

Rosemarie Protacio, GM number 478

Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs

March 31, 2008

I was born in beautiful Kula, Maui: Real country and real local wahine to "Pipe Joe" (the "Water Man") and Rosie, a beautiful but profoundly deaf mama. There were five of us, but Mama could only read my lips; so if company came, I had to be able to read their lips -- if I could than she could, and I could go out to play. Otherwise, I had to stay in and be translator for her. Though I hated being translator, it prepared me for my future life of speaking clearly on the telephone, becoming a paging announcer for the Honolulu International Airport for five years, and for speaking in public.

Working for ASK2000 for fifteen years, I've become knowledgeable about referrals that are out there for seniors. As spokesperson, I've addressed many senior clubs, senior groups, the Honolulu Police Department, and other government agencies that needed our services.

I have been caregiver to my mom and to my mother-in-law and to an elderly neighbor that begged not to be hospitalized. As a licensed practical nurse, I was able to care for him in his home, as he wanted.

Sometime around 2006, I realized that I was one of those seniors I had spoken to, but it didn't matter because I still have my wits about me, I still safely drive a car, I walk on my own power, and I still love life.

I continue to volunteer where I'm needed, but I want to give more. By submitting my name to the Board of Commissions, I hope to be able to give more of myself for the good of others... like myself. I'm now a senior, and that's exactly where I want to be.

766 Puu Hina Place
Pearl City, HI 96782

March 28, 2008

Senator David Ige
415 South Beretania Street, Room 215
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Ige,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Rosemarie Protacio, who is a candidate for a seat on the Commission on Elderly Affairs. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Protacio for most of my life. For about twenty years Mrs. Protacio and I were next door neighbors. Throughout this time, she has been very valuable source of support and information for my family in a variety of situations.

Mrs. Protacio was very helpful when my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease almost six years ago. As a librarian, I am quite adept at finding information but because of Mrs. Protacio's work with the Aloha United Way's 211 program, she was a wealth of information about the various programs that would help both my mother as well as my family cope this disease. I do not believe that I would have been able to find comparable resources on my own. In addition to helping my family during this difficult time, she has also helped other families in similar situations as well.

Not only was Mrs. Protacio helpful with my mother's situation, she also proved to be very helpful when my father was in the final stages of cancer. Because of her nursing background, she was the one who would administer treatments to my father when he returned from the hospital. The treatments often required her to wake up in the middle of the night and come over to our house. Mrs. Protacio's selflessness made my father's last days more peaceful and comfortable.

Given Mrs. Protacio's unique background, I feel she would be a valuable member of the Commission on Elderly Affairs. Her knowledge and experiences would make her a wonderful addition. I have no doubt that she will be a dedicated member of the commission and have a positive impact on those she is trying to serve.

Sincerely,



Joann Akiyama

March 28, 2008

Mr. David Y. Ige
Chairman

Re: Rosemarie Protacio

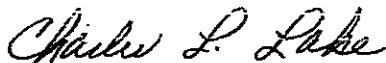
I have known Marie Protacio for more than sixteen years. Over that long a time, I can say she is a loving and caring person, considerate of the well being of others.

In addition to the development and guidance of her family into being responsible adults accountable for their own actions, she has led by her own example of thoughtfulness and concern in the treatment of others.

These same character and personality traits has followed Marie in her volunteer work as a receptionist in the governor's office, as well as her work with the Honolulu Police department as a volunteer in training new recruits in dealing with people through patience and understanding.

Should Marie be selected as a member of the board dealing with the needs and affairs of the elderly, I can assure you that her experience and concern for others would make her a positive and valuable member of the policy advisory board .

Sincerely,



Charles L. Lake
46-309 Kalali St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

March 30, 2008

Mr. David Y. Ige,

It is both an honor and a pleasure to recommend my life long friend, Rosemarie M. Protacio, for a position on the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs.

Rosemarie Protacio and I, Joan Ventura Souki met as sixth graders at Saint Anthony School for Girls on Maui. We grew up together, from young girlhood, our days as schoolmates, to young adulthood, brides, motherhood, and eventually widowhood for Mooney (my name for her).

Although she was a very busy mother of five, she was quite active in community affairs. Most of them as a volunteer.

She did visitations to the bed-ridden or shut in members of her Pearl City Church. With her bright smile and great sense of humor she brought joy & comfort to the seniors whom she visited.

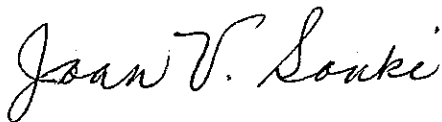
For almost 15 years, Mooney was a volunteer for the Honolulu Police Academy, which trained police cadets. Her job there was to act in scenarios which depicted actual situations. She gave reality to older citizens behavior in these scenarios, as well as teaching compassion and patience in dealing with the older community. She excelled at this, and nearly every graduating class presented her with an "Academy Award".

As a result of her volunteer work at Channel 2 Action line, she was asked to work at "Ask 2000" now know as "211" where she worked for 15 years. Due to her enthusasiam for her work and her proficiency at it, she became the spokesman for the agency. She made numerous visits to Senior Citizen's clubs to acquaint them with the services that are available to them from the State and Social services in Hawaii. She was so successful at this that she was asked to make return visits. She was told "the seniors all stayed awake when you were speaking".

At the present time "Mooney" volunteers at the office of the Governor, answering phone calls and fielding questions from the public.

I feel that Rosemarie Protacio will be a valuable asset to the Board as she is a dedicated worker for any organization that is luckly enough to have her on it.

Sincerely,



Joan V. Souki
204 Karstan Srive
Wahiawa, HI 96786

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T. M. Allard
91-179 Makale'a Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: 1-808-685-3430
Fax: 1-808-683-1037

Allard

March 26, 2008

Chairman David Y. Ige

Dear Chairman Ige:

In the many years since I first met Mrs. Rosemarie Protacio, I have known her to be an intelligent, knowledgeable, and well-versed person. She has always demonstrated a unique ability to communicate with a wide variety of peoples across a broad spectrum of cultures. Dependable, dedicated, and flexible, she will make an outstanding member of the governor's Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

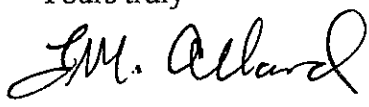
Born and raised in Hawaii, she is very familiar with the needs of the elderly here, and her extensive involvement with numerous civic and charitable organizations over the years clearly demonstrates her commitment to helping others.

She is a font of realistic and useful information and ideas. Among other activities, her work with ASK-2000, later 211, prepared her to understand better the needs of the elderly in these islands and to identify how and where these needs can be met. When my father-in-law broke his hip and needed hospital and home care, Marie was invaluable in helping to secure the assistance he needed. Initial prognosis indicated that if he recovered, he would be wheelchair bound, but partly because of the assistance she helped obtain for him, he is about and walking unassisted today.

A sound contributor and an excellent listener, she will be a very beneficial factor in many ways to the Board, and her wonderful sense of humor and picturesque communication skills will help the Board run smoothly.

I cannot overstate the contributions and assets that Mrs. Rosemarie Protacio brings to the table.

Yours truly



T. M. Allard
IBM manager, retired

*I care not for a man's religion whose dog and
cat are not the better for it.*
Abraham Lincoln

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