

SB1417

Measure Title:	RELATING TO THE STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL.
Report Title:	State Rehabilitation Council
Description:	Reduces number of members on the state rehabilitation council from twenty-one to fifteen.
Companion:	HB1565
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HMS
Introducer(s):	KOUCHI (BR)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
INTERIM DIRECTOR
PANKAJ BHANOT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 15, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1417 – RELATING TO STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to Reduce the number of members of the State Rehabilitation Council from twenty-one to fifteen.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill.

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is a mandated council under the federal Rehabilitation Act. Federal statute prescribes the composition of the council to include membership of individuals with disabilities, representatives from consumer organizations of people with disabilities, service providers and business and industry. The federal minimum number of required positions on the SRC is fifteen.

The SRC has historically had difficulty in reaching quorum with the current State required minimum of twenty-one and it is the belief of the SRC that there would be a greater chance of achieving quorum with the more manageable federal

minimum of 15 members. This change will ensure that the SRC is able to conduct business in a timely manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

JONATHAN J. CHUN
2954 MOKOI STREET
LIHUE, KAUAI, HAWAII 96766

February 14, 2011

Via Facsimile Only

Honorable Senator Susanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

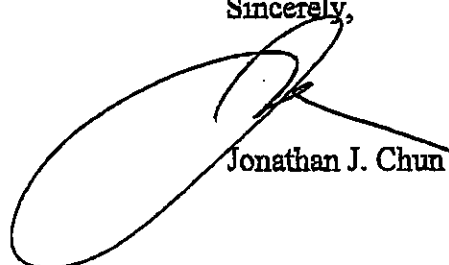
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011, 1:30 p.m.
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SUBJECT: S.B. 1417 - RELATING TO THE STATE
REHABILITATION COUNCIL

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and members:

My name is Jonathan J. Chun and I am the Chair of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). The SRC is a mandated council under the Federal Rehabilitation Act. Federal statute prescribes the composition of the council to include individuals with disabilities, representatives from consumer organizations, people with disabilities, service providers and business and industry representatives. Federal law sets a minimum of 15 persons to sit on the SRC. The SRC is required by federal law to meet a minimum of 4 times a year. Last year the SRC was only able to convene one meeting due to a lack of quorum. The members of the SRC are all individuals committed to assisting those with physical and cognitive disabilities. All the members, however, are volunteers and leaders in their own communities. Coordinating everyone's schedule is not an easy task. It is the belief of the SRC that there would be a greater chance of achieving quorum with the more manageable federal minimum of 15 members. This change can be made without sacrificing the required membership criteria set forth in HRS Section 348-8. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Jonathan J. Chun