

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
P. O. Box 339  
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April 10, 2013

TO: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **G.M. 683 – GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF JUDY KERN  
TO THE HAWAII COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 10, 2013; 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is in strong support of the nomination of Ms. Judy Kern as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission is administratively attached to the DHS. The mission of the Commission is to advocate for the fair treatment of women in our society, educate our community about the rights of women, and to strengthen the role of women in our State. Ms. Kern will be the Oahu representative if she is confirmed.

Ms. Kern brings to the Commission varied life experiences as an administrator, communications specialist, community facilitator, and as a public health educator and training coordinator. She is presently the Education and Training Coordinator for the Hawaii Department of Health, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Branch. She was also involved with the non-profit sectors (Hawaii Meals on Wheels and Lanakila Pacific) prior to entering public service. These skills coupled with Ms. Kern's strong

commitment to advancing the rights of women and girls will help the Commission to fulfill its mandate to strengthen the role of women and promote the interests of girls residing in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to confirm Ms. Kern as a member of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

HAWAII  
STATE  
COMMISSION  
ON THE  
STATUS  
OF  
WOMEN



Chair  
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

ELENA CABATU  
ADRIENNE KING  
CARMILLE LIM  
AMY MONK  
LISA ELLEN SMITH  
CAROL ANNE PHILIPS

Executive Director  
Cathy Betts, JD

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April 10, 2013

**Testimony in Support of GM 683**

**To:** Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair  
Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

**From:** Cathy Betts, Executive Director, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

**Re:** Testimony in Support of GM 683, Nomination of Judy Kern

The Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women is in strong support of GM 683, for the consideration and confirmation of Judy Kern to the Commission on the Status of Women.

For the last 15 years, Judy Kern has worked as an advocate for some of our most vulnerable communities. She has extensive background in public health and education. Currently, Ms. Kern works as the Education and Training Coordinator for the Hawai'i State Department of Health's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (BPT/PHEP) Branch, working to collaborate and prepare for public health emergencies or disasters. She has advocated for the elderly during her time as Program Specialist for the Executive Office on Aging, and also with her work for Lanakila Meals on Wheels.

She currently services on the Board of Directors for Mohala Farms, and previously served on the Hawai'i People's Fund and the American Friends Service Committee. Ms. Kern clearly has a strong passion and dedication to public interest work, and specifically, to issues affecting the women and girls of Hawaii.

I strongly support her confirmation to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. She would bring with her a strong dedication to women's issues and social justice, as well as a wealth of experience.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cathy Betts  
Executive Director  
Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

April 7, 2013

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Debra D. Mark, PhD, RN 

Re: **GM683** Consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Judy Kern, for a term to expire 6-30-2017

Position: SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the appointment of Judy Kern to the Commission on the Status of Women. I am writing to you as a personal friend of Ms. Kern based on my relationship with her over the past six years. It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for her appointment.

Ms. Kern exhibits many positive traits that will only serve to enhance the equality for Hawaii's women and girls. Not only is she passionate about human rights, she also has a deep understanding of local, national, and global issues related to social justice. Given her other qualities such as empathy, patience, optimism, and exemplary listening skills, Ms. Kern's abilities enable and inspire her to take a proactive stance to resolve issues of injustice whenever and wherever she can be influential – in her employment setting, as a volunteer, and as a woman, parent, and mother.

I strongly support Ms. Kern's appointment, knowing that she will serve the needs of this Commission and the State with a high degree of integrity, insight, and compassion.

DATE: April 9, 2013

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Allicyn Tasaka, Private Citizen

HEARING: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 @ 10am, Conference Room 016

SUBJECT: GM 683 Consideration and confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women of Gubernatorial Nominee JUDY KERN, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

TESTIMONY: Strong Support

Good morning, Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor. I wish to submit testimony in strong support of Ms. Judy Kern's appointment to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW).

I have known Ms. Kern for ten (10) years. We worked together at Hawaii Meals on Wheels where Ms. Kern was Program Manager. Ms. Kern and I worked side by side, long hours to ensure that Oahu's homebound seniors received regular hot meals. She helped to develop "Give Kupuna a Smile Day" by partnering with the Hawaii Dental Association Dental Samaritan volunteer dentists who provided free dental screenings to seniors. She worked with Lanakila Wheels on Meal and City and County of Honolulu to jointly sponsor "March for Meals" to raise awareness of senior hunger.

Ms. Kern has served on the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii, People's Fund, and has volunteered for many other boards, community groups and activities. She has a strong commitment to equal rights for all, social and economic justice, and a peaceful world.

As a former Executive Director of the HSCSW, I know that Ms. Kern will be an asset to the Commission. She has a good working knowledge of the issues facing women and brings strong organization and strategic energy to propel the Commission's mission forward.

I urge your Committee members to vote in support of Ms. Kern. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of this nomination.

Date of Hearing: April 10, 2013

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Maile Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Amy Monk, Commissioner, Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

**Re: GM 863. Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Judy Kern to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women**

I strongly support the nomination of Judy Kern, to the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women. The appointment of this intelligent, warm and caring person to the Commission on the Status of Women will benefit women throughout the State of Hawai'i .

I know Judy Kern in several of her many roles, but her concern for people is key to everything she does. Like many women in Hawai'i , she is a wife and mother, and she and her husband are also good neighbors. She works in the Department of Health in the Public Health preparedness program where she has to make sure that women and children and other at-risk populations are prepared for emergencies. While we prepare our annual tsunami evacuation kit, Judy is the person who thinks about how the disabled or a shut-in will evacuate in a tsunami evacuation.

As I recall, I really got to know Judy through my work with Planned Parenthood of Hawaii . She was once a Board member, and continues to work to ensure Hawai'i 's women and girls have access to safe affordable, quality healthcare services. When asked for help, she is one of the many dependable volunteers who show up to offer a willing pair of hands.

When one speaks about good people who work for justice for the underserved, Judy Kern comes to mind. She served on the American Friends Service Committee working for peace and justice because economic injustices disproportionately affect women and children. We on the Commission recognize we still has much work to do because proportionately women are more likely to be a senior in poverty, more likely to be a single parent and head of household, more likely to leave employment to care for children or parents, and more likely to earn less than their male counterparts.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Judy Kern, a very talented woman, who is willing to serve the public.