

**Sandra Meehan
91-929 Pahuhu Street
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706**

February 29, 2008

**Senator Chun Oakland
Chair Human Services
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii**

Dear Senator Chun Oakland,

I am writing this letter as part of my re-appointment to the State Independent Living Council. I was first appointed last year to replace a council member who had left before their term was completed.

I am currently the Chair of the HSILC and my reappointment is for three more years. I would like to complete my agenda with the council and try to help bring this council to a place where it functions as the Federal law requires it to. The council has struggled over the years and has yet to achieve the goal of a functioning Board.

I feel I am qualified to fill this position as I have been a Independent Living Center Director, a member of other SILC council in another State. I have served as the regional representative to the National Council on Independent Living representing 8 western States.

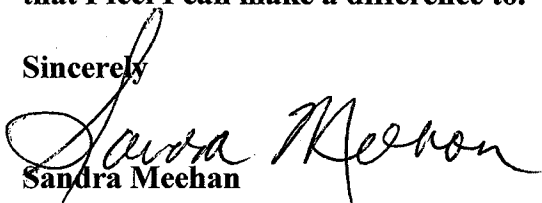
I am the Treasurer of the Independent Living Waipahu non-profit. I also volunteer as the program developer for Hawaii Fi-do Service Dogs. I helped Susan Luehr's start this program several years ago.

I am a person with a disability myself, so I am familiar with all aspects of the disability issues in Hawaii and Nation wide.

Three qualities that describe me are: I keep my word, I have the ability to complete tasks that I am committed to, and I am not afraid to be honest regarding issues.

I have no conflicts of interest with issues. I am retired I volunteer only to programs that I feel I can make a difference to.

Sincerely


Sandra Meehan

S A N D R A K . M E E H A N

91-929 Pahuhu St.
Ewa Beach HI 96706
808.685.0595

EXPERIENCE

2000-2004 Executive Director Tri-County Independent Living Center

- Develop Board of Directors, applied for Non-Profit 501 3c, developing work plan, budget, and contract negotiations to obtain State funding. Developed job descriptions, interviewed and hired 12 staff. Increased budget 200% of the original funding. Grant writing, fundraising, negotiating fee for service contracts. Reporting quarterly and yearly to Federal, State, and other funding sources. Supervisor of two VISTA projects. And one AmeriCorp project. Developed new programs, training for staff, and board. Public awareness through presentations, community networking and serving on committees for local, State and Federal organizations. Peer mentoring to other Centers through out the Country. Region Eight Representative, representing ten western States to the National Council on Independent Living. Past Chair for Association for the State of Utah. Member of the State Independent Living Council. Weber County Human Services Advisory Panel member. Active advocate on State and National Issues for services affecting persons with disabilities. Published articles on disability related issues.
- **1999-2000 Community Advocate for the Association of Independent Living Centers of Utah**
 - Provided system change and personal advocacy for programs that directly affected daily living for persons with disabilities in Utah.
 - Advocating State and National Issues with Senator and Representatives
 - Monitoring and reporting on Governors Council Grant
 - Research and development of future funding
 - Grant writing
 - Conference Planning
 - Fundraising

1994-1999 Outreach Coordinator Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

- Developed and managed Outreach Program in the rural areas of the Hawaii Islands
- Supervised employees and volunteers
- Created lending library of Assistive Technology with BYU Laie Dept of Special Education.
- Developed Circle of Support Group for Post High School Special Education Students and BYU education majors.
- Member of the Governors Advisory Council on Human Services representing the Disabled Community.
- Member of IDEA State of Hawaii Team for compliance Assisted with committee to rewrite State law to comply with Federal mandates.

- Participated actively in Non-Profit agency annual fundraising

Boards and Committees Membership

- President of the Association for Independent Living of Utah (AILU)
- Member of the Legislative Coalition
- Peer Mentor for Rural IL Centers APRIL/Rural Institute/MSU
- Board Member of the Utah State Independent Living Council
- Region Eight Representative to National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)

Education

Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, Oregon AA Criminal Justice Administration
University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii.
Leadership Management Hawaii Technology and Training and Northridge University
Training Helen Keller Institute
Workshops for Culture Diversity through EAST WEST Center in Honolulu, Hawaii
Ethnic Diversity at University of Hawaii Honolulu
Women's Issues in Substance Abuse Texarkana Community College
Criminal Investigation I and II Kilgore College
Women's Choices Training in substance abuse.

***Retired in 2005 to become a care giver to my brother until March 2006.**

*** Curently administering programs for Hawaii Fi-Do*****



Hawaii Fi-Do Service and Therapy Dogs

February 29, 2008

Senator Susana Chun Oakland
State Capitol, Rm 226
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu Hi 96813

Dear , Senator Chun/Oakland,

It is with great please that I send my recommendation for Sandra Meehan's appointment to the Council on Independent Living. I have known Sandi for many years, both professionally and socially, and have come to value her hard work, honesty and getting the job done. She has many years of experience in this area and will bring this experience, wisdom and humor to a much need job. Hawaii needs more people like Sandra who will fight for the rights of people with disabilities with understanding and compassion.

Thank you for considering Sandra in this position.

Aloha, for your support,

Sincerely,


Susan Luehrs

Executive Director, Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs

PO Box 757
Kahuku, Hi 96731
Phone: 808-6380200
hfido@hawaii.rr.com
www.hawaiifido.org

Our Dogs Help.

February 29, 2008

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate on Human Services and Public Housing. I highly recommend the re-appointment of Sandra K. Meehan for the Statewide Council on Independent Living (GM # 613).

Sandra Meehan has been a long time advocate for independent living and persons with disabilities as a whole. I had the wonderful opportunity to meet Sandra in 1996 at the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living. She was the Outreach Coordinator and my direct supervisor. Under her supervision, she felt it was very important to build community networks within the areas of which we provided services to. She worked closely with the community on the North Shore and I did the same with the Waianae community.

Sandra was closely involved with the Special Education department at Kahuku High School ensuring that the students received as much support and information about their options after they graduated. In fact, she was appointed by the former Governor, Ben Cayetano, to sit on the committee which wrote the IDEA, as well as being appointed to sit on the Governor's financial advisory committee.

She then moved to Utah where she opened her own center for Independent Living covering three counties. She has been a member of the National Council on Independent Living and several other committees within the disability field both locally and nationally.

Sandra is a person of integrity and heart. She will work hard and with diligence to get the job done. She has made many long time friends in the disability communities because of her work ethics and her passion for persons with disabilities. She brings a unique background of having worked as a staff member for a CIL, but also as the Executive Director for one.

I am happy to write this letter of support for your consideration

Sincerely

JPN / Roxanne Bowden / RB
Roxanne Bowden

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. 353 - Gubernatorial Nomination of Sandra K. Meehan 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. Sandra K. Meehan 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. Sandra K. Meehan is seeking reappointment to her second term on the Council. She provides SILC with her considerable work experience in independent living and the development of independent living outreach services and centers. Ms. Meehan is the current SILC Chair.

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