

**GM208**



GOV. MSG. NO. 208

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

February 5, 2010

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, State Council on:**

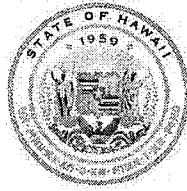
Joann W.L. Yuen

Term to Expire: 6/30/2010

Sincerely,



LINDA LINGLE



**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  
March 5, 2010

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 208- State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee JoAnn W.L. Yuen**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 208** to confirm the nomination of JoAnn W.L. Yuen for a term to expire June 30, 2010.

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.

Professor Yuen is on the faculty of the University of Hawaii at Manoa Center on Disability Studies. Her appointment would fulfill the requirement for a representative of the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service. She was first appointed by Governor Lingle to the Council on October 30, 2009, on an interim basis. Prior to her appointment, she attended Council meetings and provided the Council with information on national activities in the disability field.

The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Page 2  
March 5, 2010

Professor Yuen's experience in working with individuals with DD and their families would assist the Council in its initiatives to enhance cultural competence and self-determination. Her knowledge of national trends and best practices in disabilities would help us build capacity within the service provider network to improve the service delivery system. Additionally, her research background can provide data and trends to prepare us to pursue Federal grants and other alternate sources of funding.

We look forward to Professor Yuen's valuable contributions toward the mission and activities of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 208** to confirm JoAnn W.L. Yuen to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral  
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe  
Chair

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA**

Center on Disability Studies  
University Center on Excellence in Education, Research and Service

March 3, 2010

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

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Green, and Committee Members:

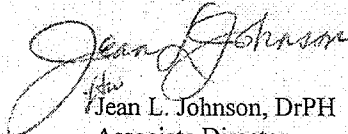
Re: Governor's Appointment of Dr. Joann Yuen to the  
State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
(GM #208 and 209)

I am honored to support the appointment of Dr. Yuen to the Council. I have known her since 1987, when she was a charter member of the staff of the Zero to Three Early Intervention Program for the State of Hawai'i. I was Director of the Program, which provided services to special-needs children from birth to age three. Dr. Yuen was an able and tireless worker in those early years of the Program; her many contributions are immeasurable.

After completing her graduate education and receiving her doctorate from the University of Southern California under a Kamehameha Schools Scholarship, Dr. Yuen joined the faculty of the University's Center on Disability Studies (CDS), where I am now Associate Director. At the CDS, Dr. Yuen has continued to make vital contributions in the areas of research, education, and service to improve the quality of lives of people with disabilities. She is a valuable, creative, and reliable member of our faculty.

I wholeheartedly support her appointment to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I am certain she will be an effective, hard-working, contributing member of the Council.

Sincerely,

  
Jean L. Johnson, DrPH  
Associate Director

Testimony Presented Before the  
Committee on Health  
Friday, March 5, 2010 at 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

**Written Personal Testimony**

By

Christine Sorensen  
Dean, College of Education

**GM 208 GM 209: Recommendation for JOANN W.L. YUEN**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

I wish to submit testimony in support of the appointment of JoAnn W.L. Yuen to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Yuen is an associate professor and has great depth of knowledge and understanding regarding disabilities with many years of experience working in the UH-Mānoa, College of Education's Center on Disability Studies (CDS). She can bring a national perspective to the issues as she is well versed on trends across the country and her own research and practice are grounded in working with individuals and communities coping with issues of disabilities.

Dr. Yuen teaches both in the areas of special education and in English language learning and has designed learning strategies for children in at-risk communities on the Leeward coast as well as in West Hawai'i, Moloka'i, and Lānai. She is currently a Board member of Responsive Caergivers of Hawai'i, a group that guides services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Dr. Yuen herself has a Native Hawaiian heritage and also has experience in living and maintaining relationships with a number of family members and others who themselves have disabilities. Given both her personal and professional experiences, I believe Dr. Yuen would be an asset to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and would encourage you to appoint her to that body.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide my written testimony.

