

GM 524

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March 30, 2009

Dear Senate Committee on Human Services Members:

This is a letter of recommendation for Ms. Gretchen Lawson's appointment to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Board.

I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with Ms. Gretchen Lawson over the past twelve years as both of our operations continuously advocate the self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities. There is no better champion than Ms. Lawson when it comes to educating our employers and larger community on the virtues of hiring and retaining individuals with disabilities.


Her tireless energy and unmatched wisdom are simply unrivaled in this arena. Having served on numerous committees with Ms. Lawson, most of us observe in awe as she eloquently and passionately represent a population that is oftentimes under-represented and overlooked.

Ms. Lawson's extensive background and technical knowledge are only rivaled by her superb ability to work with her peers, her customers, key stakeholders and policy-makers in our community and throughout the State.

It is with great pride that I pledge my wholehearted support for the appointment of Ms. Gretchen Lawson to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Board.

Thank you very much for your kind attention to this matter. Her colleagues and constituents whom she serves will be the true beneficiaries of this appointment.

Sincerely yours,

  
Blayne Hanagami,  
Hawaii Branch Manager

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April 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: G.M. 524 - GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF GRETCHEN  
LAWSON TO THE STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

The Department of Human Services strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Gretchen Lawson 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. Gretchen Lawson is seeking appointment for her first term on the Council. She is active in the County of Hawaii as a professional in the field of vocational rehabilitation and other organizations that provide employment services for people with disabilities. She will bring valuable perspectives from her work as a professional and her activity in the community to the SRC. Ms. Lawson will provide representation on the Council as a representative of community rehabilitation service providers and the County of Hawaii.

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

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