



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 9, 2014

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 673 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Shayne Tokita**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 673** to confirm the nomination of Shayne Tokita 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; the agencies 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; agencies and private non-profit organizations concerned with services to individuals with DD. The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership.

Ms. Tokita is the mother of Prestin who was born with special needs. Her appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement of parents represented on the Council. We are fortunate to have Ms. Tokita nominated to serve on the Council to represent families living on Kauai. Her accomplishments as Prestin's mom in supporting her to live at home and advocating on her behalf to receive appropriate family-centered care will serve as a model for other parents who may need supports to keep their son or daughter at home.

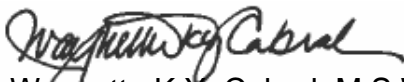
The Honorable Josh Green
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April 9, 2014

Her wealth of knowledge and experience as a parent, speech-language pathologist and program manager at Easter Seals Hawaii on Kauai in the early childhood and intervention field would assist the Council to address its State Plan Goal for Children and Youth (Early Childhood), "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."

The Council welcomes the appointment of Ms. Tokita, and we look forward to her contributions toward the Council's State Plan activities and systems advocacy.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 673** to confirm Shayne Tokita to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.
Executive Administrator



J. Curtis Tyler, III
Chair

April 7, 2014

To: Honorable Senators Josh Green, Chair and Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Re: GM673 Confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee, **Ms. Shayne Tokita**
Date: Hearing Date, April 9, 2014
Room: Conference Room 229
Time: 1:30 pm

It is with great honor and privilege that I provide testimony in STRONG SUPPORT for the confirmation of Ms. Shayne Tokita to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities as the Kauai parent representative.

My name is Norman T. Kawakami and I am currently the Executive Vice President of CHART Rehabilitation of Hawaii, Inc.

I've known Shayne since 1999 in my previous position as Senior Vice President of Operations at Easter Seals Hawaii. I oversaw all program and services statewide for Easter Seals Hawaii and Shayne reported directly to me in her capacity as the Program Manager of the Kauai Early Intervention Program.

Shayne is without doubt one of the most impressive individuals I have been associated with in my entire professional career. She has dedicated her entire life both personally and professionally to the improvement of life for individuals with special needs and their families. Her compassion and caring for this population is limitless and awe-inspiring. Shayne is even more impressive because she combines this unique and dedicated passion with the highest level of accountability, quality, positivity, and excellence in the performance of work-related tasks. She is both a natural born-leader and a consummate team player and has the uncanny ability to take both these roles seriously and professionally. Probably Shayne's greatest attribute is her character and integrity which are both without reproach.

Shayne would be an invaluable member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and will represent her constituents at the highest level of objectivity, professionalism, integrity, and quality.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 523-9043 or at nkawakami-chart@hawaii.rr.com

TESTIMONY
OF
SHAYNE TOKITA
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON
April 9, 2014
G.M. 673

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Developmental Disabilities Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHAYNE TOKITA.

Chair Green and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I wish to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I truly consider it an honor and a privilege to be considered as the Kauai parent representative to the State Developmental Disabilities Council.

I also want to thank everyone who submitted letters of support on my behalf and to everyone here today, supporting me.

Throughout the years, I have been fortunate to know and work with people who have given me knowledge, taught me patience and understanding, and to look at the whole picture, rather than just one piece of the puzzle. My 38 years of work with Easter Seals both in management

and as a speech-language pathologist have been rewarding and given me an insight into the needs of individuals with special needs.

Undoubtedly, the greatest teacher in my life was my daughter, Prestin, who was born with multiple health and developmental challenges in 1982. She was “one in a million,” according to the doctors and I discovered what that really meant, as I navigated the system to secure services for her. “Advocate” became my middle name as health professionals and agencies had never encountered someone with a tracheostomy and gastrostomy, who actually lived at home. She was a happy child, who never realized how much she influenced and defined the system of home care for children like her.

As I work with families in the early intervention system, I see how far the system has evolved in the past 32 years. Still, there is much more that needs to be done to provide individuals with special needs and their families with the support they need as they grow from infant to adult. As a member of the State Developmental Disabilities Council, I hope to share my experiences as “Prestin’s mom.” It is my hope that these experiences will help to refine the system of support currently in place. I also want to help provide advocacy for all individuals with special needs, so they receive the respect, services and supports they need in their own communities.

In closing, I would like to thank this Committee for your dedication and efforts in addressing the needs of the people in the State of Hawaii. Thank you for considering my nomination.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
1:30 PM

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of Gubernatorial Nominees:

Shayne Tokita- GM 673

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Chair Green, Vice-Chair Baker and members of the Senate Committee on Health:

It is my pleasure to submit my support for confirmation of Shayne T. Tokita to serve as a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Ms. Tokita has served diligently and with unwavering commitment to Kauai's families who face daily life challenges of a family member with a developmental disability. As a parent of a child with special needs and as a certified Speech Pathology for almost 40 years, Ms. Tokita served as an advocate, care coordinator and caregiver to insure quality and appropriate level of services to address the needs expressed by many families.

Based on her long professional career providing diagnostic and therapeutic services to infants and toddlers in the early intervention programs, Ms. Tokita's extensive experience and knowledge base will be an added value to deliberations of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. In addition, with program management experience and administrative responsibilities, Ms. Tokita will bring a well balance approach to the mission of the State Council.

Thank you for your time and I ask for your favorable consideration for confirmation of Shayne T. Tokita to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, 14th District
East and North Kaua'i

Kay Nakamura-Lane
4417 Upa Road
Koloa, Hawaii 96756

Date of Hearing: April 9, 2014

Senator Josh Green, Chairperson
Senate Health Committee
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Health Committee:

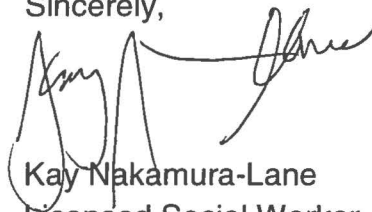
My name is Kay Nakamura-Lane and I wish to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 673. Shayne Tokita would be an excellent choice to the State Council on Developmental Disability.

I have known Shayne for over twenty years. I was her daughter's case manager during a period of time when there were very little services to support children with special needs, particularly the medically fragile child. She did the unheard thing of bringing her daughter with high medical needs home to live on Kauai where resources were nonexistent. Her daughter thrived and touched many of our lives, mainly because Shayne was there to advocate and get things done. She literally had to piece together services to get her needs met. Her grassroots approach paved the way for services that are in existence today.

I also had the opportunity to work alongside her in the capacity of Program Manager and Speech Language Pathologist at Easter Seals. She has provided support and mentored the many people and families who had the pleasure of crossing paths with her.

Shayne would bring a grounded, balanced and caring perspective to the State Council on Developmental Disability and would be a definite asset. I strongly support her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Nakamura-Lane', written over a printed name and title.

Kay Nakamura-Lane
Licensed Social Worker