



GOV. MSG. NO. 529

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

January 5, 2012

The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Tsutsui and Members of the Senate,

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **State Council on Developmental Disabilities**:

| <u>STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u> | <u>TERM TO EXPIRE</u> | <u>REMARKS</u> |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Jeffrey Okamoto | 6/30/2015 | State Agency |

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Abercrombie".

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Human Services

G.M. 529 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, JEFFREY OKAMOTO, for a term to expire 06-30-2015

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health
February 21, 2012**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the nomination of
2 Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DDC)
3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
4 **Purpose and Justification:** Jeffrey Okamoto, M.D., Acting Chief of the Developmental Disabilities
5 Division (DDD), is being recommended by the Department of Health to serve as a member of the State
6 Council on Developmental Disabilities as mandated by Hawaii Revised Statutes 333 E-4. Dr. Okamoto
7 is a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician with extensive experience in evaluating, managing and
8 supporting children and teens with developmental disabilities. Prior to his appointment as Acting Chief
9 of the DDD, Dr. Okamoto served as the Division's Medical Director.
10 Dr. Okamoto continues to practice part-time in a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics clinic for
11 Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. He also holds a faculty position with the John A.
12 Burns School of Medicine where he has won several teaching awards.

1 Additionally, Dr. Okamoto was a recent Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation Public Policy Fellow from
2 July 2010 to June 2011. For this fellowship, he was placed in Congress with the Senate Subcommittee
3 for Children and Families in the office of Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland), with the National
4 Council on Disability, and in the Disability Policy Collaboration office of the ARC of the United States,
5 all in Washington DC.

6 Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto who brings a
7 tremendous wealth of knowledge and clinical experience in the area of developmental and intellectual
8 disabilities to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

February 12, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Senatorial District 13
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto's Nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Honorable Chair Chun-Oakland:

It is my privilege to nominate my colleague, Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto, to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have known Dr. Okamoto for approximately 10 years, while working as a psychologist at Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division. The many duties and responsibilities that Dr. Okamoto has undertaken make him an ideal candidate for a position on the State council.

As Medical Director, Dr. Okamoto was instrumental in the development and continues to lead a clinical interdisciplinary team that's purpose is to provide much needed clinical consultation and support to case managers who work with individuals with developmental disabilities. He has also developed clinical policies and procedures which outlined the clinical roles of the Division.

As an administrator, Dr. Okamoto never falters nor hesitates. He stepped into the role of Interim Division Chief for Developmental Disabilities Division and immediately participated in numerous events and committees to support individuals with Developmental Disabilities. For his sense of leadership and direction, Dr. Okamoto is held in the highest regard by his peers. In addition to his role as a clinician and an administrator, Dr. Okamoto has a very important role as mentor to medical interns and residents in pediatrics. He is as prolific as instrumental in his influence and development of so many leaders in the field of Developmental Disabilities, and has done so with obvious joy and passion.

In addition to his keen clinical and administrative skills, Dr. Okamoto also models sound leadership skills. Last year, Dr. Okamoto received the prestigious Joseph Kennedy Foundation Fellowship which required him to spend a year in Washington D.C. to learn about policies to support people with Developmental Disabilities at the National level. He undertook this challenge with his typical enthusiasm, even though it meant spending a year away from his wife and son. He has a practical approach to policies and procedures and clearly sees them as the framework for providing quality programming for people with developmental disabilities. Dr. Okamoto also works well in a team setting, and has laid the foundation for many professionals, such as myself, to stay involved in the field and look for new opportunities for personal growth and development. He truly leads by example.

I support Dr. Okamoto's nomination as Council member without hesitation. Dr. Okamoto is truly an amazing professional who works tirelessly to support people with developmental disabilities. He has the necessary training and is a vital resource to any Council. Dr. Okamoto's biggest contribution is that he exemplifies a lifelong commitment to support people with Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Christine Kim Walton, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Psychologist

Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 21, 2012

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators Chun Oakland and Ihara and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 529 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Jeffrey Okamoto

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 529** to confirm the nomination of Jeffrey Okamoto for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L. 106-402) is clear in determining the composition of this body to ensure that all the players involved in the development, implementation, and use of DD supports are represented. The law specifically requires that 60 percent of the membership of the Council be comprised of individuals with DD, their parents, or family members. Additionally, the following are required to be on the Council: relevant State entities; State entities that administer funds provided under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Older Americans Act of 1965; Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act; the Protection and Advocacy Agency; the Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; local and non-governmental agencies, and private non-profit groups concerned with services for individuals with DD.

Dr. Okamoto's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for a representative of relevant State entities. He would serve as the representative for the Department of Health (DOH) as a relevant State entity. DOH serves as the Council's Designated State Agency (DSA) for the federal grant with support, fiscal, and records, access and financial reports responsibilities on behalf of the Council. As the DOH representative, he would be the liaison to provide information to and from, and coordination with other Divisions within DOH such as the Adult Mental Health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Divisions. These Divisions also provide services to individuals who are dually diagnosed (DD and mental illness).

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
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As the Acting Chief and Medical Director for the DD Division, Dr. Okamoto would provide the Council with direct and ongoing information about the Division's status with its budget and programs (DD Waiver, residential, respite, Partnerships in Community Living programs, etc.). Additionally, his varied background and experience in general and developmental pediatrics, staff as a Kennedy Public Policy Fellow with Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland), and positions in the community on the federal and state level would contribute to the Council's activities in addressing the areas of community supports, early childhood, education, employment, and health identified in its 2012-2016 State Plan.

