



GOV. MSG. NO. 631

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

February 10, 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>
Sarah Ahina	6/30/2016	Reappointment

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



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 28, 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 631 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Sarah Ahina**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 631** to confirm the nomination of Sarah Ahina for a term to expire June 30, 2016.

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.

Ms. Ahina's reappointment to the Council would continue to fulfill the Federal requirement for representatives of individuals with DD. Ms. Ahina lives independently with her husband in Makaha. She was first appointed to the Council in July 2009. She participated in the Council-sponsored Partners in Policymaking (PIP) Leadership Academy. The PIP Academy is an innovative program for individuals with DD and family members of individuals with DD. The program is designed to provide information, training, resources, and skills, which will develop productive partnerships between people who need and use services and those in position to make policy and law.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
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She is motivated to become a leader in self-advocacy and mentor other individuals to become their own advocates. Currently, she serves as Chair to the Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) comprised of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). As Chair, she presides over the SAAC meetings and represents SAAC as a stakeholder group in providing feedback to the DD Division regarding the DD Waiver program. She provided the leadership for SAAC in its partnership with the DD Council and the Maternal Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program to remove the "R" (retarded) word from State Statutes.

Ms. Ahina is a member of the Council's Employment and Education Committee that is working toward people with I/DD to have supports to obtain and sustain their chosen life goal to prepare students at all educational levels for the transition from high school to adult life including employment, self-employment, and/or post secondary education and training. Her appointment will assist the Council in its activities to promote the principles of self-determination, empower individuals with I/DD to become self-advocates, and increase employment opportunities in the community.

The Council welcomes Ms. Ahina's appointment to serve a second term on the Council. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 631** to confirm Sarah Ahina to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,


Liz Ann Salvador
Chair


Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 3:44 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM631 on 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM GM631

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments: