

GM 498

JENNIFER V. PATRICIO ESQ.

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, JENNIFER V. PATRICIO ESQ., for a term to expire 6-30-2013.



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

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TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2009

From: Jennifer V. Patricio, Esq.

Relating to Governor's Message 498
Nomination of Jennifer V. Patricio, Esq. to the State Council on Developmental
Disabilities

Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 2:45 P.M.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE
HEALTH COMMITTEE:

My name is Jennifer V. Patricio and I have been a staff attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center (HDRC) for approximately one year. I am truly honored by Governor Lingle nominating me to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council), as illustrated by Governor's Message 498. I have profound interest in the needs of people with developmental disabilities in Hawaii.

I believe I am uniquely qualified to be a member of the Council. I believe that people with developmental disabilities must have the right to self-determination, and be provided the appropriate community supports to achieve their own destinies.

My primary goals on the Council will be to work with other agencies and organizations to effectively utilize resources for improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities. I will monitor, review and evaluate various agency service and supports procedures to ensure access and utilization by people with developmental disabilities.

On a personal level, I am born with cerebral palsy and I have endeavored to live a self-determined life. I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from



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HAWAII'S CLIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**



California State University, Northridge; and a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan. This educational background gives me knowledge of government/agency procedures, public policy development and implementation and legal advocacy skills. In addition, being born and raised on Kauai, I understand the unique needs of people in Hawaii. It is my intention to use these experiences to empower people with developmental disabilities through Council activities.

Throughout my years of community service experience, I have collaborated and coordinated with organizations to serve people in need. As a mediator I have skills to bring people with different interests together for common goals. These combined characteristics give me priceless understanding, expertise, and temperament to make the necessary decisions required of Council members.

Since November 2008, after the expiration of the term of Ms. Ann Collins, HDRC Director of Operations; it has been my honor and privilege to participate in Council meetings on behalf of HDRC. I have diligently worked with other Council members to ensure access and use of various agency services for people with developmental disabilities. I am a link between the advocacy and resources of HDRC and Council activities.

I am a hardworking, compassionate and determined individual. Determination and hard work are required to successfully advocate for access to services needed by people who are developmentally disabled. At the same time, compassion is necessary to understand their unique needs.

I welcome the opportunity to serve. There are many issues that face people with developmental disabilities today. I believe my background, education and experiences show that I am uniquely qualified to serve on the Council.

Therefore, I humbly ask for you to support my nomination to the State Council for Developmental Disabilities.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Governor's Message 498.





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March 30, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Health Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 498; Nomination of Ms. Jennifer V. Patricio, Esq. to Serve on
the State Council of Developmental Disabilities

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Jennifer V. Patricio and I am currently a staff attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center (HDRC). I am truly honored by Governor Lingle's nomination to the State Council of Developmental Disabilities (Council). I have profound interest in the needs of people with Developmental Disabilities (DD) in Hawaii. I am a disabled individual born with cerebral palsy, and believe people with DD must have the right to self-determination, and be provided the appropriate community supports to achieve their own destinies. If confirmed, my membership on the Council will bridge my personal experience and professional skills to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in Hawaii.

A member of the Council has various responsibilities. Primary duties must consist of working with other agencies and organizations collaboratively to use resources to improve the lives of people with DD. A member must monitor, review and evaluate various agency service and supports procedures to ensure access and utilization by people with DD. In addition, a member of the Council must work to advocate for people with DD using the appropriate avenues available.

I believe I am uniquely qualified to be a member of the Council. Despite being born with cerebral palsy, and have endeavored to live a self-determined life. I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from California State University, Northridge; and a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan. This educational background gives me knowledge of government/agency procedures, public policy development and implementation and legal advocacy skills. Throughout my years of community service experience, I have collaborated and coordinated with organizations to serve people in need. In addition, as a



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mediator I acquired skills to bring people with different interests together for common goals. I was born and raised on Kauai, and have a unique understanding of the needs of people in Hawaii. These combined characteristics give me a priceless understanding and expertise of DD and the temperament to make the necessary decisions required of Council members.

