



GOV. MSG. NO. 636

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>
April Mira	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 636 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee April Mira

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 636** to confirm the nomination of April Mira 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. Mira's reappointment to the Council would continue to fulfill the Federal requirement for representatives of individuals with DD. She was first appointed to the Council in July 2008. She lives independently with supports in an apartment in Pearl City operated by the Arc in Hawaii. She is a graduate of 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
Page 2
February 28, 2012

Ms. Mira desires to help other individuals with DD become independent like her and advocate for themselves. She is a member of the Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) and has been actively involved in recruiting members for SAAC. She was involved with SAAC in getting legislation introduced and passed to remove the "R" (retarded) word from State Statutes. She also participated in the Governor's signing of the bill as Act 220/11. She is a current member of the Council's Community Supports, Employment and Education, and Health and Early Childhood Committees.

The Council is pleased with April Mira's nomination to serve a second term on the Council and looks forward to her continued participation on SAAC and other Council Committees as mentioned above.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 636** to confirm April Mirá to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

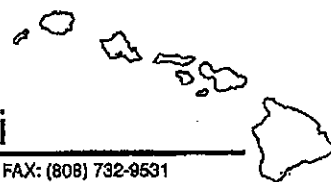
Sincerely,


Liz Ann Salvador
Chair


Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator

The Arc in Hawaii

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Christine Menezes
3989 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

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:

My name is Christine Menezes. I am the Waiver and Residential Coordinator for the Arc in Hawaii as well as the Apartment Manager for our Pearl City site. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 636 to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. As her Apartment Manager, I have known April Mira for little over a year. April is an enjoyable tenant and gets along with everyone. She is responsible and maintains the rules of the facility at all times. She is a leader and role model for the other tenants and is always available to assist someone should they need it. April should be appointed to the DD council so she may advocate for those who are unable to advocate for themselves and be a positive role model for others outside of the apartment complex. She would bring a positive and fun vibe to the legislature and offer valuable suggestions when discussing DD issues. She is a representative of the DD population and would be an asset to the DD council. April has the dedication a board member requires to perform the necessary job responsibilities and the commitment it will take to be on the board.

I ask for your Committee's favorable consideration to confirm April Mira.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Menezes". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Christine Menezes,
Waiver/Residential Coordinator
Apartment Manager

a state organization on mental retardation



Aloha United Way

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 3:49 PM
To: HMS Testimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM636 on 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for HMS 2/28/2012 1:00:00 PM GM636

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: