

**GM 503**

**BILLIE GABRIEL**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances, Gubernatorial Nominee, BILLIE GABRIEL, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

GM496 Nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Written Statement

**Why do you wish to be a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?**

Because of my strong passion for supporting and serving individuals with disabilities, I have devoted a lifetime career of service to this population. Serving as a member of the State Council on DD would give me the opportunity to continue assisting our communities and ensuring opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

**How do you perceive the role and responsibility of a member of this council?**

I believe my role and responsibility as a member of the Council on Developmental Disabilities is to work with the other council members on issues regarding systems change and community support of individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Given your understanding of the role and responsibility of a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities why do you believe that you are qualified for the position?**

I have earned both a BA in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Special Education and a MA in Educational Administration from New Mexico State University. My experience includes 11 years experience as a licensed special education teacher working with students with disabilities and over 8 years experience as an administrator supervising programs for students with special needs.

I have worked as a private consultant supporting schools with individualized programming for student with severe behavioral concerns and as adjunct teaching staff at both the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Highlands University teaching pre-service and graduate level courses in special education.

Finally, I was co-founder and president of a non-profit organization helping both educators and families of children with developmental disabilities whose mission was to ensure student needs were being met.

**What do you hope to accomplish during your tenure of service?**

It is my hope, that serving on this council will give me the opportunity to share my knowledge, experience, and expertise in the efforts to support our community members with developmental disabilities. Additionally, I am excited to participate in community and statewide efforts supporting individuals with developmental disabilities

**Name 3 qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?**

Dedicated – I am committed to serving individuals with developmental disabilities and supporting their efforts to a quality life.

Professional – I am fortunate to have many hours of formal and informal training, and many years of hands-on experience working with students with disabilities.

Passion – Serving and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities goes beyond my profession. My heart is to ensure that all individuals with developmental disabilities have the right to happiness.

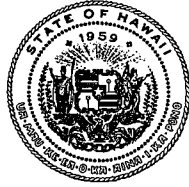
I believe that my commitment, professional experience and passion are qualities that will support the council and benefit people with disabilities within our communities.

**Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?**

I have experience as both a provider and parent of a child with developmental disabilities. In addition to my experience as an educator, I have also been foster parent to a child with significant developmental disabilities. Our foster child was in our home for 4 years. During that time, our family was faced with many issues and concerns that were extremely challenging. This experience has given me the ability to have a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

**Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?**

Because the council shares a common vision, supporting people with developmental disabilities, I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest. In the event that a conflict was to arise, I am confident that my teaming and problem solving skills, and more importantly my passion for this cause, would enable me to overcome.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## Senate Committee on Health

### G.M. 503, G.M. 504, G.M. 506, and G.M. 507, Nomination for Consideration and Confirmation for Commissioners of the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health  
April 15, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports confirmation of Billie Gabriel  
2 (G.M. 503), Louis M. Kealoha (G.M. 504), Michele S. Scofield (G.M. 506) and Steven M. Shiraki  
3 (G.M. 507) to serve on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances  
4 (HACDACS) for terms to expire on June 30, 2013.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** Not applicable.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointment of Billie Gabriel, Louis M. Kealoha, Michele  
7 S. Scofield and Steven M. Shiraki to serve on HACDACS.

8 HACDACS appointees represent a cross-section of the community, including, but not limited to  
9 pharmacological, medical, community and business affairs, youth action, educational, legal defense,  
10 enforcement and corrections segments of the community.

11 **Billie Gabriel** is a self-employed consultant who is engaged in public relations, marketing,  
12 advertising, event planning and fundraising. Her 30-year career has also involved managing  
13 comprehensive development, media relations, brand imaging, sponsor recruitment, donor relations and  
14 legislative lobbying. During 2007 and 2008, Ms. Gabrielle provided management support to the  
15 producer of the 11-day Hawaii Romance Festival held on Oahu. As Vice-President of Development

1 with Easter Seals Hawaii between 1993 and 2007, she developed a comprehensive strategy, marketing  
2 and media plan to create greater awareness of the organization and its programs and services. Between  
3 1979 and 1992, Ms. Gabriel served as Director of Community Relations for Kapiolani Medical Center  
4 with responsibilities for managing fundraising events such as the Children's Miracle Network Telethon.