Since November 2008, after the expiration of the term of Ms. Ann Collins, HDRC Director of Operations; I has been my honor and privilege to participate in Council meetings on behalf of HDRC. During this time, I have diligently collaborated with other Council members to ensure access and use of various agency services for people with DD. I have educated the Council on the work of HDRC leading to an increase in agency assistance to people with DD. I am a link between the advocacy and resources of HDRC and Council activities. If confirmed, it is my utmost intention to continue these activities and increase the awareness of HDRC's role in the community thru activities with the Council ensuring that people with DD attain the appropriate services necessary for their lives.

I am a hardworking, compassionate and determined individual. Determination and hard work are required to successfully advocate for access to services needed by DD individuals. At the same time, compassion is necessary to understand the unique needs of people with DD. The combination of these characteristics are essential to success on the Council.

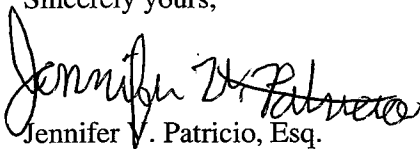
I have spent years achieving a self-determined life as a disabled individual. I am extremely fortunate to have achieved higher education, as well as independent living skills. It is my intention to use these experiences to empower people with DD through Council activities to achieve their own destinies.

Finally, I do not foresee any conflicts of interests if I am confirmed as a member of the Council.

I welcome the opportunity to serve. There are many issues that face people with DD today.

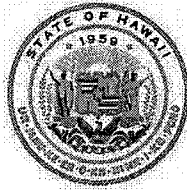
Enclosed with this letter is my resume and a list of references as you requested. I believe my background, education and experience show that I am uniquely qualified to serve on the Council. Therefore, I humbly ask for you to support my nomination to the State Council for Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely yours,



Jennifer V. Patricio, Esq.

Enclosures



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
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 498 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Jennifer V. Patricio**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 498** to confirm the nomination of Jennifer V. Patricio for a term to expire June 30, 2013.

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.

Ms. Patricio is a staff attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center. Her appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for a representative of the State protection and advocacy (P&A) system.

As a representative of the P&A system, Ms. Patricio would provide the Council with a legal perspective in its activities to promote and advocate for accessible services for individuals with DD. She has been attending Council meetings and the Council's Health and Early Childhood area of emphasis committee meetings. Her participation on

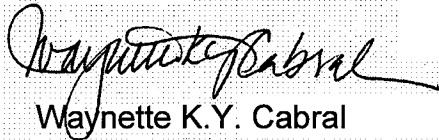
The Honorable David Y. Ige
Page 2
April 15, 2009

the Committee would greatly assist the Council in its initiatives to reduce health disparities among people with DD, and to increase the number of individuals to access preventive and restorative dental care services.

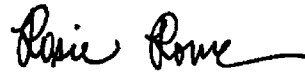
The Council is pleased with Ms. Patricio's nomination to serve on the Council and looks forward to her contributions to improve the overall access and availability of services for individuals with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 498** to confirm Jennifer V. Patricio to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

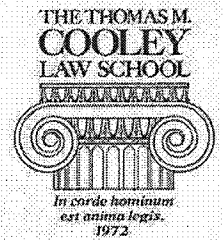
Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair



April 11, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Health Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message 498 - Nomination of Ms. Jennifer V. Patricio to Service
on the State Council of Developmental Disabilities

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Health Committee:

My name is James M. Hicks, Jr. and I am a Professor of Law at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. I am submitting testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 498, nominating Jennifer V. Patricio to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Jennifer was my student in Civil Procedure and we became friends. We have stayed in close touch in the years since her graduation.

Jennifer is a bright person with an inquiring mind. I have the highest respect for her character, integrity and work ethic. She has demonstrated wisdom, patience, compassion and grace in all that she has done in her life. Jennifer has a passion for truth and justice and the willingness to consider genuinely all reasonable perspectives.

