and am now very interested in blind and other disability issues. I am President of Hui Kupuna VIP, a senior group of visually impaired persons. We meet about twice a month as a support and social group. We host speakers and go on learning and fun field trips. We also advocate for other blind seniors on blind issues.**

**After becoming physically disabled as well as being significantly visually impaired, I can understand the plight of many who are unaware of**

**services available. I want to promote the Independent Living Philosophy and help to reach the underserved population in Hawaii.**

**I cannot foresee any conflicts of interest as far as my goals as a SILC member is concerned. I hope that if there were any questions about my motives as such, I hope that the other members would make me aware of their perception. I know that I am capable of stepping back to review the situation, evaluate, and make adjustments.**

**As a member of SILC, I want to continue to contribute in making and keeping it a more functional and effective Council.**

**My life experiences of subtle discrimination in a plantation town, my not being afraid of hard work to achieve my goals, and having perseverance in overcoming difficulties, are part of me and how I can understand others with similar experiences.**

**I am looking forward to the challenge of being a full term member of SILC. I hope my personality, work and personal experiences will help me continue to make a positive contribution to the Council. I ask you to support my reappointment to the Statewide Independent Living Council.**

**Most Sincerely,  
/s/ Louise R. Horio**

(GM 351)

2029 Nuuanu Avenue, 1205  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815-2508  
telephone: (808) 521-2548  
March 2, 2008

**Senator Suzanne CHUN OAKLAND, Chair**  
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing  
State Capitol, Room 226  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator CHUN OAKLAND,

The testimony contained within this writing attests to the **exemplary character of Louise HORIO** and **strongly supports her nomination to the Statewide Council on Independent Living.**

I have known Louise for approximately two years. In that time, I have been impressed and profoundly affected by her **dedication and unwavering desire to improve the quality of life for disabled and senior citizens.** This devotion is clearly evident in her active participation in the following organizations:

- Citizens for a Fair A.D.A. Ride – which she Chairs
- Hawaii Association of the Blind
- Hui Kupuna V.I.P. - which she Chairs
- Statewide Independent Living Council

In addition to her demanding volunteer schedule, Louise tends to her family, maintains a watchful eye over her many friends and still finds time to teach (pro bono) new and experienced bus drivers at O'ahu Transit Systems about the special needs and limitations of disabled and senior citizens.

Simply stated: **Louise is intelligent, educated and motivated by love and compassion.** This retired schoolteacher is the **perfect candidate** for your council and most assuredly will be a **valued asset.**

**Therefore it is my honor and privilege to recommend Louise HORIO (GM351) as a Gubernatorial Nominee to the Statewide Council on Independent Living.**

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Ronald W. PIKE

(GM 351)

1777 California Avenue  
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786  
February 4, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Louise for many years. During that time, she has had many roles. These include being a *friend*, *colleague*, *mentor*, *leader* and *advocate*.

Louise has been a *friend* for a number of years. We have shared many happy and sad times in our lives. I knew that I could always depend on her to be there.

Louise has also been a long-time *colleague* and *mentor*. We were both public school teachers. During my early years of teaching, Louise took me under her wing. She shared many projects, activities and lessons that she had created over the years. Louise has a love of music and had unique and fun ways to get students excited about singing and performing.

Louise continues to be a *leader* and *advocate* for the vision impaired. Since retiring, Louise devotes much of her time and talent to worthwhile organizations. She is passionate about causes she truly believes in. Louise is articulate, informed and persistent. She has a "can do" attitude and never gives up till the goal is reached.

For these reasons, I know that Louise would be an excellent candidate for a position on the Statewide Independent Living Council.

Sincerely,



Shirley C. Kondo

## ChunOakland2 - Alisha

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**From:** govonline us [govonline@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 05, 2008 1:41 PM  
**To:** Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland; testimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Rida Cabanilla; Rep. Kymberly Pine; Sen. Clarence Nishihara; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.; ICC-CIO@icc-interagency.net; smahtcookie@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** STRONG SUPPORT : Louise Horio for SILC Term until 2011 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
March 11th 2008

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2008/lists/getstatus2.asp?billno=GM351>

To Honorable Chair Sen. Susanne Chun-Oakland and ALL Human Services Committee Members

I personally give my Strongest Possible SUPPORT to the Nomination of Louise Horio to serve on the Board of the Statewide Independent Living Council!

Sent with Warmest Regards from,

CC Curry  
Chief Information Officer  
Interagency COORDINATION Councils

[ICC-CIO@icc-interagency.net](mailto:ICC-CIO@icc-interagency.net)

**ICC(tm)**

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