

TO: Senate Education Committee

FROM: John A. Anderson, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: Nomination to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

DATE: 4/15/11

Why do you wish to be a commissioner of HCNCS?

When discussing the possibility of being recommended for a position on a board or commission, with the head of the Boards and Commissions office, I indicated that I wished for a placement where I would be able to genuinely help people and utilize the knowledge and experience I gained through my career in counseling and guidance, and studying for my PHD in educational policy from the University of Hawaii. Using my existing familiarity with the program, additional information gained through research and informal interviews with two former program workers, I am convinced that this commissioner position would be extremely suitable for me. I believe that I can help make a difference in people's lives, through this program.

The fundamental mission of HCNCS is to recruit residents of all ages and backgrounds to engage in community service in the areas of public safety, education, literacy, environment, and basic human needs. How do you perceive our role and responsibilities as a commissioner of HCNCS?

Those that know me understand that *I am a true advocate* of issues, people and programs that I truly believe in. As an advocate for HCNCS, I would assess the individual programs and look for suitable aspects and benefits attractive to potential recruits. Qualified individuals on different life plans and predicaments would be made aware of various characteristics or benefits of the program and encouraged to participate. Suitability is important to success.

Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities as a commissioner of HCNCS, why would you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of our skills, expertise, experiences, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a commissioner. Highlight the three qualities you feel make you a highly qualified candidate.

Among my roles as a commissioner would be one involving *research and evaluation*. I am very familiar with *initiating and assessing research*, including evidence based programs. If I enter a realm less familiar, I know where to seek assistance.

I have spent my working life as a school counselor and advocate for students and their families; from the richest to the poorest. In those roles, I have *empathy* for, have assisted those in need and thoroughly *enjoy* their successes.

As a *grant writer* and *project manager*, I am able to carry on projects to completion. I am open to new evidence and advice from others and am comfortable with what new evidence brings, whether that be *endorsing, tweaking or eliminating* the plan or process.

What would be our top three priorities for HCNCS?

Recruitment of qualified individuals to work in the appropriate programs.

Assignment of qualified individuals to *appropriate* positions.

Ongoing *training* and continuing *support* for volunteers throughout their tenure and into their post-volunteer life.

What impact do you think the current economic recession will have on volunteerism and what challenges and/or opportunities will the commission face during these times of economic uncertainty?

There is evidence that during a recession that many individuals return to higher education. It may be possible to recruit from amongst these individuals some that would benefit from association with HCNCS.

Recession may also mean reduced available funding. This possibility may result in HCNCS paying additional attention to methodology required to generate additional resources.

Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the HCNCS? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

Hawaii is a small state. Many people know each other through work, school or association. If a conflict of interest develops, I would immediately acknowledge it/elevate it and follow recommendations discussed for remediation. That may mean extracting myself from the particular situation that warrants consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

GM698

Testimony



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Friday, April 15, 2011, 1:15 PM
State Capitol Room 225

Testimony of
Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Education Committee
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

GM698 Confirmation of **John A. Anderson** to the
Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to support the confirmation of John A. Anderson to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I have appointed Anderson to the commission for a three-year term ending June 30, 2014.

Anderson obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from San Francisco State University and graduate degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa: Master of Education degree with a focus on Counseling and Guidance, and a Ph.D. in Education. For over two decades, Anderson has been a school counselor with the Department of Education, where he has provided services to students and their families. Through his educational background and his work experience, Anderson has shown a sustained interest in the betterment of the lives and conditions of students in our public school system. Anderson has also published two articles on the subject of bettering our public school system.

Anderson is committed to community service as demonstrated by his participation in the Elks Club, the University of Hawaii International Student Services, and the East-West Center. His awards include Ace Recognition Awards from the Governor's Office and the Innovation Award from the U.S. Department of Defense.

I know that you will find Anderson qualified for the commission and encourage you to confirm him.

Chita Stewart
Chair

Ryan Perreira
Vice Chair



Isaac V. Watson
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Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service

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To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

From: Isaac Watson, Executive Director
Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

Date: April 15, 2011

Subject: GM 698 - Consideration and Confirmation of John Anderson to the Hawaii
Commission for National and Community Service

Madam Chair, my name is Isaac Watson and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I am here today to support the appointment of Mr. John Anderson to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community service for the next three years.

Mr. Anderson would be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service as he brings to the Commission years of experience working with students in the area of higher and lower education. Mr. Anderson has also spent a number of years working as a volunteer as well as coordinating various community activities which indicates his enthusiasm to be involved in our community. His enthusiasm and strong commitment to volunteerism would help promote the need for more people to volunteer, especially in times when we need more people to step up and help others.

Madam Chair, I strongly urge your support in appointing Mr. John Anderson to the Commission in order that she may be able to provide her expertise and insight in helping the Commission to fulfill the more comprehensive role envisioned for the Commission that will foster and expand an ethic of service and volunteerism throughout the state.