

TESTIMONY

GM370

Senate Committee on Labor

The Hon. Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair

The Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of GM 369 and GM 370

Gubernatorial Nominee Alena N. Medeiros to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council

Submitted by A. Nani Medeiros

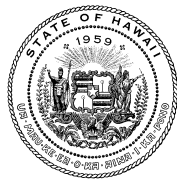
April 15, 2010 4:00 p.m. Agenda, Room 312

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Taniguchi, I'd like to thank you for scheduling this hearing on my gubernatorial nomination to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

I have served on the Workforce Development Council (WDC) as an interim appointee for close to a year. I believe we all have a social responsibility to volunteer and commit to public service in order to improve the communities we live in, and to better Hawaii for generations to come. I have enjoyed my time volunteering as a member on the WDC, a school board member for Waiālae Public Charter School, the board of non-profit affordable housing developer Ka Hua Inc., and as a founding member of the Hawaii Housing Alliance. I would like to continue this involvement and work toward building sustainable communities for Hawaii's future. An integral part of our sustainability will be a workforce infrastructure that meets our needs, and the needs of our keiki.

My fifteen year career has been policy development in the State of Hawaii; experience primarily derived from staff positions at the Hawaii State Legislature and the Office of the Governor. My main focus during that time was public education policy (Pre-K through Post-High School), affordable housing, and homelessness. Currently I am the Public Affairs and Advocacy Director at the Hawaii Primary Care Association, representing fourteen community health centers across the State, in addition to founding a non-profit in October 2009 called the Hawaii Housing Alliance. I believe my work experience provides me with detailed knowledge of these issues and their challenges, in addition to the capability of looking at things from the big picture, "30,000 foot level" perspective. I am thorough, fair, and engaged in my work ethic, and responsibilities to the boards that I am a member of.

I thank you for this opportunity and your consideration.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
Linda L. Smith

Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR
Thursday, March 15, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Room 312, State Capitol

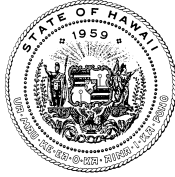
GM369 and GM370 Hawaii Workforce Development Council
ALENA N. MEDEIROS

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of the confirmation of Alena Medeiros to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Prior to serving in her current capacity as the Public Affairs and Advocacy Director of the Hawaii Primary Care Association, Ms. Medeiros was an advocate for education and affordable housing as the former Director of Housing Hawaii and the former Deputy Policy Advisor at the Governor's Policy Office. Recognizing that workforce development is impossible without quality education and affordable workforce housing, Ms. Medeiros was appointed as an interim member of the Workforce Development Council on July 1, 2009 due to her expertise and knowledge in these areas. Given the knowledge that Ms. Medeiros has since developed in the field of health care as a result of her new position at the Hawaii Primary Care Association, I believe her confirmation will further enhance the different perspectives and experience that members bring to the Council.

I urge your favorable consideration of Ms. Medeiros' confirmation to serve on the Workforce Development Council.



**STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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Phone: (808) 586-8672 / Fax: (808) 586-8674
Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

April 13, 2010

To: The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2010
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 312

From: James P. Hardway, Executive Director
Workforce Development Council

RE: GM 369 and GM 370 – Nani Medeiros: Hawaii Workforce Development Council

The Workforce Development Council (“WDC”) strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. Nani Medeiros to this appointment. Ms. Medeiros brings to the WDC critical knowledge of workforce issues relating to healthcare and housing

Presently, Ms. Medeiros is the Public Affairs and Advocacy Director of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. In her current role, Ms. Medeiros is an advocate not only for primary care infrastructure, but the continued development of the primary care workforce in the State of Hawaii. Her position and knowledge of what is needed in primary health care is important as the Healthcare field continues to be a high growth sector for jobs. Ms. Medeiros’s knowledge and experience will improve the WDC’s efforts to address the labor needs of the Healthcare industry.