5 **Louis M. Kealoha** is a Captain with the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), Juvenile Services  
6 Division. He is currently on special assignment to the Narcotics/Vice Division. Prior to his current  
7 assignments, Captain Kealoha's service with HPD has included: Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer,  
8 Patrol Sergeant, Training Sergeant, Recruit Class Supervisor, Training/Administrative Lieutenant, and  
9 Captain within the Criminal Investigation Division. In addition to his work with the Honolulu Police  
10 Department, Captain Kealoha is an Adjunct Professor and Lecturer in courses on criminal law,  
11 criminology and the criminal justice system at Chaminade University of Honolulu. He holds dual  
12 baccalaureate degrees (in human services and occupational education), a Master's of Science in  
13 Criminal Justice Administration, and a Doctor of Education degree.

14 **Michele S. Scofield** is a Practicum Instructor/Project Junior Specialist with the University of  
15 Hawaii at Manoa, School of Social Work, Pulama I Ke Ola Social Work Master's Program Training  
16 Project. In addition to academic credentials in the field of social work, she is a licensed social worker  
17 and certified substance abuse counselor. Ms. Scofield's experiences in programs that address behavioral  
18 health include: classroom experience with special education students at Wheeler Elementary School,  
19 Nimitz Elementary School, Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School and Hickam Elementary School; public  
20 and consumer education with the Department of Health, Adult Mental Health Division and Mental  
21 Health Association; and clinical experience in the field of substance abuse at Hina Mauka.

22 **Steven M. Shiraki** is the Administrator/Educational Specialist with the Department of Education  
23 (DOE) Student Support Section of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support, Student  
24 Support Services Branch. He has an extensive academic and professional background in the field of

1 Education. His areas of specialization are Special Education and Legal Issues for Administrators,  
2 Supervision and Teacher Development, and Curriculum/Instructional Leadership. He began his  
3 professional work with the DOE in 1993 as a Special Education teacher at Kawanānakoā Intermediate  
4 School and served as Vice Principal at various elementary schools before serving as a District and State  
5 Educational Specialist. In addition to his work with the DOE, Dr. Shiraki has taught college courses and  
6 has given numerous scholarly and professional presentations. As the HACDACS member jointly  
7 appointed (pursuant to Sections 329-2 and 334-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes) to the State Council on  
8 Mental Health, Dr. Shiraki is knowledgeable about the community and the relationships between mental  
9 health, mental illness and substance abuse.

10 We respectfully request your expeditious and favorable consideration in confirming  
11 Billie Gabriel, Louis M. Kealoha, Michele S. Scofield and Steven M. Shiraki to serve on HACDACS.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of these volunteers whose  
13 appointments add to the cross-section of community interests represented on the Commission.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2009 8:09 AM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** cliftsuji@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM503 on 4/15/2009 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HTH 4/15/2009 2:45:00 PM GM503

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Clift Tsuji  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Hilo, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: [cliftsuji@yahoo.com](mailto:cliftsuji@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 4/15/2009

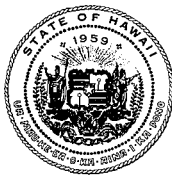
**Comments:**

Good afternoon Senators. Please accept my statement in strong support for Ms. Billie Gabriel, a nominee to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

I have known Ms. Gabriel for 25 years and have seen her excellent work at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children as well as at Easter Seals. She has always been heavily involved with human services and quality of life issues. Her well-rounded experiences and stellar community relations will be valuable assets to the Advisory Commission. In addition, Ms. Gabriel is a kind, caring and compassionate individual. I am confident that as a member of the Commission, her attributes and abilities will help bring positive impact and meaningful contributions to the population it serves.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my strong support for her nomination.

Clift Tsuji



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 13, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chairman  
Senate Health Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Billie Gabriel Recommendation for Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances (GM 503)

Dear Chairman Ige,

The purpose of this letter is to highly and respectfully recommend Billie Gabriel for appointment on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

I first got to know Ms. Gabriel while on the Board of Directors of Easter Seals Hawaii, an organization committed to identifying challenges in the community and implementing programs to assist individuals with disabilities and their families. While Ms. Gabriel was serving as the Vice President of Development, I had the opportunity to see how she accomplished whatever she set her mind to. Her energetic involvement in the organization was integral in running its operations and allowing its services to grow.

Ms. Gabriel was later promoted to the position of Vice President of Public Affairs. This role was a natural fit, as her personable demeanor and commitment to Easter Seals Hawaii was invaluable for leading the organization's very necessary public face.

