

KALĀ & Associates, Inc.

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April 4, 2008

GWEN KALA
KELIHOOMALU

MA, CRC, LMHC

Email: gwen@kala-hawaii.us

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

ELIZABETH
WILSON

RN, CCM

Email: elizabeth@kala-hawaii.us

Dear Senator Chun Oakland:

I would like to thank you first of all for this opportunity. I would like to be considered for appointment to the State Rehabilitation Council, first of all due to the fact that it's a Federally mandated council and the position I'll be filling is part of the statute requiring one representative from each county, and adding a perspective not currently represented on the council, that of private rehabilitation.

I believe that my role as a member of the council is to add my perspective and years of experience as a provider of rehabilitation services to look at the system as a whole, how it is or isn't functioning, and possibly recommending solutions that will help the current system address changes that will better assist our disabled population.

I believe I am qualified for this position as I have 32 years of experience in private rehab, over 10 years working with disabled veterans through the VA, as well as 21 years with Social Security as an Expert Witness. This gives me many areas of knowledge and experience to draw from in evaluating systems and problem solving. In addition, I have been self-employed for over 18 years, which adds in the small business perspective.

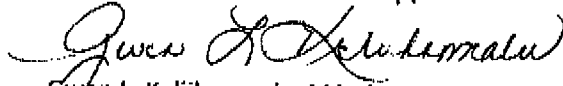
During my 2 year term of service, I sincerely hope to add a level of caring and expertise to the council that will enhance services to the disabled population in Hawaii, whether it is in the public or private sector. I also would like to see changes suggested and implemented to make us, as professionals more effective in what we do, and encourage others to consider our profession as one they would like to pursue due to our diminishing numbers.

I don't anticipate any conflict of interest in my position on the council. However, should an incident arise, I will recuse myself from voting.

Rehabilitation was my chosen profession after working with disabled individuals at the University of Arizona. I have worked with individuals and evaluated cases in college settings, worker's compensation, social security, the Veteran's Administration, Federal Worker's Compensation, and in the personal injury arena, for different state and federal systems. I

believe my background will add knowledge and experience to the professionals already on the Council, and appreciate the opportunity to add my perspective.

Mahalo!



Gwen L. Kelihoomalua, MA, CRC, LMHC

Resume of

Gwen L. Kelihoomalu
 P.O. Box 1493
 Hilo, Hawai'i 96721
 (808) 966-5997
 (808) 966-5998

Prepared October, 2007

AREAS OF EXPERTISEDisabilities

- Orthopedic (Cervical, Back, Shoulder, Wrist, Hand, Knee, Ankle)
- Spinal Cord Injuries/Amputees
- Psychiatric (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Depression, Pain)
- Cardiovascular
- Alcoholism, Drug Disorders
- Visual Impairment/Blind
- Temporomandibular Joint
- Neurological Disorders (Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis)

Litigation/Testimony

- Rehabilitation Bureau Hearings – CA
- Plaintiff (Third Party)
- Defense (Third Party)
- Social Security

Experience

Kala & Associates, Inc, Independent Vocational Consultant, March 1990 to Present
 Broadspire/Crawford & Company, Sr. Vocational Consultant, June 2005 to December 2007
 Heritage Counseling Services, Independent Contractor, January 1999 to Present
 Crawford & Company: Consultant in Charge, April 1988 to February 1990
 Vocational Consultant, September 1984 to April 1988
 Westley Rehabilitation Services, Vocational Consultant, 1985 to 1986 - AZ
 Fremont Indemnity, Rehabilitation Counselor, 1977 to 1980 - CA
 Valpar International, Job Placement Specialist/Rehabilitation Counselor, 1977 - CA

Academic Background

BA University of California, Riverside, CA - 1975
 MA Counseling & Guidance, California State University, San Bernardino, CA - 1976
 PhD Candidate, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA - 1976 - 1978

Credentials

Licensed Mental Health Counselor - HI
 Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), National (1987 to present)
 Registered Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, State of Hawai'i, DLIR
 Approved Vocational Expert, Social Security Administration
 Certified Rehabilitation Counselor - OWCP/Longshore
 Marriage, Family and Child Counselor (MFCC) - CA, 1976 - 1979
 Member: National Rehabilitation Association
 National Rehabilitation Counseling Association
 IARRPS
 Rehabilitation Association of Hawai'i
 American Counseling Association

Systems

- Worker's Compensation (HI, CA, AZ, AK, WA)
- US Department of Labor
- Third Party/Litigation
- Long-Term Disability
- Social Security

Evaluations

- Wage Loss Analysis
- Labor Market Access Study
- Rehabilitation Feasibility
- Vocational Diagnosis and Assessment of Residual Employability (VDARE)
- Transferable Skills Analysis
- Vocational Testing
- Veteran's Assessments
- TAP-Veteran's Adjustment

October 11, 2007

References for Gwen L. Kelihoomalau:

Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, RN, CCM
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Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

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Crawford & Company
711 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 920
Honolulu, HI 96813

Office No: 808-591-2376

Richard MacDonald, PhD
Veteran's Community Based Outpatient Clinic
203 Ho'ohana St., Suite 203
Kahului, HI 96732

Office No: 808-873-9426

Mr. Bill Kumia
Alpha Omega Investigative Agency
Honolulu, HI

Office No: 808-306-0997

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

April 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: G.M. 537 - Gubernatorial Nomination of Gwen K. Keliihoomalu to the State Rehabilitation Council

Hearing: Thursday, April 10, 2008, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Gwen L. Keliihoomalu to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). The SRC was established in the 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The SRC acts in partnership with the Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division on services that address employment needs of individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Keliihoomalu is a nationally Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, State registered Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist and Licensed Mental Health Counselor who works in the private sector. Ms. Keliihoomalu will bring to the Council, the perspective of a private sector rehabilitation counselor with many years of experience in work with disabled individuals in a various systems such as worker's compensation, third party litigation, long-term disability and Social Security. Ms Keliihoomalu also has experience in vocational assessment, testing, transferable skills analysis and work with Veterans.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

Ms. Kelihoomalū will provide representation to the council from the business community, vocational rehabilitation counselor perspective and for Hawaii County.

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