Further, in 2009 the WDC adopted “Address Workforce Housing Options” as the fourth primary goal and priority in the 2009-2014 Comprehensive State Plan for Workforce Development – State of Hawaii. As interim-member of the WDC, as well as an advising member during the planning phase of the plan, Ms. Medeiros brought to the WDC a wealth of experience and knowledge in both these critical areas.

Previous to her service in the healthcare field, Ms. Medeiros was the former director of Housing Hawaii, a non-profit created to advocate for affordable rental and for sale housing in Hawaii. In her prior position, she advocated for the housing needs for low and moderate-income individuals, who make up a sizable percentage of our current workforce personnel in Hawaii. The WDC recognizes the need for satisfactory workforce housing to ensure that the cost of housing does not continue to negatively impact Hawaii’s employment market. Ms. Medeiros’s experience and knowledge is

GM 369 and GM 370
April 12, 2010
PAGE 2

necessary for the WDC in its efforts to make informed and necessary recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding workforce housing.

Ms. Medeiros is also an outstanding member of the community and profession. Ms. Medeiros is well qualified to be confirmed as a council member to the WDC. Ms. Medeiros will represent the private sector on the WDC.

Thank you for this time to provide testimony for Ms. Nani Medeiros.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Thursday, April 15, 2010
4:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 369
AND GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 370.**

WRITTEN ONLY

TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

My name is Ronald Boyer and I am the Acting Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department"). I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on Governor's Message No. 369 and Governor's Message No. 370, regarding the appointment of Alena N. Medeiros to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council ("Council"). I strongly support Ms. Medeiros' appointment and respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to her appointment to the Council.

I first met Nani five years ago when I had the great fortune of working with her for several years in the Governor's Policy Office. During that time, I observed not only an excellent work ethic, but an intelligent and analytical approach to complex and dynamic issues often under extreme time constraints and competing demands.

Nani's insight into how the law was constructed and the interdependencies and affects of one area of law upon another were of tremendous value to me and to the others in the Policy Office. More important than her understanding of the technicalities

and intricacies of the law, however, was her understanding of human nature and her ability to see a situation or problem from others' perspectives.

Nani was always patient and willing to teach – as well as to listen and to learn. From my vantage point, Nani is conscientious, humble, and hard-working. She is intelligent, creative, and a good leader. Nani is even-tempered and consistent; an individual of good character and integrity. These qualities will serve the people of the State of Hawaii well should Nani Medeiros have the opportunity to continue her public service as a member of the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Considering her extensive experience, I am confident that if given the opportunity, Ms. Medeiros will prove to be a continued asset to the State through her service on the Council. I respectfully request that the Committee recommend that the Senate advise and consent to Ms. Medeiros' appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Ms. Medeiros' behalf.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR

DEBORAH KIM MORIKAWA
DIRECTOR

ERNEST Y. MARTIN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 14, 2010

The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Takamine and Members:

Subject: GM 369 Alena N. Medeiros
GM 370 Alena N. Medeiros

My name is **Debbie Kim Morikawa** and I am a member of the State Workforce Development Committee and the Director of the Department of Community Services, City & County of Honolulu.

I am writing to provide written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of your confirmation of **Ms. Alena "Nani" Medeiros to the State Workforce Development Council.**

Nani has been a valued, interim member of the State Workforce Development Council. Her comments and insights about affordable housing as well as primary care and how they directly impact workforce initiatives are much appreciated.

From my work in the homeless arena and the healthcare industry, I know that Nani is respected for her energy, knowledge and community spirit. "Workforce Housing" is one of the priorities in our current state plan for workforce development and Nani, who was the Director of the nonprofit Housing Hawaii, is a key resource for the continued planning and implementation activities for that priority.

More recently, our WDC has been active in seeking out grants to help with workforce training issues in the healthcare industry. Nani's current position with the Primary Care Association of Hawaii brings to the Council heightened awareness of the frontline workforce challenges being faced at the primary care level across the state.