While I was on the Board of Directors I had the opportunity to get to know Ms. Gabriel on a professional and personal level. I learned about her brother's fight to overcome his

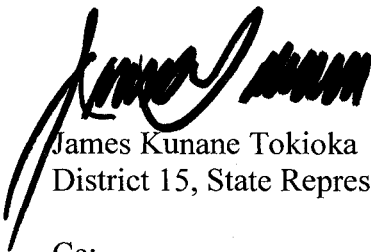
**Representative James Kunane Tokioka**  
State Capitol, Room 322 • Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-6270 • Fax: (808) 586-6271  
Email: [reptokioka@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptokioka@capitol.hawaii.gov)



addiction to Crystal Meth, and how Billie's support was instrumental in aiding her brother's journey towards recovery. Billie's firsthand experience with the devastation a drug like Crystal Meth can cause is of great value to an appointment of this nature. The combination of personal and professional experiences which Billie brings to the table makes her a strong candidate for this role. I have no doubt Billie will be able to contribute ideas on how to best address the impact of drugs and controlled substances in our island communities, having experience with both the problem and potential solutions.

It is with great honor that I recommend Billie Gabriel to serve on the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

Sincerely,



James Kunane Tokioka  
District 15, State Representative

Cc:

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker  
The Honorable Will C. Espero  
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara  
The Honorable Fred Hemmings

**Representative James Kunane Tokioka**  
State Capitol, Room 322 • Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-6270 • Fax: (808) 586-6271  
Email: [reptokioka@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptokioka@capitol.hawaii.gov)

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

Center on Disability Studies

University Center on Excellence in Education, Research and Service

March 27, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair,  
The Honorable Josh Green, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Ige, Senator Green, and Committee Members: **RE: GM #503**

I am honored to be asked to support the appointment of Ms. Billie Gabriel to the Hawai'i Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. Governor Linda Lingle has wisely nominated Ms. Gabriel for a four-year term on the Commission.

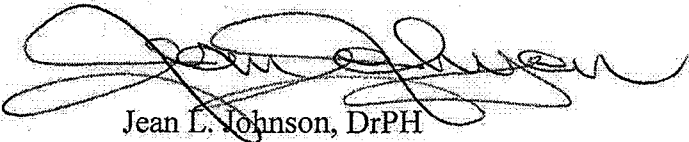
I have known Billie Gabriel for more than a decade. While I served on the Easter Seals Hawai'i Board of Directors since 1999, and as its Chair in 2005-2006, Ms. Gabriel was employed as a Vice-President of the organization, responsible for resource development, publicity, special events, and fund raising. I was greatly impressed by her commitment, her compassion, and her contributions. She enthusiastically embraced the mission of Easter Seals Hawai'i to create solutions and change lives.

I believe that Ms. Gabriel can contribute to solutions of problems arising from the abuse of controlled substances. She has shared with me that a member of her own family has struggled with this problem. Thus, she will be able to provide a unique family perspective to sensitize members of the Commission on what it means to not only "talk the talk, but walk the walk" with individuals and families as they seek to meet the daily challenges of overcoming substance abuse.

Ms. Gabriel is a woman with rare talents who knows how to effectively communicate to the public the issues involving people with special needs. She is able to passionately articulate what matters, making the issues understandable to the general public and enlisting their support and commitment to the cause.

When Ms. Gabriel embraces a responsibility, she gives it her best. I am certain she will be an effective, hard-working, contributing member of the State Advisory Commission. Without reservation, I strongly recommend her appointment.

Sincerely,



Jean L. Johnson, DrPH  
Associate Director

March 26, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
and Members of the Health Committee  
Senate Committee on Health  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
415 South Beretania, Room 215  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Norman Kawakami, Senior Vice President of Operations. I am submitting testimony in **strong support of Governor's Message 503** nominating Ms. Billie Gabriel to be appointed to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing Ms. Gabriel for over ten years and her previous involvement with Easter Seals Hawaii and the Kapiolani Health Systems reflects a very compassionate, sensitive, and accountable individual. She has first-hand experience with a sibling's drug use and how it can affect an entire family. Additionally, her vast experience in communications, marketing, and public relations brings to the table an extremely articulate and well-connected individual who can support the overall facilitation of this very important advisory group.

I am confident that in addition to her wealth of knowledge, she has the ability to encourage participation, promote mutual understanding and cultivate shared responsibility. All of these qualities would greatly assist the Commission in its activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my **very strong support for GM 503** to confirm Billie Gabriel to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 536-1015.

Sincerely,

Norman T. Kawakami  
Sr. VP of Operations



**Brandt G. Farias**  
Executive Vice President  
Marketing Communications Division

April 6, 2009

Chairman David Ige  
Vice-Chairman Josh Green  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Health  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Nomination of Billie Gabriel

Dear Chairman Ige, Vice-Chairman Green and Members of the Committee:

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I say a few words on behalf of Billie Gabriel, a longtime friend and peer. I first met Billie through her development work for Easter Seals of Hawaii. She was always thorough in her planning and conscientious in her follow-up. Perhaps more importantly, everything she did was with a sense of caring and concern, not only for her job, but for the community in general.

