

GM 447

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Judith Coryell

DATE: 4/7/10

RE: Measure: Confirmation hearing for State Rehabilitation Council Membership,
GM 447

Date: Thursday, April 08, 2010

Time: 2:15pm

I would like to submit this letter as written testimony detailing my qualifications to serve on the State Rehabilitation Council. Thank you for requesting this additional input as you consider my nomination. My responses to the identified questions are detailed below:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the State Rehabilitation Council?

I have served on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advisory Board (DHHAB) for the past several years. DHHAB is composed of many talented and involved individuals who want to see quality rehabilitation services and support for people in Hawai'i who are deaf and hard of hearing. I have actively participated in DHHAB and contributed my energy and ideas. During our meetings, reference is frequently made to the State Rehabilitation Council and yet there is no representation from DHHAB on the Council. Our concerns and our proposals are shared with the Council via DVR administration. I feel that there needs to be a direct link between the DHHAB and the State Rehabilitation Council and I hope to be one of the members who can serve to connect the SRC more closely with the DHHAB.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Rehabilitation Council?

From my experience as a member of DHHAB and reviewing the stated roles and responsibilities of the SRC, serving as a member of the SRC provides an opportunity to bring ideas from the DHHAB directly to the SRC members and help to integrate the interests of deaf and hard of hearing individuals into the broader interests of all individuals served by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Similar to the SRC, DHHAB has been providing feedback and suggestions related to DVR services for a more specific group of consumers-- deaf and hard of hearing clients. Like the SRC, we have identified priorities for program support and provided feedback related to the quality and outcomes of services for this specific group. As the umbrella organization that incorporates the interests and addresses the concerns of all constituent groups served by Vocational Rehabilitation, the SRC oversees the provision of services as well as

shares input for the development of the statewide plan. The SRC provides important feedback to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation on goal-setting and the prioritization of those goals. The SRC's annual report to the Governor presents an overview of the statewide plan and how DVR services are achieving the goals and activities outlined in the plan. Certainly, the roles and responsibilities of the SRC are more far-reaching than DHHAB; the SRC has the potential for substantial impact on the system.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Rehabilitation Council, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the State Rehabilitation Council.

As I've stated earlier, I have a broad background professionally and personally related to the education and career preparation of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. I have a M.A. in Special Education/Deaf Education and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. My professional experience spans 33 years. I have taught deaf and hard of hearing students from preschool through graduate school. I have prepared deaf and hearing individuals to become teachers of deaf students as well as paraprofessionals working with deaf students. I am the director of the Gallaudet University Regional Center and I also coordinate the Deaf Center at Kapi'olani Community College. A major focus of the Deaf Center is supporting post-secondary deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind students who are primarily funded through DVR. I have worked with VR counselors in several states and have had positive collaborative working relationships with VR staff, most recently here in Hawai'i. I am fluent in both ASL and English and effectively communicate with deaf and hearing individuals. I am also a certified interpreter.

I will bring various perspectives to the decision-making role—as a parent advocate in addition to being an advocate for students, as an educator who believes in the potential for career success for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals, as a collaborator working with DVR, and as a grateful parent who has seen the positive influence that DVR has had on both my daughters.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I believe I first need to better understand the SRC and how it works within the system, learn more about the concerns and interests of other constituent groups, discover positive ways to advocate for the needs of deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people, and find areas of commonality with the various groups of individuals served by DVR. This will be an ongoing process. I will listen carefully and critically and I know I will learn a lot.

I do hope that I'm an effective advocate for the specific group of deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind individuals. I hope that the knowledge and experience I bring to the Board will allow me to make valuable contributions as well as work collaboratively with others on the Board. I also hope that my knowledge of resources and my proclivity for thinking outside the box will set the stage for seeking solutions to challenges facing DVR and its constituent groups.

One area of specific interest is the Comprehensive Deaf Center that is being explored by DHHAB. I hope to be actively involved in the development of the concept and when appropriate, share exciting plans with the SRC. I know that the support of the SRC is critical to the success of the Comprehensive Deaf Center.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the State Rehabilitation Council?

I have a *multi-faceted background* as a post-secondary educator working with Vocational Rehabilitation, a teacher trainer preparing teachers to work towards transition, a parent educator and advocate working with parents of deaf and hard of hearing students, and finally, as a mom of two deaf daughters, who have received support from Vocational Rehabilitation.

