

CHRISTIAN YATES

1687 Pensacola Street, Apt 502
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

(808) 282-5993
Christian_Yates@notes.k12.hi.us

OBJECTIVE

To facilitate the learning of students with visual and hearing disabilities by coordinating services, awareness and communication with members of the Department of Education, parents and the community.

EDUCATION

Certification: Orientation and Mobility
University of Northern Colorado, 2003

Master of Arts degree in Special Education: Severe Needs, Vision
University of Northern Colorado, 2001

Master of Arts degree in Administration and Curriculum Development
Gonzaga University, 1999

Bachelor of Science degree; Special and Elementary Education
State University of New York at Geneseo, 1994

EDUCATIONAL OFFICER EXPERIENCE

Educational Specialist II – Hearing and Visual Impairment
Hawaii State Special Education, Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support, 2007 - present

TEACHER EXPERIENCE

Orientation and Mobility Specialist, preschool – grade 12
Central Oahu District, 2004 – 2007

Teacher of the Visually Impaired, preschool – grade 12
Central Oahu District, 1999 – 2007

Special Education Teacher, grades 2 and 3
Nimitz Elementary, Honolulu, 1998 – 1999

Special Education Teacher, preschool – grade 6
King Kaumuali'i Elementary, Lihue, 1994 – 1998

LEADERSHIP AND AWARDS

SHAER (State of Hawaii Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired) State Chapter President, 2007 – present

Ho'opono Hawaii Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Advisory Board Member, 2007 - present

HSTA (Hawaii State Teachers Association) School Level Representative, 2005 - 2007

Central Oahu District Transition Project Administrator, 2001 – 2003

A+ After School Program Coordinator, 1996 – 1998

Sallie Mae Beginning Teacher of the Year Award, 1995

Christian Yates
State Rehabilitation Council Application
References
April 8, 2008

Sydney Dickerson
Administrator of Hawaii Center for the Deaf and the Blind
3440 Leahi Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: (808) 733-4999
Email: Sydney_Dickerson@notes.k12.hi.us
Professional relationship for 5 years

Gayle Ishikawa
District Educational Specialist for Special Education
Central Oahu District
1136 California Avenue
Wahiawa, HI 96786
Phone: (808) 622-6425
Email: Gayle_Ishikawa@notes.k12.hi.us
Professional relationship for 10 years

Maggie Cox
Hawaii Board of Education
Kauai District
2889 Hoolako Street
Lihue, HI 96766
Phone: (808) 586-3345
Email: Maggie_Cox@notes.k12.hi.us
Professional relationship for 14 years

Christian Yates
State Rehabilitation Council Application
Written Statement
April 8, 2008

I am dedicated to making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. My formal education and professional career reflect my desire to assist people with disabilities to gain the skills needed to become productive and confident citizens. I perceive the role of State Rehabilitation Council member to include assessing the needs of people with disabilities, working with various agencies and private groups within the state to address those needs and finally to examine service delivery methods to ensure individual needs are being met. I sit on the Advisory Board of Ho'opono, Hawaii State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and serve as the President of SHAER, the State of Hawaii Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. My teaching experiences and administrative work within these organizations have prepared me to represent the Department of Education on the State Rehabilitation Council. I do not anticipate any conflict of interests as we are all working toward the common goals of meeting educational and vocational needs of people with disabilities.

The State Rehabilitation Council will benefit from my enthusiasm, communication and creative thinking skills. I passionately believe that people with disabilities can lead productive, independent, and career-driven lives when given the correct tools and allowed to thrive. Thinking "outside of the box" is critical when building programs for individuals. People do not come with standard language, work and living habits. However, they can excel in the world of work when engaged in exciting, challenging and fulfilling activities while maintaining their individual preferences and tastes.

My work with the Central District Transition Project is an excellent example of my work in the vocation field. The project originated as a grant from the Oahu Workforce Investment Board. I planned the curriculum for after school vocational classes for disabled and English language learners as the program administrator. Students learned specific skills about how to obtain, keep and flourish at their work in this after school program. The second phase of the project was on-the-job training in areas of the work with their classroom job mentors working with them and their employers. I enjoyed going to the work places, talking with students and employers and seeing the students grow while learning vocational, professional, interpersonal skills – the sky was the limit!

Thank you for your consideration,

Christian Yates
Educational Specialist – Hearing/Visual Impairment
Hawaii Center of the Deaf and the Blind

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. 582 - Gubernatorial Nomination of Christian E. Yates to the State Rehabilitation Council

Hearing: Thursday, April 10, 2008, 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Christian E. Yates 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.

Mr. Yates has a Masters degree in Special Education and is currently the Educational Specialist for the Hearing/Visual Impaired at the State level for the Department of Education (DOE). Previous to his present position, he was Special Education Teacher for the Department of Education at various schools statewide and is the current President of the State of Hawaii Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Mr. Yates will provide representation to the Council for students with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee.
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY