

GM421

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Testimony on GM 421
Gubernatorial Nominee, Elena Cabatu
Commission on the Status of Women

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Takamine., Vice Chair

Friday, April 9, 2010 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 16 State Capitol

My name is Sharon Ferguson-Quick and as Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I'm providing written testimony in support of the Governor's re-appointment of Elena M.H. Cabatu for the Commission on the Status of Women (GM 421) for a term to expire 6/30/14.

Hawaii Revised Statutes 367 established the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) on May 15, 1964. That legislation established a continuing body to aid in the implementation of recommendations, to develop long range goals and to coordinate research planning, programming and action on the opportunities, need, problems and contributions of women in Hawaii in (1) education, (2) homemaking, (3) civil and legal rights, (4) labor and employment and (5) expanded community horizons. In its 46 years the Commission has worked to ensure women and girls full and equal coverage under the law by informing governmental and non-governmental agencies and the public of women's rights, opportunities, and responsibilities; advocating for the enactment or revision of laws and/or policies that eliminate gender discrimination; identifying and supporting programs and projects that address women's concerns and needs; and establishing and maintaining an active presence in the community by facilitating information dissemination, acting as a liaison, clearinghouse, and coordinating body for issues relating to women. The HSCSW is the statewide link between the Honolulu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii County, which Ms. Cabatu will represent, Committees on the Status of Women, and the University of Hawaii President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms. Cabatu was selected to complete the term of Ms. Margaret Masunaga, beginning in July of 2007. She became a part of a group of diverse members who have expertise in a wide range of areas such as banking, hospitality and education. Ms. Cabatu's women's advocacy experience adds an established understanding of the barriers that impede women's progress and a commitment to finding solutions to remove them. Ms. Cabatu's work in both her professional and personal life shows her commitment to strengthening women's and girls' lives in the State of Hawaii. She has been a valuable member of the Commission and a person I can rely on to be a committed advocate for women in the State of Hawaii.

I strongly support the confirmation of Elena Cabatu to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

Sharon Ferguson-Quick
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