Jennifer demonstrated these qualities when she lobbied the City of Lansing's Department of Public Works to repair and install sidewalk curb cuts. The City's seeming indifference to these issues prior to Jennifer's involvement understandably would have frustrated most people. Jennifer worked in a style best described as polite, cheerful and patient persistence coupled with scrupulously documented and prepared arguments. She quickly achieved a positive outcome and earned the great respect of the City's Transportation Engineer.

You will well serve the people of your great state by confirming Jennifer's nomination. She has earned my esteem and strong recommendation. She will be a wonderful addition to the Council.

Very truly yours,

James M. Hicks, Jr.



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TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2009 SESSION

To: Senate Committee on Health

From: Hawaii Disability Rights Center

Re: Governor's Message 498
Nomination of Jennifer V. Patricio, Esq. to the State Council on
Developmental Disabilities

Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 , 2:45 PM
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Members of the Committee on Health :

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony supporting GM 498.

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center, formerly known as the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawaii (P&A) is the agency mandated by federal law and designated by Executive Order to protect and advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of Hawaii's estimated 180,000 people with disabilities.

We are delighted to express our strong support for the nomination of Jennifer Patricio to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Her unique perspective, derived from her legal training as well as her personal experience, makes her extremely well suited to serve in this capacity.

Jennifer has been with us for approximately one year and has been a delight to work with. She possesses an effervescent attitude as well as a strong work ethic. Since becoming a member of the Council she has facilitated more collaboration between the two agencies and helped us develop a productive partnership. The DD Council and the Protection and Advocacy system are created under the same federal statute and so are commonly referred to as "sister agencies." She has done a wonderful job communicating to us concerns and issues expressed at the Council and has brought to them the benefit of our collective legal experience.

She already has become an integral, member of the Council, serving on various Subcommittees. We respectfully urge her confirmation by this Committee and by the Senate so that she can continue to advocate for individuals with disabilities in this capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this Governor's Message.



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MELANY H. CHAPIN

March 30, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Health Committee
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 498; Nomination of Ms. Jennifer V. Patricio to Service on the State Council of Developmental Disabilities

Dear Chair Ige and Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Melany H. Chapin. I am submitting testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 498, nominating Jennifer V. Patricio to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have known Ms. Patricio since 1995. We have worked in the capacity of colleagues and friends for 14 years.

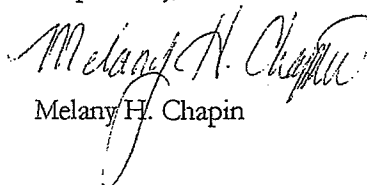
Throughout these years Ms. Patricio has demonstrated constancy in honesty, integrity and engaging in projects and programs aimed at bettering our community, such as: Habitat for Humanity; and Educational Equity Lecturer. Ms. Patricio's deep commitment to serving others with developmental disabilities is supported by her expertise and qualifications gained through formal education and authentic internships within the legal and community based arenas including her mediation, attorney, and experiential expertise. Ms. Patricio's own personal disability offers additional insights to the council that cannot otherwise be obtained.

Ms. Patricio has consistently worked well with others. She is a team player and sincerely commits to the common goals and purposes of a project and goes the extra mile to see it through to completion. At her job she successfully bridges people with disabilities to the most appropriate office services available.

I cannot think of a professional more qualified than Ms. Patricio to serve on the State Council of Developmental Disabilities. She is not only a model in independent inclusion within the community but a strong advocate for others. She has devoted her personal and professional career to strengthen the goals that align with the council such as working for self-determination, being an advocate for systems change, promoting best practices, and providing information, education, and planning to improve her community in every way possible.

It is without hesitation that I give Ms. Jennifer V. Patricio my highest recommendation in support of Governor's Message 498, in nominating Jennifer V. Patricio to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Respectfully,



Melany H. Chapin