Ms. Alena "Nani" Medeiros brings good representation of the private, non-profit sector to the Council and it has been a pleasure to serve with her during the past several months of her interim appointment to the WDC.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in strong support of her confirmation to the WDC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Kim Morikawa".

Deborah Kim Morikawa
Director



Testimony of C. Mike Kido

External Affairs

The Pacific Resource Partnership

Senate Committee on Labor
Senator Dwight Takamine, Chair
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair

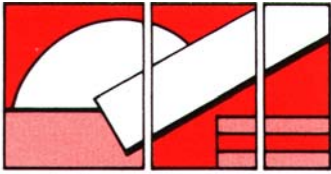
GM 369/GM 370 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i
Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALENA N. MEDEIROS
Thursday, April 15, 2010
4:00 P.M.
Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair Brian Taniguchi, and Members of the
Committee:

My name is C. Mike Kido, External Affairs for the Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP), a
labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the
Hawaii Carpenters Union.

PRP supports the nomination of Alena N. Medeiros to the Hawai'i Workforce
Development Council. Ms. Medeiros currently serves/served on the council for a little
over a year. Her initial appointment was for her experience/expertise in the affordable
housing and education policy areas. While working with the Hawaii Primary Care
Association since October 2009, her role has expanded to include healthcare
professional workforce development.

Ms. Medeiros has the experience, knowledge, and insight that will continue to make her
an invaluable asset to the Workforce Development Council. She clearly supports the
vision and mission to support "a globally competitive and skilled workforce that promotes
and nurtures a diverse and prosperous economy and preserves the special quality of life
in Hawaii to support and facilitate the development of a skilled workforce that meets the
needs of business and industry, enhances workplace productivity, and increases
opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship".



PACIFIC HOUSING ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

677 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD • SUITE 712 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • (808) 523-5681

**TESTIMONY ON CONFIRMATION OF ALENA N. MEDEIROS (GM 369 & GM 370)
Before the Senate Committee on Labor
Hearing: April 15, 2010; 4:00 p.m.
Submitted By: **Marvin Awaya, Executive Director****

I am writing in support of the nomination of Alena (Nani) Medeiros to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council (GM 369 and GM 370).

I have known Nani since she staffed and advised various affordable/workforce housing task forces and committees. She is most able and a “quick study” in a variety of areas of State programs and policies. She will be able to quickly contribute to the mission of the Workforce Development Council.

Nani’s integrity and honesty have been refreshing and helped keep many of us going when conflicts arose and different points of view emerged. She is a good listener and able to work with people to achieve consensus.

I urge that the Senate confirm Nani Medeiros to the Hawaii Workforce Development council.



Hawai'i Primary Care Association

345 Queen Street | Suite 601 | Honolulu, HI 96813-4718 | Tel: 808.536.8442 | Fax: 808.524.0347
www.hawaiipca.net

April 15, 2010

To: **Committee on Labor**
The Hon. Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair
The Hon. Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair

From: **Beth Giesting, CEO**

Re: **Support for Nomination of Alena N. Medeiros to
Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, GM 369 and 370**

This letter is in strong support of the nomination of Ms. Alena Nani Medeiros to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council. Ms. Medeiros will bring broad experience to this position, having worked in government and with affordable housing, education, and health care.

Nani Medeiros is currently employed by the Hawai'i Primary Care Association (HPCA) where she supports the work of Hawai'i's fourteen community health centers. She is an integral part of our organization which supports the needs of health centers in a number of ways from assessing and addressing workforce needs; providing training and technical assistance to support excellence in clinical, administrative, and governance functions; and program planning and development. Nani contributes regularly to all these functions and is well aware of the challenges faced by our members in recruiting and retaining workers at all levels as well as their potential advantages.

