



GOV. MSG. NO. 634

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,

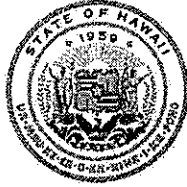
In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **State Council on Developmental Disabilities**:

<u>STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u>	<u>TERM TO EXPIRE</u>
Melissa Gibo	6/30/2016

Sincerely,

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

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 634 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Melissa Gibo**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 634** to confirm the nomination of Melissa Gibo 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. Gibo's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for representatives of private non-profit groups concerned with services for individuals with DD. She is the Program Director for the DD Waiver Services Program with Catholic Charities Hawai'i and affiliated with the Hawaii Waiver Providers Association's (HWPA) Board of Directors. Her past experience also includes positions as a housing specialist and employment/education counselor. Her multiple levels of experience with the DD Waiver Program, HWPA, housing, and employment and education would definitely assist the Council in achieving its 2012-2016 State Plan goals for community supports, employment, and education.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Page 2  
February 28, 2012

Service providers play a significant role in developing a comprehensive system of services and supports for individuals with DD and their families. As a representative of non-profit groups and her affiliation with HWWPA, Ms. Gibo would provide the Council with direct input from service providers on how best to coordinate services, and serve as a liaison to assist the Council in building the capacity of providers in the community.

We welcome Ms. Gibo's nomination to serve on the Council and look forward to her participation in the Council's State Plan activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 634** to confirm Melissa Gibo to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

  
Liz Ann Salvador  
Chair

  
Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator

Dr. Alton M. Okinaka  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
Director Social Sciences Training and Research Laboratory  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
200 W. Kawili St.  
Hilo, HI 96720-4091

February 28, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Human Services Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Governor's Message GM634 to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have known Ms. Melissa Gibo for more than ten years since she first enrolled in one of my classes at UHH and through her ensuing career, both as a student at UHH and afterwards in her work career.

As a student at UHH Ms. Gibo double majored in Sociology and Psychology, to enable herself to see both the individually based challenges and social context challenges that people face. Always pointed towards a career in social services and helping people, she was focused in her education and demonstrated both strong academic skills and strong values on helping people and the community. She engaged actively in Sociology Club events and was a leader on campus.

Since her graduation I have kept in touch with her and followed her career. She has in many ways realized her great potential to benefit the community through her work, and in other ways is still working to achieve even more. I was overjoyed when she continued her education to receive her Master of Social Work degree and hope that one day she will continue on for her doctorate. Meanwhile she has worked steadily in the non-profit sector with a focus on aiding those with developmental disabilities and taken on increasingly responsible and challenging demands. She is fully committed to her work and puts in long hours, building an effective program and working tirelessly to aid those assigned to her care. She has worked not only to fulfill the duties of her position, but also to expand on the potential of the programs she works with and see to the whole person needs of her clients and their positions within the community. She has shown a great understanding of their needs and the interplay of the many agencies that provide them services, as well as their families and the community at large.

With her experience and understanding, as well as her abilities to see things both theoretically and practically, I believe she will be a significant contributor to the Developmental Disabilities Council and will work as hard as anyone to strengthen the programs and individuals involved.

I ask for your Committee's favorable consideration to confirm Ms. Melissa Gibo.

Sincerely,

Alton M. Okinaka  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
Director Social Sciences Training and Research Laboratory



## **HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER**

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone/TTY: (808) 949-2922 Toll Free: 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: [info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org](mailto:info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org) Website: [www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org](http://www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org)

### **THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2012**

#### **Committee on Human Services Testimony in Support of G.M. 634 Nomination of Melissa Gibo to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 1:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 016**

Chair Chun -Oakland and Members of the Committee:

I am Louis Erteschik, Executive Director at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and am testifying in support of this nomination.

I have known Melissa for several years, primarily through her involvement with the Hawaii Waiver Providers, which is an organization to whom I have spoken about disability rights upon many occasions. Melissa was always one of the most active members of the organization and extremely knowledgeable about the needs of the clients with intellectual disabilities. I have also worked with her in her capacity with Catholic Charities and their participation with PHOCUSED and some of their events.

I am also very familiar with the DD Council and its members and I believe Melissa would be an exemplary addition and a true credit to the Council. I urge the Committee to recommend her confirmation and I look forward to working with her once she is on the council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.





*Nurturing Lives & Cultivating Communities*

February 24, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Human Services Committee  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair Human Services Committee  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

***Re: Governor's Message 634/Letter of Support for Ms. Melissa Gibo***

Dear Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Ihara and Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Sandra Yoro and I am currently the Executive Director of the Special Education Center of Hawaii (SECOH) a non-profit agency that provides services to people with disabilities and the elderly.

***I am writing to express strong SUPPORT of the Governor's recommended appointment of Ms. Melissa Gibo to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.***

Having served Hawaii's disability and elderly service sector for 23 years, I have had the great pleasure of working with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and Ms. Melissa Gibo both of whom I hold in high professional regard. Based on my first-hand experience, I strongly believe that Ms. Gibo would be an extremely valuable asset to the Council.

I have known Ms. Gibo for nine years and worked very closely with her the past five years through our service as Board members of the Hawaii Waiver Providers Association (HWPAA); a trade association committed to strengthening and unifying Hawaii's disability service system. Over the years Ms. Gibo and I have worked together on multiple State level disability policy and best practice service initiatives. I am so proud to have had the opportunity to work so closely with Ms. Gibo as she is a graceful advocate, skilled administrator, and consummate professional.