Personal Testimony

Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health

March 5, 2010  
2:45 pm Conference Room 016

By

Kathleen Berg, Chair  
College of Education Faculty Senate  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

**GM 208 & GM 209: Relating to Confirmation of JOANN W. L. YUEN**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee

I am providing personal testimony today in support of GM 208 and GM 209, consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee JOANN W. L. YUEN.

I am a colleague of Dr. JoAnn Yuen at the University of Hawaii College of Education, and I attest to her integrity, diligence, and dedication to her profession and ideals. Scholarship, teaching, and service are the three main areas of endeavor for university professionals. My relationship with Dr. Yuen and knowledge of her work falls primarily in the area of service. But I know that to command the respect that she does among her peers, she must excel in the other areas as well. Dr. Yuen was elected by her colleagues in the Center for Disability Studies (CDS) to the College Faculty Senate. It has been in her capacity as a Senator that I have worked with and been very impressed by Dr. Yuen.

JoAnn stepped forward last year when the call went out for a chair for the Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Budget and Facilities. Given the budget troubles and fiscal challenges of the College of Education (COE), indeed the University itself, offering to chair a committee that must address the dual challenges of budgets and buildings was a great service. And since last fall, Dr. Yuen has been active on both fronts.

Dr. Yuen has been a champion of the concept of green buildings, and she leads a sustainability project at the COE that has successfully found external funding to help replace lighting and finance other activities within the college. She leads a small group of very active and dedicated colleagues who have laid out an ambitious program of improvements to the facilities and practices at the COE to work toward sustainability. She has married this work with the work of her Faculty Senate committee to great effect.

The budget challenges have demanded great time and attention of the Faculty Senate, and especially of the Budget and Facilities Committee. JoAnn's leadership of this important group has been invaluable. She has taken on responsibilities for helping arrange and facilitate a college-wide forum, for bringing to the Senate possible recommendations for endorsement and action, for representing her colleagues in the Center for Disability Studies to the ad hoc committee for reorganizing the college, and for arranging for an online survey of faculty related to budget issues. If anything needs doing, JoAnn can be counted on to step right in and see it to completion.

Dr. Yuen has been an invaluable member of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate during this year of great challenges. She has easily stepped into major leadership roles and excelled in every situation. I have every confidence that she would be an enormous asset to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. With her talent, and even more important, willingness to take on leadership responsibilities when faced with challenges, Dr. JoAnn Yuen would serve the Council well.

I urge your support for the confirmation of JOANN W. L. YUEN for terms to expire 6-30-2010 (GM 208) and 6-30-2014 (GM 209).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Peter W. Dowrick, PhD (Professor)  
tel: 808/956-8741; fax: . . . -4371;  
em <dowrick@hawaii.edu>

3 March 2010

Senator Ige, Senator Green, & Colleagues  
Committee on Health  
Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: *JoAnn Yuen, Gubernatorial Nominee, State DD Council*  
Testimony for both GM 208 and GM 209

Dear Senators:

I am very pleased to write this testimony in support of Dr. JoAnn Yuen's nomination. We received very short notice of the hearing, and I understand that a number of referees who know her well have been asked to testify. So I will be brief.

I have known JoAnn for ten years, over which time we have worked together with increasing collegiality and collaboration. I recommend her most highly for this appointment, through 2014. First, she has considerable knowledge and empathy related to developmental disabilities, through her life experiences. She has met, taken an real interest in, and helped to support many individuals with disabilities and their families. She is a wonderful Auntie to a young boy with hearing impairment, and often a surrogate parent – one of his best friends.

Second, she is a scholar and a provider with a range of experiences related to disabilities. For example: She has worked in the state zero-to-three program, shown both support and leadership in the development and evaluation of supplemental education and life skill services with me at the Center on Disabilities Studies, and recently taken initiative in learning about autism and supporting their caregivers. I am sure you will hear testimony on all these areas and more.

Third, she is conscientious, dedicated, and hard working in whatever she commits to. In these ways, she is well-organized in both leadership and team membership, as befits her role.

