

LATE TESTIMONY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

PANKAJ BHANOT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 13, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director
Department of Human Services

SUBJECT: **G. M. 775 – GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF LESLIE WILKINS TO THE HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016 State Capitol

The Department of Human Services supports the nomination of Leslie Wilkins to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW).

Ms. Wilkins' vast experience as an advocate for women and workplace equity will be invaluable to the HSCSW. She has served and still serves in leadership positions on numerous state and national organizations through her professional work and her volunteer advocacy work. This has put her in the center of local and national efforts to empower women in emerging technology and the global economy.

Ms. Wilkins is currently the Executive Vice-President of the Maui Economic Development Board. She developed and implemented the Women in Technology Project to engage more girls, women and minorities into Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. What began as a pilot program has grown to over a 15,000

statewide and regional participation and has been cited as a national "best practices model".

Ms. Wilkins has served on the HSCW under Governor Cayetano and served as the Commission Chair from 1996 to 2003. She remains active in advancing the goal of advancing the status of Hawaii's women and girls and will be a valuable asset to the HSCSW.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Wilkins' nomination.

Testimony GM775

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 13, 2011
9:00 a.m.

State Capitol
Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96707

As Executive Director for the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) I strongly support the nomination of Leslie Wilkins as Maui representative to the Commission.

Ms. Wilkins has been a strong and tireless advocate for women in the state of Hawaii for many years. She has been a supporter of women's issues in both the non-profit and governmental sectors of the state. Her support of the HSCSW has been invaluable on multiple initiatives and will only be increased as she takes a position as a Commissioner.

I know that the women of Hawaii will benefit if Ms. Wilkins is confirmed as a Commissioner and strongly urge this committee to endorse her for that position.

Sharon Ferguson-Quick

Sharon.y.ferguson-quick@hawaii.gov

586-5758