I also support Ms. Medeiros nomination on the basis of character and ability to contribute. She has a keen sense of moral purpose, demonstrates ethical behavior and trustworthiness, is a fast learner, and interacts with others in a professional and personable manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Alena Nani Medeiros' nomination to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council.

Aloha Senators,

My name is Craig Watase, President of Mark Development, also a past president of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, Executive Board of the National Association of Home Builders and a current Honolulu Police Commissioner. I am writing in support of Alena Nani Medeiros nomination to the State Workforce Development Council.

I have worked with Nani on several committees at the State and County level on affordable housing. I know her as a smart, organized and well rounded person. Nani is a good listener and has the ability to process a lot of information into problem identification and realistic problem solving for action. She has been and will continue to be a vital member of the WDC.

Please give her your full support and feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Craig Y. Watase
President
Mark Development, Inc.
3165 Waiialae Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Paul Strauss, Chief Executive Officer
Bay Clinic Inc.

RE: GM 369 and GM 370 – Nani Medeiros: Hawaii Workforce Development Council

Bay Clinic strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. Nani Medeiros for appointment on the Hawaii Workforce Development Council. Ms. Medeiros brings to the Council critical knowledge of workforce issues relating to healthcare.

As CEO of Bay Clinic I have personally worked with Ms. Medeiros in her role as the Public Affairs and Advocacy Director of the Hawaii Primary Care Association. In her current role, Ms. Medeiros is an advocate not only for primary care infrastructure, but the continued development of the primary care workforce in the State of Hawaii. Her position and knowledge of what is needed in primary health care is important as the Healthcare field continues to be a high growth sector for jobs. Ms. Medeiros's knowledge and experience will improve the council's efforts to address the labor needs of the Healthcare industry.

Ms. Medeiros is an outstanding member of the community and profession. Ms. Medeiros is well qualified to be confirmed as a council member. Please consider Ms Medeiros for this confirmation.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Melissa T. Pavlicek
c/o 841 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 447-1841

April 14, 2010

Chair, Senator Dwight Y. Takamine
Vice-Chair, Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

Re: **GM 370: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALENA N. MEDEIROS, for a Term to Expire 6-30-2014.**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am an attorney and the president of a consulting company called Hawaii Public Policy Advocates, LLC. I have personally known Nani Medeiros for nearly ten years and am writing to request your favorable consideration for her nomination to the State Workforce Development Council.

Nani is a diligent, hardworking and committed volunteer to many community projects. She has the intelligence and dedication to continue to be an asset to the council. In my role as the executive director of SHRM Hawaii, I have had many opportunities to observe the work of the Council which is so important to the economic well-being of the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

KLEINTOP, LURIA & MEDEIROS

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

CHARLES T. KLEINTOP
TIMOTHY LURIA
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NAOKO C. MIYAMOTO
ROBERT T. NAKATSUJI
LYNNE M. YOUMANS

EMAIL:
D.Medeiros@hifamlaw.com

April 14, 2010

TO: Senator Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair
Committee on Labor

FROM: Dyan M. Medeiros, Esq.

HEARING DATE: April 15, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

RE: Testimony in Support of GM 369 and GM 370 (Nominating Alena N. Medeiros to the State Workforce Development Council)

Good afternoon Senator Takamine, Senator Taniguchi, and members of the Committee. My name is Dyan Medeiros. I am a partner in the law firm of Kleintop, Luria & Medeiros, LLP.

I am writing to support the nomination of Alena N. Medeiros to the State Workforce Development Council.

In the interests of full disclosure, Ms. Medeiros is my younger sister. However, I would not be submitting a letter supporting her appointment if I did not truly believe that she was qualified for the position and that her appointment would truly benefit the Council.

Many of you know Ms. Medeiros from her years working in different capacities at the Legislature and as an advocate for affordable housing advocate and now an advocate for various healthcare issues. She is intelligent, straightforward, serious-minded, and honest. Throughout her many years at the Legislature, Ms. Medeiros developed an expertise in affordable housing, education, and health care. These are not simply issues that Ms. Medeiros "had" to learn about for her work. These are issues and areas about which she is deeply passionate.

