

GM348

TESTIMONY
from the
Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Testifier's Name: Waynette Cabral

Position Title: Executive Administrator

Organization: Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Day, Date, and Time of Hearing: Tuesday, April 13, 2009, 2:00 pm, Rm. 229

Measure Number: GM 348 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Tiffany R. Vara

Name of Committee(s): Senate Health (HTH)

Number of copies the Committee is requesting: 1 copy to Committee Clerk

Room Number: 215

E-mailed to: HTHTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
April 13, 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 348 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Tiffany R. Vara

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 348** to confirm the nomination of Tiffany R. Vara for a term to expire June 30, 2011.

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. Vara's appointment would fulfill the Federal law requirement of having parents represented on the Council. She is a mother of an eight-year old daughter with a brain injury. She has been involved in various committees and boards in the community, namely the DD Division's Outcome Planning Committee and the Council's Health and Early Childhood Committee.

The Honorable David Y. Ige
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For over two years Ms. Vara has been an active and valuable member on the Health and Early Childhood Committee that addresses accessible medical and dental care services for individuals with DD, and available family-centered, community-based, culturally appropriate services and supports for children with special needs. During that time she has actively advocated for children with special needs and their families to receive needed family-centered and community-based support, particularly in the area of medical and social support services at the Committee meetings. Ms. Vara has also contributed to the Committee's work toward improving health outcomes for individuals with DD and assisted with coordinating meetings and fostering discussion with hospital staff on increasing awareness of the gynecological health needs of women with disabilities and on finding a way to provide education and training for physicians providing gynecological care for women with disabilities.

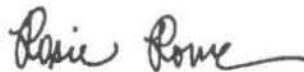
The Council would greatly benefit from Ms. Vara's experience and perspective in achieving educational and health outcomes for her daughter, and in carrying out activities that promote full inclusion in the community and accessible health care for individuals with DD. We look forward to her contributions to the mission and activities of the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 348** to confirm Tiffany R. Vara to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair

April 7, 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 Ms. Tiffany R. Vara
to State Council on Developmental Disabilities
(GM #348)**

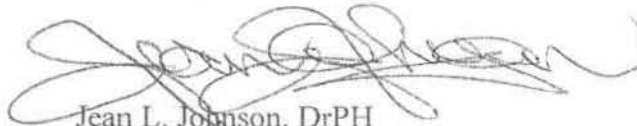
I am honored to support the appointment of Ms. Tiffany Vara to the Council. I have known her for about five years through her volunteer activities as a member of the Health and Early Education Committee of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Vara is a tireless volunteer; her many contributions are immeasurable.

As a result of her work on that committee, she became very concerned about health issues facing young women with developmental disabilities. She has worked with me to find resources in the community to provide prevention screening services for these young women to improve their outcomes from various forms of cancer.

I have also worked closely with Ms. Vara as part of the national Pediatric Acquired Brain Injury program. Although she is the parent of a child with specific disabilities, Ms. Vara has the capacity to represent parents of children with diverse disabilities because of her insights and understanding of the systemic issues that affect all families who have a child or adult with disabilities.

Tiffany Vara is a sensitive, creative, and reliable member of our community. 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