Ms. Gibo's sound work ethics and strong organizational skills coupled with her genuine love of the people she serves and her steadfast commitment to making the world around them a better place makes her a more than ideal candidate for service on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

***It is my sincerest hope that you confirm the appointment of Ms. Melissa Gibo to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.***

Sincerely,  
*Sandra J. Yoro*  
SECOH Executive Director



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services

FROM: Stella M.Q. Wong, Vice President of Programs

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 (1:00 p.m., Room 016)

RE: GM 634 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee MELISSA GIBO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016

On behalf of Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH), I would like to express full support for the appointment of Melissa Gibo, to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

I have known Melissa for over six (6) years. She has worked the majority of those years as the Program Director for CCH's Developmental Disabilities Waiver Services Program. In her role as Program Director, she has worked with individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities who reside in residential facilities. She also has a total of nine (9) years of professional experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities to become competitively employed as part of their goal to build self sufficiency.

While working full-time, Melissa also returned to school to get her Master's degree in Social Work – a goal that she accomplished in 2010. As her practicum instructor for one of her social work internships, I worked closely with Melissa and was impressed by her dedication and commitment to helping individuals with developmental disabilities to succeed in their life goals and to improve the quality of their lives.

Melissa is a passionate advocate for the clients she serves. For the past six (6) years, she has been an active member of the Hawaii Waiver Providers Association (HWPA), including serving in a leadership capacity as a member of the HWPA Board for four (4) years. She has years of experience working with this population and understands the diversity that exists within the field of developmental disabilities. She also has nine (9) years of experience working in the nonprofit sector and working with government at various levels.

I highly recommend Melissa Gibo's appointment to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and ask that you confirm her nomination. Her years of professional experience in this field and her commitment to serving individuals with intellectual disabilities will make her an asset to the Council and to those she serves. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.





*Full Life assists in the empowerment of people with developmental disabilities enabling them to achieve and enjoy a self-determined quality of life.*

**Board of Directors**

Chair

**Glennon Gingo**

Broker

Hawaii and Pacific  
Commercial  
Properties

Treasurer

**Christie Crawford**

Vice President and  
Business Banking  
Manager  
Bank of Hawaii

**Elizabeth Tyler Rice**

Family Member of  
Full Life Participant

**Gloria Blum**

Founder  
Feeling Good  
Associates

**Pauline Aughe**

Founder  
Small Victories

**Executive Director**

Stone Wolfson

February 27, 2011

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

Senator Les Ihara, Jr.  
Senate District 9  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 220  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Ms. Melissa Gibo's Appointment to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Dear Senators Oakland and Ihara,

As the Executive Director of Full Life, a Waiver Provider on the Big Island supporting nearly 60 people with Developmental Disabilities, and a board member of the Hawaii Waiver Providers Association, I was happy to learn that Melissa Gibo had been nominated by Governor Abercrombie for an appointment on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

I have known Melissa for three years in my work with the Hawaii Waiver Providers Association, most particularly as a member of the Board of Directors. Melissa is a strong and knowledgeable advocate for individuals with Developmental Disabilities. She is a strong member of the board, bringing energy, a strong set of values and vision, and deep knowledge of the relevant issues to advocating for and serving this population.

I know that she will serve on the council with the same energy and knowledge and I ask for your Committee's favorable consideration to confirm Melissa Gibo's appointment on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

With warm aloha,

Stone Wolfson,  
Executive Director

WEST HAWAII OFFICE 79-7460 Mamalahoa Highway, Suite 212, Kealahou, HI 96750 Phone: 808-322-9333

EAST HAWAII OFFICE: 120 Keawe Street, Suite 202, Hilo, HI 96720 Phone: 808-935-7699

Email: [info@FullLifeHawaii.org](mailto:info@FullLifeHawaii.org) • [www.fulllifehawaii.org](http://www.fulllifehawaii.org) • Tax ID 99-0350129



---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 1:54 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** chinlee@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM634 on 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM GM634

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: CHin Lee  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [chinlee@hawaii.edu](mailto:chinlee@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

**Comments:**

It is my pleasure to submit a testimony in support of the nomination of Ms. Melissa Gibo to serve on the State Council of Developmental Disabilities.

I have the privilege of working with Ms. Gibo for the past 5 years, in my capacity as a staff member for the Hawaii Medicaid Infrastructure Grant at University of Hawaii - Manoa. In working with Ms. Gibo, I have come to learn that she is very passionate on supporting individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities to achieve their goals. Ms. Gibo has shown deep commitment to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities, as she has been actively involved in our work at Medicaid Infrastructure Grant - to improve the employment opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities.

I strongly support Ms. Gibo's nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Mahalo  
Chin Lee

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 5:45 AM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** kdierks@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM634 on 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM GM634

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kevin Dierks  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kdierks@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kdierks@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 2/22/2012

**Comments:**

Melissa is an ideal candidate for the DD Council. She has years of experience working at high levels within the system. In my personal experience working with her she has worked to improve the way people with disabilities are supported. She has always been a calm and thoughtful voice to make sure we are always looking at all possible options. She has proven she will go above and beyond to support people with disabilities and their families. She is the right person for this position.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM634 on 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM GM634

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

Comments: