

GM 493

SARAH K. AHINA

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, SARAH K. AHINA, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

Sarah K. Ahina
84-757 Kiana Place, Unit 11 A
Waianae, HI 96792
Ph: 695-5868 Cell: 499-4194

April 1, 2009

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

Dear Senator Ige:

SUBJECT: GM 493 – Nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities

I received your letter dated March 23, 2009 regarding your request for information. I have answered your questions to the best of my ability.

- (1) A resume with a list of references
Attached is a copy of my application that lists my education and volunteer and work experiences.
- (2) A written statement that addresses the following questions:
 - (a) Why do you wish to be a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?

I want to make a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) in the area of self-advocacy by working side-to-side with the DD Council.

- (b) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of this Council?

As a self-advocate, I will represent other individuals with DD who are self-advocates in making sure that our voice is heard in planning activities to address self-determination.

- (c) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a member of the State Council on DD why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Council.

I feel I am qualified to serve on the DD Council through my experiences as a student in special education at Castle High School, my volunteer experience with Easter Seals Hawaii and Abilities Unlimited, and my work experience at Kmart and Lanakila Rehabilitation Center.

I feel I have communication skills to be able to verbalize in advocating on behalf of individuals with DD. I am comfortable in speaking to others about self-advocacy and rights of individuals with DD. I have knowledge with the self-advocacy movement in Hawaii and on the Mainland. I am serving as the Secretary for the Self-Advocacy Advisory Council. With this position, I am able take notes and complete the minutes of each meeting.

- (d) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to work with the Council in organizing and training self-advocates and family members to interact with policymakers, to be aware of their rights, to know about individual budgets and person-centered planning.

- (e) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the State Council on DD?

1. I consider myself an outspoken person. I am determined to fight for what is right.
2. I am a trustworthy person. People trust me in my words and actions.
3. I am a dedicated person.

Through my determination and dedication, I hope to serve as a role model for other individuals with DD to become their own self-advocate.

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(f) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the State Council on DD?

I started my own business called Keoni Kanaloa Da Kine Crafts. I make pillows, blankets, flowers for the ear, pouches and scrunchies for the hair.

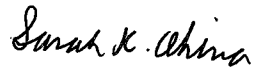
I see my business as a model for other people with DD to have their own business and become self-employed and move toward self-sufficiency.

(g) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the State Council on DD? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

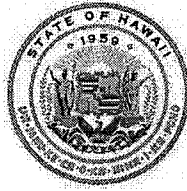
No, I cannot see any conflicts. However, if there is a conflict, I would let the DD Council know and excuse myself from voting on a matter.

I hope that I have answered all of your questions. Please contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,



Sarah K. Ahina



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STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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April 15, 2009

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

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: GM 493 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Sarah K. Ahina**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 493** to confirm the nomination of Sarah K. Ahina for a term to expire 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.

Mrs. Ahina is an individual with a developmental disability who resides in Waianae. She participated in the Council-sponsored Partners in Policymaking (PIP) Leadership Academy. The PIP Academy is an innovative program for individuals with DD and family members of individuals with DD. The program is designed to provide information, training, resources and skills, which will develop productive partnerships between people who need and use services and those in position to make policy and law.

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She is motivated to become a leader in self-advocacy and mentor other individuals to become their own advocates and to start their own business. She serves as an example of managing her business, "Keoni Kanaloa Da Kine Crafts." Her business involves making pillows, blankets, pouches, and various hair and ear ornaments.

Mrs. Ahina's appointment will assist the Council in its activities to promote the principles of self-determination, empower individuals with DD to become self-advocates, and increase employment opportunities in the community.

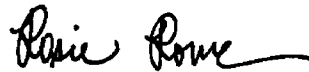
The Council is pleased with Mrs. Ahina's nomination to serve on the Council and looks forward to her contributions to improve the quality of life for individuals with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 493** to confirm Sarah K. Ahina to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair