

**GM 414**

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April 8, 2010

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: GM 414 - Gubernatorial Nomination of Donald Thomson to the  
State Rehabilitation Council

HEARING: April 8, 2010 - 2:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services supports the nomination of Mr. Donald Thomson 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.

Mr. Donald Thomson is seeking reappointment to the SRC. Mr. Donald Thomson has brought a wealth of years of experience to the council, primarily in the area of legislative matters, processes and effectively addressing the issues that arise in advocating for people with disabilities.

Mr. Thomson has numerous years of experience in advocating for the independence of people with disabilities in both our State Legislature, as well as in Washington D.C.

Mr. Thomson is a retired American history teacher of Hawaii's Leeward Community College. His focus is on the opportunity for people with disabilities to be able to dream, aspire and attain their goals within a career and employment of their choice. Mr. Thomson maintains that given the right opportunity, training and tools, people with disabilities can achieve the same level of education and employment that their non-disabled counterparts can.

Mr. Thomson is a previous recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and will represent Oahu.

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