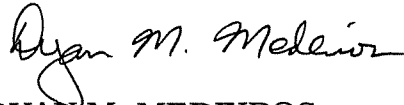
Ms. Medeiros was born and raised in Hawai'i and is committed to making Hawai'i a better place for all of us and for future generations. Being on the Council for the past year has enabled her to pursue that commitment in

ways not previously available to her. Continuing her work on the Council will allow her to achieve even more good for our community.

I have no doubt that Ms. Medeiros has been and will continue to be an invaluable asset to the Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Medeiros and GM 369 and 370.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dyan M. Medeiros". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

DYAN M. MEDEIROS

DMM:ck

April 13, 2010

Senator Dwight Takamine, Chair

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice-Chair

Committee on Labor

Re: GM 369 and GM 370, Elena N. Medeiros

This letter is in strong support of the nomination of Ms. Elena N. Medeiros (Nani) to the Hawai'i State Workforce Development Council. I have worked with Nani since October of 2009 when she was hired by the Hawaii Primary Care Association (where I am employed) as its Public Affairs and Advocacy Director.

In her short time at our company Nani has done an excellent job advocating for the needs of our company and clients. She is organized and intelligent and I have no doubts that she will put all her efforts into doing a great job on the State Workforce Development Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this nomination.

Respectfully,

Kathy Suzuki-Kitagawa

From: Charlene Blair, Clinical Services Coordinator
Hawaii Primary Care Association

RE: GM 369 and GM 370 – Nani Medeiros: Hawaii Workforce Development Council

As an individual and colleague of Alena N. Medeiros, I would highly recommend Ms. Medeiros for the confirmation of her nomination to the State Workforce Development Council. Ms.

Medeiros started working within the past year at the Hawaii Primary Care Association as our Public Affairs and Advocacy Director. She has shown commitment and passion to her work in the arena of strengthening Hawaii's health care system through her legislative advocacy work and realizes the value and vital importance of the relationship of workforce development for the, and not only in health care field, general welfare of our state's residents.

I'm sure she will be an excellent participant to your committee with her past experience and knowledge in housing, government and health care advocacy. Thank you for your consideration of her confirmation in her nomination, as well as for the time to provide testimony for Ms. Medeiros.

April 13, 2010

Senator Dwight Takamine, Chair

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Vice-Chair

Committee on Labor

Re: GM 369 and GM 370, Elena N. Medeiros

This letter is in strong support of the nomination of Ms. Elena N. Medeiros (Nani) to the Hawai'i State Workforce Development Council. I have worked with Nani since October of 2009 when she was hired by the Hawaii Primary Care Association (where I am employed) as its Public Affairs and Advocacy Director. Very early in our acquaintance I was deeply impressed with her intelligence, her dedication, and her ability to quickly grasp the salient points of any situation. I'm particularly impressed with her ability to listen without judgment to those who may differ with her views, without diminishing her passion for what she feels is just. She communicates extremely well, thinks on her feet, and is able to keep a myriad of little details in mind and in perspective. She understands the pieces that make up the whole, and she understands the whole.

I believe Nani Medeiros wants what many of us want; a Hawai'i that sustains its people in dignity and hope, where there is enough work, enough food, enough housing, and a future for our children.

It's to the benefit of everyone in Hawai'i—not only those in need—that Nani has chosen to use her tremendous gifts for the good. She could easily use her acumen for personal gain, but her character is such that she has chosen work in public service and the non-profit sector. Her desire to continue her interim role on the WDC and to volunteer for another term is testimony in itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this nomination.

