



GOV. MSG. NO. 534

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 Rehabilitation Council**:

STATE REHABILITATION  
COUNCIL

TERM TO EXPIRE

Arthur Cabanilla

6/30/2014

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neil Abercrombie".

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN  
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 21, 2012

**MEMORANDUM:**

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **G.M. 534 - Gubernatorial Nomination of Arthur Cabanilla to the  
State Rehabilitation Council**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination of Mr. Arthur Cabanilla to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

Mr. Arthur Cabanilla is seeking an appointment for his first term to the SRC. He brings his professional experience to the council from years of working with individuals with disabilities, servicing them through training and assessment in the skills of assistive technology. Mr. Cabanilla also brings his personal experience as an individual living with a life-time disability.

Mr. Cabanilla was raised in Hawaii, bringing a positive cultural perspective to the table in his input essential to the councils work. He is an active member of a national consumer group of the blind and the Ho'opono Advisory Board, advocating for the independence of people with disabilities.

Mr. Cabanilla focus is on the opportunity for people with disabilities to be able to dream, aspire and attain their goals within a career and employment of their choice.

Mr. Cabanilla will provide representation to the SRC as an Advocate and a previous recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Honolulu County.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee.

January 27, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Chairman Human Services, (HMS)  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Mr. Art Cabanilla Nomination to State

Rehabilitation Council Honorable Suzanne

Chun Oakland:

As someone who has seen Mr. Cabanilla grow from a client of VR in to an active individual of the blind community, I was happy to learn that Mr. Cabanilla has been nominated by Governor Abercrombie to the State Rehabilitation Council of Hawaii. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Cabanilla for many years both as his VR Councilor and more recently as an associate to the Advisory Board of Ho'opono. Where, he has served 6 years and 3 of those years as Chair of the Advisory Board. Mr. Cabanilla currently provides service as a trainer of access technology to students of Ho'opono's New Visions program; teaching them computer skills needed to successfully compete in today's job market. From this, he has developed a sensitive and caring understanding for his students and their individual needs or challenges each may face; thus, giving him a well-rounded perspective on the needs for the blind.

He is widely respected in the community not only for his leadership, but also for serving as a volunteer on many boards for organizations that serve the blind community.

In addition to his participation with Ho'opono's Advisory Board, Mr. Cabanilla also serves with the library for the Blind on their Consumer Advisory Board. He is an active member of (HAB), Hawaii Association of the Blind where he has served as Board of Director for the past 2 years.

I strongly support Mr. Cabanilla's nomination to the Rehabilitation Council as based upon his knowledge of the blind community, his demonstrated experience and leadership, and his willingness to serve our community.

Lea Grupen

Branch Administrator

Ho'opono Services for the Blind

**TAYLANNAS INC.**  
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*To: Senator Suzanne Chung Oakland*

*Feb.15, 2012*

*To whom it may concern*

*I am very pleased and honored to have this opportunity to write a letter of recommendation for ART CABANILLA.*

*I have known Art Cabanilla for a period of 15 years and I have observe him to have a caring and compassionate*

*Attitude towards his peers, co-workers And friends.*

*During my early stages of Blindness he was a major factor in*

*Mentoring me in adjusting to my new challenges and new life as a Blind*

*Visually Impaired person.*

*Art is a leader in the Blind community-*

**Here are some of his contributions:**

- *He is a member of the Hawaii Association of the Blind which is a affiliate of*

*The American Council of the Blind, and he serves on the Board of Directors and is a legislator Co- Chair,*

- *Art is on the Ho'opono Advisory Board*
- *A member of the Hawaii Association of Parents of the Visually Impaired*
- *On the Library Advisory Board for the Blind and Physically Handicap.*
- *He is on Suzanne Chung Oakland's Deaf/Blind Task Force Council.*

*He is a very knowledgeable Access Technology Specialist Instructor and has trained me on numerous devices for the Blind. He has patients and has a strong desire to help others.*

*Art is a honest business man.*

*He is aware of the diversity talent and skills that people with disabilities bring to Americas Workforce And economy.*

*He always projects a positive image.*

*You may see him working a booth at the Senior Fair, or at Youth Day, or at a Health Fair.*

*He is very efficient and has excellent relationship skills with various people at all levels.*

*I believe his expertise will serve to benefit the SRC*

*I would recommend Art Cabanilla in any endeavor he pursues.*

*Sincerely,*

*Landa Phelan*

*Account Executive – Hawaii*

*Menus That Talk*



## **Island Skill Gathering** *Answering the Call for Assistive Technology*

January 17, 2012

Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Senate District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland:

As the owner of Island Skill Gathering, a support services and product sales business serving Hawaii's disability community, I wholly support the nomination of Art Cabanilla to the State Rehabilitation Council. Mr. Cabanilla and I have worked together with hundreds of clients over the past 12 years, and I know him to be smart and knowing of disability issues.