I am *passionate and knowledgeable* about a community of deaf and hard of hearing children and adults that I have worked with and have lived within for more than 35 years. This is my community, too!

I am a *solution-seeker* always searching for better ways to maximize the abilities of and opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. I believe that's what DVR wants, too! I'm eager to work with DVR through the SRC.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the State Rehabilitation Council?

I am the director of the Gallaudet University Regional Center serving Hawai'i and the Pacific region. The GURC provides information and technical assistance to parents and professionals as well as professional development programs for teachers, interpreters, and others who work with deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. One of the events we have co-sponsored with the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind is a 2-day "Family Learning Vacation"(FLV)—a gathering of parents of deaf and hard of hearing students throughout the state. As part of the weekend, we schedule panels of 1) parents of current and former students, 2) successful deaf adults, and 3) deaf high school students who share their experiences and insights with the parents. What is wonderful to see is the change in parents' perceptions about what is possible for their deaf and hard of hearing children. Many of the parents have no idea of the range of career opportunities for deaf people and the support available to help make that

happen. When I join parents in informal discussions during FLV, I share stories about my two daughters who are deaf—one who is interested in pursuing a teaching career and who has gone the college-route and one who has gone directly into the world of work. Parents leave the Family Learning Vacation with new information and resources but it's the new and hope-filled outlook they leave with that even more important!

The connection with parents is an important support as students transition from career exploration and planning into training and maintaining satisfying employment. My experience working with parents will benefit the SRC by making sure that among many other aspects of rehabilitation, parent involvement early on in the process is critical. I know that both professionally and personally!

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the State Rehabilitation Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I know of no conflicts of interest.

Again, thank you for allowing me to share this information. I look forward to answering any questions you may have on Thursday afternoon.

ART FRANK
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7 APRIL 2010

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR

**Gm 447 TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF JUDITH CORYELL TO
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

My name is ART FRANK and I am the Chair of the Deaf Hard of Hearing Advisory Board for Vocational Rehabilitation, Dept of Human Services. Judy Coryell is a member of our board and although I've only known her for only a couple of years I know Judy has a strong background with experience in serving the community. She also has a great attitude with initiative in getting the job done. I'm positive Judy would be an asset to the Statewide Rehabilitation Council so I strongly support her appointment to the SRC.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



ART FRANK, WAIANAE COAST

JAN L. FRIED • American Sign Language/English Interpreter

• RID Certified-IC, CI, CT • Educator • Consultant •

07 April 2010

The Senate

Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2010, State of Hawai'i

Senate Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of GM 447 and GM 448, Relating to the State Rehabilitation Council

Aloha Senators Chun Oakland and Ihara and Human Services Committee Members,

It is without hesitation that I recommend Dr. Judith Coryell and Ms. Regina Goo to be confirmed as members of the State Rehabilitation Council. I have known both of these extremely capable women personally and professionally, through my work as an interpreter educator and an American Sign Language English interpreter in private practice, for a number of years.

Their presence on the State Rehabilitation Council would ensure that the concerns of the Deaf Community, people who are hard of hearing, and educators who work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing are appropriately represented. Dr. Coryell, for example, brings her experience as a mother of two Deaf daughters and perspective as a leading authority on the education of deaf children. In addition, she is the director of the Gallaudet University Regional Center-Pacific and the Kapi'olani Deaf Center at Kapi'olani Community College. These positions allow her access to valuable resources locally, regionally and nationally that can benefit the Council. Ms. Goo, as someone who is hard of hearing, can continue to serve as an advocate for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. She is no stranger to the legislative process and regularly encourages other Deaf Community members to become similarly involved. As a result of the many years Ms. Goo has spent in pre-K-5 classrooms, she also provides an insight into the kinds of services and supports children with special needs and their families require.

I appreciate this opportunity to encourage the committee to confirm Dr. Judith Coryell and Ms. Regina Goo as members of the State Rehabilitation Council. Their presence on this council and the contributions they will make will surely have a profound and positive impact.

Respectfully,

Jan L. Fried

Jan L. Fried, CI and CT

Nationally Certified ASL/English Interpreter