In short, I believe she will bring much credit and many rewards – through the DD Council, to the people of Hawai'i with disabilities. Please contact me if I can be of further help.

Aloha,



Peter W. Dowrick, Ph.D  
Professor of Disability Studies  
and Psychology (Community and Culture)  
*Creating Futures*  
Former and Founding Director, Center for Human Development UCE, Anchorage Alaska  
(a sister program under the DD Act)

[www.cds.hawaii.edu](http://www.cds.hawaii.edu)  
[www.creating-futures.org/](http://www.creating-futures.org/)

TESTIMONY TO:

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2010

TIME: 2:45PM

TESTIFYING FOR: GM 208 & 209

GM 208: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOANN W.L. YUEN, for a term to expire 6-30-2010.

GM 209: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOANN W.L. YUEN, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

POSITION: STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Senator Ige & Senator Green,

My name is Nathan Say and it is pleasure to testify in support of Dr. JoAnn Yuen's nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

(SCDD) JoAnn and I are colleagues at the Center on Disability Studies and

I have known her for about a year and a half. I admire her ability to articulate her positions on issues passionately as well as sticking to her guns when she feels strongly about something. At the same time, she is able to thoughtfully listen to other's opinions and change a decision or opinion after

being presented with key information, which is a wonderful strength in any leader. She has the ability to bring two sides together to reach a common consensus when there are different opinions and in a big group such as SCDD this will be a major benefit. When given a task or assignment, her follow through is nearly immediate so people will be able to count on her to get things done. In addition, her knowledge of disabilities and alternative learning modalities as well as her commitment to indigenous culture and knowledge will provided a unique perspective that is needed in any organization such as SCDD.

I strongly encourage you to support Dr. JoAnn Yuen's nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and I thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nathan Say  
[nathan.say@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.say@gmail.com)  
(808)728-1683

---

**From:** Brian Shaughnessy [squeakybrian@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 03, 2010 8:28 PM  
**To:** HTHTestimony  
**Cc:** JoAnn Yuen  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF JoAnn W.L. Yuen, Ed.D. Nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Brian Shaughnessy**

Attorney at Law

1326 Keeaumoku St. #301

Honolulu, HI 96814

808-277-5917

[Attybrian@gmail.com](mailto:Attybrian@gmail.com)

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF JoAnn W.L. Yuen, Ed.D. Nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities**

It has been my pleasure to know, "Dr. J," as I affectionately call her for more than ten years now. She has been a friend, colleague, advisor and HUGE personal supporter throughout in all my projects whether disability related or not. She has promised and provided supports where others fall short. I had the pleasure of collaborating on an article with her.

She has taken offense when the level of support promised to me and others with disabilities was not provided and sought to find out why and held the parties accountable.

She is a skilled educator, grant writer, fiscal administrator and would never presume to know more than the individuals with disabilities she represents. She is empathetic and a strong advocate.

You will be lucky to get her.

Sincerely,

brian Shaughnessy

--

PS -- You can see me on David Letterman and get my book at [www.squeakywheelbook.com](http://www.squeakywheelbook.com)

Brian Shaughnessy, Esq.

author of

THE SQUEAKY WHEEL --

An Unauthorized Autobiography

808-277-5917

324 B Kalama Street  
Kailua, HI 96734

March 4, 2010

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Regarding: GM 208**

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Committee on Health:

This testimony is in support of your consideration and confirmation of **Dr. Joann W.L. Yuen** to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have known Dr. Yuen for nineteen years. We worked together for the Department of Health's Early Intervention Section in the 1990's under the leadership of Dr. Jean Johnson. Dr. Yuen later served as a Board of Director for Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii when I became the Chief Executive Officer in 2005 -2008.

I am currently a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and would be honored to continue working with Dr. Yuen; particularly in efforts to support individuals with developmental disabilities. As a representative of the Center for Disabilities Studies, Dr. Yuen will bridge both agencies in the collaborative research and program development efforts to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Nishimoto, Ph.D., ACSW, LSW  
Assistant Professor of Social Work  
Hawaii Pacific University