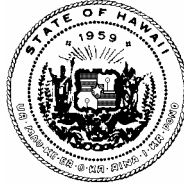


HTH HEARING

GM781

TESTIMONY



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 10, 2013

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **G.M. 781- GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF LESLIE TAWATA
TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 10, 2013; 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is in strong support of the nomination of Ms. Leslie Tawata as a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Council is administratively attached to the Department of Health. The mission of the Council is to advocate for the fair treatment of state citizens with a developmental disability. Ms. Tawata will be the Medicaid state agency representative if she is confirmed.

Ms. Tawata brings an in-depth knowledge and expertise on the subject as the DHS/Med-Quest Division Assistant Administrator and in her previous role as the Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division's fiscal coordinator. These skills coupled with Ms. Tawata's extensive knowledge of Medicaid programs and rules applicable to developmentally disabled clients will be invaluable to the Council.

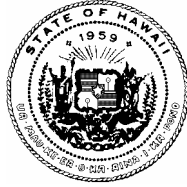
Ms. Tawata is an able and dedicated public servant, starting her career in August 1983 as a case manager with the Med-QUEST Division (MQD) where she was

promoted to increasingly higher supervisory roles. She was appointed the MQD Assistant Administrator in October 2011.

In between her long tenure with the DHS/MQD, she served as the fiscal coordinator of the Developmental Disabilities Division in the Hawaii Department of Health. In her role as fiscal coordinator, Ms. Tawata was responsible for ensuring compliance with the Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver through timely submittal of required reports; ensuring compliance with federal requirements; issuing of program memoranda to providers and case management staff; and served as chair of the Division's Policy Advisory Board and Utilization Management Committee.

As the Medicaid representative to the Council, Ms. Tawata will be able to share her knowledge and expertise with the Council on the programs and policies that will impact clients with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to confirm Ms. Tawata as a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 10, 2013

TO: The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Kenny Fink, M.D.
Administrator, Med-QUEST Division

SUBJECT: **G.M. 781 – GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF LESLIE
TAWATA TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 10, 2013; 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

The Med-QUEST Division/Department of Human Services strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Leslie Tawata, the Med-QUEST Division Assistant Administrator, to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Under HRS 333E-4, representatives of state agencies that administer funds provided under federal law relating to individuals with disabilities shall be members of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Med-QUEST Division administers the Medicaid program, which includes oversight of the 1915c developmental disability/intellectual disability (DD/ID) waiver program administered by the Department of Health's Developmental Disability Division (DOH/DDD).

Ms. Tawata is extremely well qualified to serve on the State Council for Developmental Disabilities. She not only has in-depth knowledge of the Medicaid program,

but she also previously worked for the DOH/DDD. She is keenly aware of and sensitive to the needs of individuals with a DD/ID, and she understands the Medicaid program that provides services to such individuals. Ms. Tawata has the highest compassion, integrity, and knowledge, and she represents the best of public service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 781 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Leslie Tawata**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 781** to confirm the nomination of Leslie Tawata for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

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, Leslie Tawata, meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. She is the Assistant Administrator for the Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division. Her appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for a representative of Title XIX of the Social Security Act. Her responsibilities to oversee the administration and operations of the MQD's programs and activities statewide, and ensuring the Medicaid program is in compliance with Federal regulations, will provide a direct link to the Council's advocacy in assuring access to medical and dental services for individuals with DD.

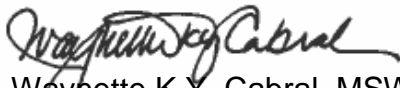
The Honorable Josh Green
Page 2
April 10, 2013

Ms. Tawata's background and experience with the Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division in convening the Waiver Policy Advisory Committee to obtain input and recommendations from individuals, family members, and service providers to improve Home and Community-Based Services waiver supports and services would assist the Council in ensuring that the waiver is meeting the needs of individuals with DD. Her experience in implementing the Medicaid Dental Third Party Administrator contract with the Department of Human Services would assist the Council in achieving its 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."

The Council is pleased with Ms. Tawata's nomination to serve on the Council and looks forward to her contributions to assist us to improve access to supports, medical, and dental care services for individuals with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 781** to confirm Leslie Tawata to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,


Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator


J. Curtis Tyler III
Chair

Dr. David Fray

343 Hobron Lane

Honolulu Hawaii

April 7, 2013

This letter is submitted in strong support of the nomination of Ms. Leslie Tawata as the representative for the Department of Human Services on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have known Ms. Tawata for six years. She has served in several positions within State Government that support persons served by the Council. She has direct knowledge of the daily challenges faced by persons with disabilities and the needs of Hawaii's families.

Les brings a wealth of knowledge about Medicaid funding and requirements to support persons with developmental disabilities. Her experience in both the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services give her a unique perspective and ability to resolve difficult challenges to improve community based care for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She possesses the important combination of honesty, integrity and compassion and will be a valued asset to the Council.

Respectfully submitted,

David Fray DDS

Dr. David Fray