



GOV. MSG. NO. 359

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **State Council on Developmental Disabilities**:

Patricia A. Nishimoto

Term to Expire: 6/30/2012

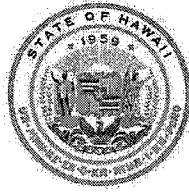
Sincerely,

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LINDA LINGLE

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
March 31, 2008

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: GM 359 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Governatorial Nominee Patricia A. Nishimoto**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 359** to confirm the nomination of **Patricia A. Nishimoto** for a term to expire on June 30, 2012.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L.106-402) is clear in determining the composition of this body to ensure that all the players involved in the development, implementation, and use of DD supports are represented. The law specifically requires that 60 percent of the membership of the Council be comprised of individuals with DD, their parents, or family members. Additionally, the following agencies are required to be on the Council: Department of Health; the agencies that administer funds provided under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Older Americans Act of 1965; Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act; the Protection and Advocacy Agency; the Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; agencies and private non-profit organizations concerned with services to individuals with DD. The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership.

Dr. Nishimoto is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii. Her appointment fulfills the composition requirement for private non-profit organizations to be represented on the Council. As a service provider, Dr. Nishimoto will bring a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the need for qualified direct support personnel to provide services and supports for individuals with DD.

She has direct experience as CEO in facing the daily challenges of recruiting, training and maintaining employees on a long-term basis in a field that compensates with low wages and benefits.

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She is the current Chair for the Council's Health and Early Childhood Committee that is addressing ways to increase access to medical and dental care, and assure that appropriate early intervention services are available for infant and toddlers with DD or at risk for DD.

Dr. Nishimoto is well respected among persons with DD, families, service providers, and advocates in the community. Her ability to work collaboratively with a variety of groups will assist the Council in its implementation of our State Plan activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for the nomination of Patricia A. Nishimoto (**GM 359**) to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayhette K.Y. Cabral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Wayhette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator



The Arc of Kauai

for Children and Adults with Disabilities

3201 Akahi Street, Lihue, Hawaii 96766, Phone (808) 245-4132, Fax (808) 246-1721

March 11, 2008

Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair and Members of the
Health Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813.

RE: In Support of **GM 359**
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities,
Gubernatorial Nominee, PATRICIA A. NISHIMOTO, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

Dear Senator Ige and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Dr. Pattie Nishimoto's nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Dr. Nishimoto is well qualified for this position. She brings a wealth of information, experience and historical knowledge. Dr. Nishimoto has pursued a career of 30 years of service in the field of developmental disabilities. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii and has held many leadership and upper management positions in both public and private organizations. Dr. Nishimoto is also a Practicum Instructor at the University of Hawaii and Hawaii Pacific University as well as an Advisory Board member for a research project at the University of Connecticut.

With this depth of experience, she has been at the forefront of the many changes in the field; from an institutional perspective toward a community-based service delivery mode and community inclusion.

Although, I have known Dr. Nishimoto for many years, I have only just recently had the pleasure of working with her for the past few years. As a Board member of the Hawaii Waiver Provider Association, I have appreciated having Pattie as the Board President. She has injected energy and cohesiveness into the Association. She is efficient and effective. She is knowledgeable and passionate even after 30 years. Any organization, committee etc. would benefit greatly from her unique blend of abilities.

I humbly ask for your support and favorable consideration of Dr. Pattie Nishimoto's nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ching
Executive Director



HILOPA'A

Family to Family Health Information Center

Date: March 25, 2008

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Fr: Leolinda Parlin, State Coordinator for Family Voices of Hawai'i

Re: GM 359 – Support for confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities,
Gubernatorial Nominee, PATRICIA A. NISHIMOTO

On behalf of Family Voices of Hawai'i, I support GM 359.

As an organization, Family Voices is a national grass roots organization of family of friends of child with special health care needs. In Hawai'i, we operate the federally funded Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center.

"Pattie" has been a champion for persons with disabilities as well as their families, both professionally and personally and is considered to be a leader in our state. Pattie has the unique insight and perspectives into the needs of children, youth, families and self advocates. While Pattie is quite youthful, in her lifetime, she has been a line social worker working with children with special health care needs and their families; she has also been a parent who understands the complexity first hand of trying to navigate the system for children and youth with special health care needs, while simultaneously meeting the needs of her aging parent. And as the Chief Executive Officer of Responsive Caregivers of Hawai'i, she addresses on a daily basis the needs of adults and aging adults with developmental disabilities, some who have tremendous family support, and other who rely solely on her organization.

To say Pattie is well versed in the needs of the community served by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities is an understatement. She faces the difficulties in recruiting, training, and compensating employees who are the cornerstone workforce that serve individuals with disabilities and their families, in this day in age where unemployment is at a historically low level.

Pattie is a leader who is not afraid of sharing her opinions and experiences in an open and collaborative manner. She has demonstrated her ability to work well with all stakeholders: families, self advocates, disability specific support groups and the Departments of Health and Human Services.

Thank you for time and consideration in supporting GM 359.