Respectfully,

Alison Rowland-Ciszek

April 14, 2010

To: The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2010

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 312

From: Brian Takahashi, AIA

RE: GM 369 and GM 370 – Nani Medeiros: Hawaii Workforce Development Council

I strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Nani Medeiros to this appointment. Ms. Medeiros brings to the WDC unique combination of perspective and expertise of workforce issues relating to healthcare and housing. Ms. Medeiros's extensive knowledge and experience will greatly enhance the WDC's activities and impact for the benefit of the community.

Previous to her current service in the healthcare field, Ms. Medeiros was the former director of Housing Hawaii, a non-profit created to advocate for affordable rental and for sale housing in Hawaii. I am familiar with her wealth of experience in housing, having served on the Housing Hawaii Board while she was the director. Nani is an advocate for the housing needs for low and moderate-income workforce personnel in Hawaii. Ms. Medeiros's experience with the legislature and knowledge of housing is valuable for the WDC in its efforts to make informed and necessary recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding workforce housing and related matters.

Ms. Medeiros is an outstanding member of the community. Ms. Medeiros is well qualified candidate to be confirmed as a council member to the WDC.

Thank you for this time to provide testimony for Ms. Nani Medeiros.

April 13, 2010

Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor

RE: **GM 369 and GM 370** – Nani Medeiros, Hawaii Workforce Development Council
Thursday, April 15, 2010
4:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in support of Alena Nani Medeiros for confirmation to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.**

Her vast experience in public policy – through work in the legislature, the Governor's office, as Executive Director of Housing Hawaii, and most recently as Public Policy Director for the Hawaii Primary Care Association – gives her a fully informed view of the complex, multifaceted, and difficult workforce development challenges facing our state. Ms. Medeiros's background at various levels of policymaking allows her to leverage not only her considerable knowledge, but also her extensive personal working relationships to effectively advocate for this essential economic and social issue.

Having worked with her in my capacity as Communications Director of the Hawaii Primary Care Association, I've witnessed firsthand Ms. Medeiros's impassioned advocacy for the development of community health centers that operate on the frontline of our health care system, and for the most vulnerable communities throughout our state. As evidenced by study after study, and seen in the harsh reality of our rural towns, the shortage of our primary medical workforce is already at crisis levels. Her advocacy on behalf of these communities informs and enhances her ability to contribute to the development of Hawaii's workforce.

Throughout her career, Ms. Medeiros has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to integrity and service to community, of contributing to the greater public discourse, and passionately advocating for the greater good. She is an exemplar of good citizenship, and is eminently qualified for this role on the Council.

I applaud the committee for considering her for this vital role, and strongly encourage her swift confirmation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

/s/ Matthew A. Nagato

April 15, 2010

G.M.369 & G.M.370

Gubernatorial nomination of **Alena ‘Nani’ Medeiros** to the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council, for a term to expire 6-30-2010 & 6-30-2014.

My name is Malia Manol Espinda. While I am an employee of the Department of Health, I am personally submitting this testimony and do not represent the department. I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support** of the nomination of Alena ‘Nani’ Medeiros to the Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

I have known Nani for fifteen years. In that time, we have been co-workers and professional colleagues in varying capacities for at least 12 of those years, working very closely together for much of that time. As such, I believe I am uniquely qualified to convey to the Senate my personal and professional support for Nani’s nomination.

Nani will work through challenges, where others might otherwise be overwhelmed or intimidated. I think its safe to say that I do not think anything has ever really intimidated Nani. With zealous energy, Nani will leap into problems and issues with her dissecting curiosity but with fierce determination to resolve problems, improve government efficiencies, and using her strengths and talents to contribute to making the lives of Hawaii’s citizens better.

These qualities have been evident in all her professional roles as WAM staff, minority office staff, the Governor Policy Office where she evolved from entry staff and departed as senior staff, as an executive director of a non-profit, and now as policy director for the Hawaii Primary Care Association.

The Hawaii Workforce Development Council will benefit from Nani’s inclusion and participation. She will bring critical executive government insight and administrative experience to the important focus of the council.