She brings this same sense of caring and Aloha Spirit to her everyday life. She has been touched by personal tragedy but has not let that stop her from going out and serving the community to the best of her ability. I respect her vision and desire to increase the quality of life for all local residents, not only those less fortunate or those with special challenges.

I feel that she would be an excellent addition to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. I am proud to call her a friend and professional colleague.

Should you wish to discuss her nomination in more detail, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at 525-6112 or via e-mail at [bfarias@fhb.com](mailto:bfarias@fhb.com).

Warm personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandt Farias", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Brandt Farias

The Pacific Resource  
**PARTNERSHIP**



March 30, 2009

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 215  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chair Ige and Members of the Committee on Health:

I am writing to humbly ask for your support of GM 503, submitting for consideration and confirmation of Billie Gabriel to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

Billie Gabriel is an unwavering supporter of Hawaii's own, especially our youth. Throughout her career she has been in touch in working with Hawaii's youth and understands that there is a need to resolve the problems that stem from an increase in drug abuse. Billie has the compassion to help our youth and the tenacity to battle the cause.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts on GM 503 and again, humbly ask for your favorable consideration on confirming Billie Gabriel to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Chock', written in a cursive style.

Kyle Chock  
Executive Director

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair,  
The Honorable Josh Green, Vice-Chair,  
Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Senate  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 28, 2009

Dear Senators,

I am pleased to endorse Ms. Billie Gabriel for an appointment to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances. I have known Ms. Gabriel for 30 years and have worked with her on several projects in the past decade. She is a lady of integrity. Ms. Gabriel can be trusted with critical assignments of wide scope and easily juggles complex elements to produce outstanding results. She has organized several commercial projects of which I was a participant including Easter Seals' Taste of Honolulu fund raising, Kamehameha Schools' activities, Kawaihāo Church Valentine's Day and charity benefit events.

Billie does thorough research for any project that she undertakes. I've seen her work the 2008 Honolulu *Back to Romance* concert series where she organized and engineered shows, refreshments, musicians, patrons and audiences. She tirelessly sees to each detail, anticipating challenges and allocating resources effectively to generate a first class production.

Her successful work with non-profit organizations stems from long term, dependable, community relationships that she's cultivated over many years. People enjoy working with her because she is smart, articulate and courageous. She has a personal stake in our battles against substance abuse and the family consequences. Ms. Gabriel understands through practical problem solving for a brother plagued by drug addiction. She speaks publicly about the heartbreak of substance abuse and projects a sincerity that engages community leaders. Billie continues to be an amazing team member and team leader in our state. I wholeheartedly recommend her for this state commission and would appreciate the opportunity to speak on her behalf. You can reach me at (808) 541-2542 or (808) 255-7822.

Aloha,

Walter K. Kaneakua  
1024 Iopono Loop  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

April 1, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to voice my support for Billie Gabriel's nomination to the Hawaii Advisory Commission on Drug Abuse and Controlled Substances.

In my capacity as a news anchor, I'm frequently asked to submit letters of recommendations but respectfully decline if I am not comfortable with the request. I understand the significance of these letters and only participate when I believe the applicant is qualified.

I believe in Billie Gabriel.

I've known Billie for nearly 15 years. Our professional relationship started while Billie was at Easter Seals Society of Hawaii. At the time, my role was simply "host" of the organization's telethon on KHON2. But as I watched her work with clients of Easter Seals and their families, I realized she truly cared about people. It was because of her compassion that I became more involved and eventually an Easter Seals Board Member. Billie led by example and it was her caring heart that inspired me to serve those with disabilities. That's a leader.

Billie was an executive but she was more than just an outstanding communicator. She was in the trenches with families. I watched her cry with parents as their child took their first step. I remember sitting in a room with her as we watched and listened to young Pono Tokioka sing Happy Birthday to his mother. Pono was born deaf and up until that point, signed to communicate. On that special day he sang his heart out. It was a powerful moment and the tears shed by Billie were real. You can't teach that kind of compassion...that comes from having a genuine heart.

I know Billie has a pulse on Hawaii's drug abuse problem and has personally dealt with the issue within her own family. She has walked the journey with those close to her and knows what it takes to overcome. The commission needs someone like Billie who cares not because she has to but because she does. She is a gem in our great state that has already touched many lives.

If I can be of any further assistance, or provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 368-2949.

With Much Respect and Aloha,

Ron Mizutani

KHON2 News Anchor