We are pleased with Dr. Okamoto's nomination to serve on the Council and look forward to his contributions to assist us in establishing a comprehensive system of supports and services for individuals with DD and their families.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 529** to confirm Jeffrey Okamoto to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,


Liz Ann Salvador
Chair


Waynette K. Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

February 10, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland
Chair, Senate committee on Human Services
Senatorial District 13
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, Hi. 96813

Re: Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto's Nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Honorable Chair Chun-Oakland:

I am writing to express my great pleasure in learning that Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto has been nominated for a position on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and would like to add my support to those of others encouraging his selection for that post. As a practicing pediatrician and adolescent medicine physician in the community, I have shared in the care of many patients with Dr. Okamoto and appreciate first-hand the profoundly positive difference he has made in the lives of so many of our state's children and youth, and in the lives of their families. His voice and experience would be a tremendous asset to the Council.

I have known Dr. Okamoto since he was a medical student at UH JABSOM. Later, following his fellowship in behavioral developmental pediatrics at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, we have worked together as colleagues in the UH JABSOM Department of Pediatrics. In that collegial relationship we have shared in the care of many patients over the years and Dr. Okamoto has involved me actively in teaching and curriculum development within the Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship Program which he created in 2004. For eight years we also traveled together every two months to Moloka'i, where we conducted side-by-side clinics for children and youth of the island. These shared times together gave me a much deeper appreciation of who "Dr. O" is as a skilled and dedicated physician and as a warm, insightful and compassionate human being.

Through my many years working with Dr. Okamoto, and coming to know him both as a physician and as a human being, I am confident that he will bring to the Council and its work an open mind, an innate sense of collegiality, a patient but passionate advocacy approach, and a disarming sense of humor and perspective. These, coupled with his wealth of experience and his professional understanding of the issues faced by our patients/clients, relatives, and friends living with developmental disabilities, will help Hawai'i, through the leadership of the Council, become a role model among states through its understanding of and ability to address the needs of those within our Hawai'i 'ohana facing developmental challenges.

Please feel free to contact me (983-8387, UH Department of Pediatrics) if you have any questions regarding my enthusiastic and unqualified support for Dr. Okamoto's appoint to the Council.

Respectfully yours,



Robert J. Bidwell, M.D.

Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Director of Adolescent Medicine

UH John A. Burns School of Medicine

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 5:02 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: rozaki@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for GM529 on 2/21/2012 1:15:00 PM
Attachments: Okamoto.docx

Testimony for HMS 2/21/2012 1:15:00 PM GM529

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rebecca Rude Ozaki
Organization: UH-Center on Disability Studies
E-mail: rozaki@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I stongly support the appointment of Dr. Jeff Okamoto to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Please accept my strong support of the nomination for Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. As a person who has worked with non-profit, state, and federal agencies through my capacity as Associate Professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa – Center on Disability Studies (CDS) I believe that Dr. Okamoto would provide an honest, just, evidence-based and compassionate voice to the Council.

I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Okamoto through the Center on Disability Studies and most recently more closely as Dr. Okamoto reigned as Acting Director for the Department of Health -Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD). CDS currently has a contract with DDD to assist with data collection and analysis, training, planning and conducting a strategic retreat with DDD staff and community members, and coordinating Respite and Partnership in Community Living fund distribution. As the Principle Investigator, I am able to meet monthly with Dr. Okamoto to discuss progress on the multiple projects, plan for the strategic retreat and discuss future steps that will continue to build a partnership between DOH-DDD and CDS.

I have found Dr. Okamoto to be a reserved and capable leader of the division. He is dedicated to working with individuals with disabilities and their families. His commitment to individuals with intellectual disabilities is demonstrated through many of his accomplishments. First and foremost he is a physician who is board-certified Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician. He participates nationally as a member of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDS) and the Council on School Health for the American Academy of Pediatrics. He has served as a public policy fellow for the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation in Washington DC. He also has served on the National Council on Disabilities and the ARC of the United States. These opportunities/experiences provide him with a broad perspective of disability issues at the local, federal, national, and medical arenas that will greatly enhance the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

Center on Disability Studies

University Center on Excellence in Education, Research and Service

February 13, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Senatorial District 13
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto's Nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities
(GM 529)

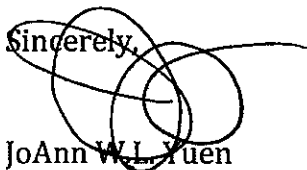
Honorable Chair Chun-Oakland:

As a current member on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) and faculty at the Center on Disability Studies (CDS), UH-Manoa, I am honored to support Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto's nomination to the State Council on DD.

I have worked with Dr. Okamoto for over 20 years, first in his primary role as pediatrician; in his role as LEND/CDS faculty, as Medical Director for the Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD); as a nationally recognized Kennedy Fellow; and most recently in his role as Interim Division Chief of DDD.

Dr. Okamoto is an excellent nominee, who brings years of clinical, academic, administrative and leadership skills to the DD Council. He has national and local perspectives of issues impacting children and adults with special needs and is well known and respected in the DD community, by providers, self-advocates and families alike. I always think of *Dr. Jeff* when I talk about *servant leadership*. Dr. Jeff is a person who serves first, and through his actions, commitment and compassion, leadership flows.

I strongly support Dr. Okamoto's nomination as Council member based upon his clinical and community, experiences; his willingness to listen and learn; his passion and compassion, his youthful spirit and dogged commitment to the protecting the health and well being of children and communities. Thank you for your time and consideration. Dr. Okamoto would be a valuable resource for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and I look forward to serving with him.

Sincerely,


JoAnn W.L. Yuen
Associate Professor of Disability Studies
joyuen@hawaii.edu, 808-956-3366