Mr. Cabanilla, as a blind person and former recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation services, will bring a healthy perspective on service provision on both counts. And because he is a committed individual, his participation will be consistent and timely.

I believe Mr. Cabanilla's nomination ought to be readily confirmed; his willingness to serve his disability community is commendable.

Aloha,

Wally Soares, Rehabilitation Technology Specialist

**3472 Kanaina Avenue • Honolulu, HI 96815-4225**  
**(808) 732-4622 v/tty • (808) 739-5464 fax**  
**e-mail: isg@aloha.net • website: isghawaii.com**



**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
415 S. Beretania St. Rm. 226  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**January 17, 2012**

**Re: Testimony in support of Author Cabanilla as he seeks approval to  
serve on the State Rehabilitation Council**

**Dear Senator Chun Oakland;**

**My name is Warren Toyama and I am president of the Hawaii  
Association of the Blind.**

**This testimony is submitted with the intent of supporting Mr.  
Author Cabanilla in his quest to serve on the State Rehabilitation  
Council.**

**Mr. Cabanilla is an active blind citizen in Hawaii's blind  
community. He has served on the Ho'opono Advisory Board and just  
completed three years of service as chairman of that Board. Mr.  
Cabanilla is a former member of the National Federation of the Blind  
of Hawaii and is currently on the Board of the Hawaii Association of  
the Blind. Through all of these activities Mr. Cabanilla has developed  
a keen awareness of the needs of blind people in our community.**

**I strongly endorse Mr. Cabanilla as he seeks appointment to the  
State Rehabilitation Council.**

**Sincerely Yours,**



**Warren Toyama, President  
Hawaii Association of the Blind**

January 17, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland  
Chair, Human Services (HMS)  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Arthur Cabanilla's Nomination to participate in the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)**

Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland:

I am writing to you as a personal friend of Mr. Arthur Cabanilla, who has been nominated by Governor Neil Abercrombie to participate in the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). I have known Mr. Cabanilla for over ten years and support his nomination. Hard-working, competent and compassionate are only a few personal qualities of Mr. Cabanilla. He is very amiable and poses an exceptional character.

He is very knowledgeable in technology and is always willing to share his knowledge to help other people. Ever since I knew him, he never slowed down and is always keen and up-to-date with technology especially for the blind and visually impaired.

He is very dedicated and active in the blind community. He is a member of the Hawaii Association of the Blind (HAB) and is currently a Board of Director. He is also Chair on the Ho'opono Advisory Board.

I strongly agree that Mr. Cabanilla would be a great asset in the State Rehabilitation Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Filo Tu'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'F' and a series of connected loops and strokes.

Filo Tu

TESTIMONY OF  
Arthur Cabanilla TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Human Services ON

January 17, 2012 G.M. 514

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Arthur Cabanilla, for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland and members of the Committee, thank you for  
the opportunity to appear before you today.

I'd like to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I truly  
consider this an honor and a privilege to be considered as a new member to the  
State Rehabilitation Council of Hawaii.

I'd also like to extend my mahalo to everyone who submitted letters of  
support on my behalf and to those here in attendance lending me their support and  
aloha.

Faced with my own personal physical disability and challenges that had come with my blindness, I feel that, my contributions to the board are of value to Hawaii's disabled community. During my 10 years as an Access Technology Specialist, I have had the opportunity to work with and help those with various disability challenges overcome and improve their own lives. It is rewarding for me in knowing that, my efforts and contributions in this capacity has aided in the lives of so many.

I believe strongly that physical barriers is not a disability but rather, a measurement to one's ability's to overcome the odds and to actively participate in society using the skills and knowledge they possess within.

With the Experience of having served on various boards which, serve the blind community of Hawaii, my awareness of other disabilities and their needs and/or concerns has also increased. Thus, allowing me to share a vision of equal access for all disabled persons

despite the challenges and adversities we may have. With proper training and support services, what may seem impossible becomes possible. You have my commitment that I will always have the disabled communities' best interest in mind and in my heart.

In closing, I would like to thank this Committee for the hard work you do for the State of Hawaii and for giving me the opportunity to be here today. Thank you for considering my nomination and, I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have at this time.

