



March 31, 2011

✓ Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators Chun-Oakland and Ihara:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of strong support for the appointment of Ms. Josie Woll, Governor's Message 617, to the Developmental Disabilities Council. I have known Ms. Woll for 35 years and can vouch for her personal and professional integrity, general all around smarts, and proven commitment to creating a responsive community environment of care for those with disabilities.

Ms. Woll understands the complex landscape of abilities/disabilities, both here in Hawaii as well as nationally. She is an active member of the advocacy group, Family Voices, has served on the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council and is a lifeline for parents of children born with disabilities. She is an expert in funding opportunities through Medicaid and private insurance, an expert in designing service delivery models that are grounded in family driven and family centered care, and an experienced and seasoned board member.

As a parent of an infant born with Down Syndrome, I found my way through some of my darkest nights because I was lucky enough to have a telephone lifeline with Josie, patiently guiding me through my tears, ambiguity and frustration. As the mother of a now grown 31 year old, Josie continues to provide supportive acknowledgement, of both the developmental gains of my son as well as my gains as a parent and woman.

Josie is the best of many worlds and has the wisdom to walk through each with dignity and grace. Josie is a national treasure who happens to live in Hawaii. I recommend we take full advantage of her residency and recruit her for this very important role. If you would like to discuss this further, I can be reached at 792-9716.

Malama pono oe,

Haaheo Mansfield  
Vice President of Programs