

**GM 265**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.  
DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 25, 2010

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: G.M. 265 - Gubernatorial Nomination of Jo Ann D. Koga to the  
Statewide Council on Independent Living

Hearing: February 25, 2010 1:15 pm  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services supports the nomination of Ms. Jo Ann D. Koga to the Statewide Council on Independent Living (SILC).

Ms. Jo Ann D. Koga is seeking appointment to the State Independent Living Council. Ms. Koga is currently employed with the University of Hawai'i Center on Disability Studies. Her work in the disability movement is long and varied making her benefit to the SILC important to its mission. Ms. Koga will provide representation to the SILC from the Oahu County.

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



STATEWIDE  
*Independent Living*  
*Council*  
of HAWAII

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Thursday, February 25, 2010, 1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 016

GM 265

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Statewide Council on Independent Living, Gubernatorial Nominee, JO ANN D. KOGA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Sheryl Nelson. I am the executive director of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). The council strongly supports the appointment of JO ANN D. KOGA to the SILC.

I have had the privilege of working with Jo Ann in the Successful Transitions in Diverse Environments (STRIDE) project. Her life experiences, dependability and perspective regarding Independent Living for people with disabilities will benefit the SILC moving forward.

Sheryl Nelson

From: Nathan Say

Chair of the Statewide Independent Living Council

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

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GM 265

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Statewide Council on Independent Living, Gubernatorial Nominee, JO ANN D KOGA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Nathan Say. I am the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). I strongly support the appointment of JO ANN D KOGA to the SILC. I believe that her life experiences, dependability and perspective regarding Independent Living for people with disabilities will benefit the SILC moving forward.

Nathan E Say Chair

From:  
Louise Horio  
Phone: 488-0179  
Email: [smahtcookie@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:smahtcookie@hawaiiantel.net)

Re: GM 265  
Jo-Ann D. Koga's nomination to the Statewide Independent Living  
Council of Hawaii (SILC HI)

To: Senator Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Thursday, February 25, 2010, 1:15 p.m. Conference Room 016

Aloha Senator Chun-Oakland and members of this committee;

I am Louise Horio and I am writing to support the nomination of  
Jo-Ann D. Koga to the Statewide Independent Living Council of  
Hawaii (SILC HI).

I feel that Jo-Ann Koga will be of a positive addition to our SILC  
board. She comes with many good references and her technical  
experiences will be a good resource for us. Building our board  
with people like Jo-Ann is crucial for us to carry out our  
objectives. I am looking forward to working with her.

Respectfully,

/s/ Louise Horio  
Vice-Chair, SILC HI

## **Testimony Before The Senate Committee On Human Services**

**Jo Ann D. Koga**

**February 25, 2010**

### **Statewide Independent Living Council**

Chair Oakland, members of the Human Services Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present background about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Statewide Independent Living Council.

I was born and raised on O'ahu and have lived in Honolulu much of my adult life. I attended Punahou School, Kaimuki High School, and completed high school in Washington State. I attended the University of Washington where I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Currently I am attending the University of Hawai'i at Manoa as a candidate in the Master's in Rehabilitation Counselor Education program. I will complete my studies in 2011.

My own personal experience with the independent living movement began in 1997 when I became a resident in a transitional home for people with disabilities. After three years there I moved to my own apartment. I successfully re-established myself in the independent way of life that echoed the life I had previous to my disability. I subsequently married and now live with my husband.

Many of my friends and acquaintances in the disability community were not as fortunate as I was in finding transitional and independent living services. The myriad obstacles that people with disabilities face in trying to attain independent living are not a part of the average person's life. Until my own personal experience with disability, I had very little knowledge of these obstacles or of the assistance that might be available.

I believe that implementing the statewide plan for independent living begins with educating the people of Hawai'i about the need for independent living services. Within our pool of resources, we need to find ways to overcome the financial and social barriers to appropriate housing for people with disabilities.

If we can achieve our dream for independent living, then we will all benefit from building a community where we can live in dignity and with respect for each other. I would like to help this dream become reality by being appointed to the Statewide Independent Living Council.

I welcome the many challenges ahead. My character, background, education and experience qualify me to be effective and successful in this area. I humbly ask for you to support my nomination to the Statewide Independent Living Council. Thank you.

## ChunOakland3 - Serena

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**From:** Margaret Dohanos [tropicalbelt@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2010 9:30 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Gubenatorial nominees

The Senate  
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
Regular Session 2010  
Committee on Human Services  
Sen.Chun Oakland  
Sen.Ihara  
Amended Notice of Hearing  
Date Thursday,February25,2010  
Time. 1:15pm  
Place. Conference Room016  
State Capitol  
415 Beretania St

Amended Agenda  
GM265 Submitting for consideration HMS. And confirmaton to Statewide  
Independent Living Council  
Gubenatorial nominee Jo Ann Koga for a term to expire 6/30/2013  
AND

GM266Submitting for consideration  
HMS. And confirmationto Statewide Independent Living Council  
Gubenatorial nominee Beverly Wong to expire 6/30/2013I am I am in favor of both  
measures, GM 265 and GM266.  
Mahalo  
Margaret Levy-DohanosCNA  
SILC

Sent from my iPhone