

HTH HEARING

GM738

TESTIMONY



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

April 10, 2013

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 738 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Jennifer Patricio

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 738** to confirm the nomination of Jennifer Patricio for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

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 agencies are required to be on the Council: Department of Health as the Designated State Agency; the agencies that administer funds provided under 1) the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 2) the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 3) the Older Americans Act of 1965, and 4) Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act; the Protection and Advocacy Agency; the Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; agencies and private non-profit organizations concerned with services to individuals with DD.

The Governor's nominee, Jennifer Patricio, meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. She is a staff attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center. Her appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for a representative of the State protection and advocacy (P&A) system.

As a representative of the P&A system, Ms. Patricio would provide the Council with the legal perspective in its activities to promote and advocate for accessible services for individuals with DD. She has been an active and contributing member of

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the Council's Health and Early Childhood Committee that addresses the Council's 2012-2016 State Plan Health Goal, "People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have access to physical and mental health and medical and dental care, providing opportunities to ensure and maintain their quality of life and ability to provide their own care," and the Early Childhood Children and Youth Goal, "Children and youth with special health care needs and their families have access to family-centered community-based integrated interventions and supports providing opportunities to ensure quality of life."

Her continued participation on the Health and Early Childhood Committee would greatly assist the Council in its initiatives to reduce health disparities among people with DD, and to increase the number of individuals to access preventive and restorative dental care services.

The Council is pleased with Ms. Patricio's nomination to serve on the Council and looks forward to her contributions to improve the overall access and availability of services for individuals with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 738** to confirm Jennifer Patricio to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator



J. Curtis Tyler III
Chair



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THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

Committee on Health Testimony of Jennifer V. Patricio, Esq. RE: Nomination to State Council on Developmental Disabilities GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 738

**Wednesday, April 10, 2013, 1:30 PM
Conference Room 229**

Dear Chair Green and Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Jennifer V. Patricio and I am a Staff Attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center (HDRC), Hawaii's Protection and Advocacy Agency. I am truly honored by Governor Abercrombie's nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council). I am currently the representative on the Council for HDRC.

I have profound interest in the needs of people with Developmental Disabilities (DD) in Hawaii. I am an individual born with cerebral palsy, and believe people with DD must have the right to self-determination, and be provided the appropriate community supports to achieve their own destinies.

It has been my honor to serve on the Council for the past 4 years and would welcome the opportunity to continue my work on the Council. If confirmed, my membership on the Council will bridge my personal experience and professional skills to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in Hawaii.

I believe a member of the Council has various responsibilities. Primary duties must consist of working with other agencies and organizations collaboratively to use resources to improve the lives of people with DD. A member must monitor, review and evaluate various agency service and support procedures to ensure appropriate access and utilization by individuals with DD. In addition, a member of the Council must work to advocate for people with DD using the appropriate avenues.

I believe I am uniquely qualified to be a member of the Council. Despite being born with cerebral palsy, I live a self-determined life. I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from California State University, Northridge; and a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan. This educational background gives me knowledge of government/agency procedures, public policy development and implementation and legal advocacy skills. Throughout my years of community service experience, I have collaborated and coordinated with organizations to serve people. In addition, as a mediator I acquired skills to



bring people with different interests together for common goals. I was born and raised on Kauai, and have a unique understanding of the needs of people in Hawaii. These characteristics give me a priceless understanding, expertise and temperament to make the necessary decisions required of Council members.

I am a hardworking, compassionate and determined individual. Determination and hard work are required to successfully advocate for access to services needed by DD individuals. At the same time, compassion is necessary to understand the unique needs of people with DD.

Since my appointment in 2009, I make a concerted effort to educate the Council on the work of HDRC leading to an increase in agency assistance. I am an essential link between the advocacy and resources of HDRC and Council activities. If confirmed, it is my utmost intention to continue these activities and increase the awareness of HDRC's role in the community through collaboration with the Council, ensuring that people with DD attain the appropriate services necessary for their lives.

I welcome the opportunity to continue my service on the Council. I believe my background, education and experience show that I am uniquely qualified to serve on the Council. Therefore, I humbly ask for your support regarding my nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.



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THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

Committee on Health Testimony in Support of GM 738 Nomination of Jennifer Patricio to DD Council

**Wednesday, April 10, 2012, 1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 229**

Chair Green and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is pleased to express our strong support for the nomination of Jennifer Patricio to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Her unique perspective, derived from her legal training as well as her personal experience, makes her extremely well suited to serve in this capacity.

Jennifer has already served one term on the Council and has facilitated collaboration between the two agencies and been a productive partner in our collective efforts. The DD Council and the Protection and Advocacy system are created under the same federal statute and so are commonly referred to as "sister agencies." She has successfully communicated to us concerns and issues expressed at the Council and has brought to them the perspective that we present as the state's protection and advocacy system.

She already has become an integral member of the Council, serving on various Subcommittees. She is well respected by her colleagues on the Council and has forged good working relationships. We urge her confirmation by this Committee and by the Senate so that she can continue to advocate for individuals with disabilities in this capacity.

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



Jaysheel H. D'Sa

Senator Josh Green

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health
Senate District 3
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 215
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Health
Senate District 6
Hawaii State Capital
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Reappointment to the State Council of Developmental Disabilities
Governor's Message # 738

Dear Honorable Senators,

I am writing to you as a personal friend of Ms. Jennifer V. Patricio who is currently in the process of being confirmed for re-appointment to the State of Hawaii Developmental Disabilities Council for a second term beginning July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2017.

I have known Ms. Patricio since her Freshman Year at California State University, Northridge (1994). On a personal level, she has very high morals and is an extremely loyal friend. In the professional world, I have known her to be diligent, thorough, hard working and very committed to anything she's involved in. Ms. Patricio's experience with the Hawaii Disability Rights Center and pro bono work with the Volunteer Legal Services in Hawaii are a couple of examples of her tireless nature.

I feel that Ms. Patricio's reappointment to the State Council of Developmental Disabilities will truly be mutually beneficial to everyone concerned. Therefore, I strongly support her confirmation to be a member of the State Council of Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaysheel H. D'Sa". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Jaysheel H. D'Sa