

GM567

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, EDNA KAAHAAINA, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



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
March 1, 2016

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Kidani and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 567 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Edna Kaahaaina

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 567** to confirm the nomination of Edna Kaahaaina for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L.106-402) is clear in determining the composition of this body to ensure that all the stakeholders are represented and engaged in the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of services and supports for individuals with DD.

The law specifically requires that not less than 60 percent of the membership of the Council be comprised of individuals with DD, parents, immediate relatives or guardians. Additionally, each Council shall include representatives of relevant State entities, including State entities that administer funds provided under Federal laws related to individuals with disabilities, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), and Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et seq. and 1396 et seq.); Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; State Protection and Advocacy system; and representatives, at all times, of local and non-governmental agencies, and private nonprofit groups concerned with services for individuals with DD in the State.

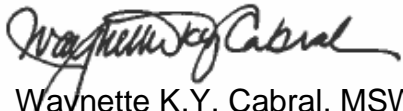
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
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The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. Ms. Kaahaaina's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for parent representatives on the Council. She is a parent of a son with special needs in middle school.

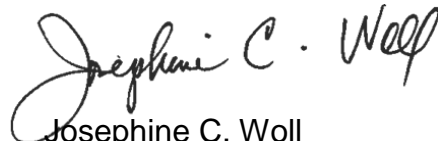
During the past year, she has been involved as a member of the Council's Health and Early Childhood Committee which addresses the State Plan Goal, "Children and youth with special health care needs and their families have access to family-centered community-based integrated interventions and supports providing opportunities to ensure quality of life." Her appointment would assist the Council to address its State Plan Education Goal 1, "Students with intellectual and developmental disabilities have quality education outcomes, including vocational and life skills training," and carry out activities relating to increased access to information on supports needed to prepare students for the transition from middle school to high school, and to adult life.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 567 to confirm the appointment of Edna Kaahaaina to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.**

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator



Josephine C. Woll
Chair



Assistive Technology
Resource Centers of Hawaii

Linking, Educating, Empowering People with Assistive Technology

February 24, 2016
atrc: 2016019

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Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the
Committee:

I am writing to you to express strong support for Governor's
Message 567 for consideration and confirmation of Edna Kaahaaina
to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have known
Ms. Kaahaaina for several years as our Office Manager, prior to that
as the mother of a child with autism who participated in our
programs.

Ms. Kaahaaina and her family are deeply committed to our
community and have much to offer our disabilities community. She
is smart and well liked in the community and keeps abreast of
activities and services available to persons with disabilities. She is
an excellent candidate to serve as a director on the Developmental
Disabilities Council.

Please consider Edna Kaahaaina to be confirmed to the State
Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong
Executive Director

Edna Kaahaaina
Parent
Developmental Disabilities Council Member

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

As a mother of a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities, I am committed to promoting and supporting the Mission and Vision of the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and my son.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

As a “parent” member of the DD Council, I see my roles and responsibilities as:

- a. Carryout the Mission of the DD Council which is “to support people with intellectual and DD to control their own destiny and determine the quality of life they desire.”
- b. Collaborate with agencies to promote and support advocacy.
- c. Represent other parents and families of individuals with developmental disabilities in the DD Council’s work in advocating on behalf of individuals with DD and their families.
- d. Implement the activities of the DD Council’s Five Year (2012 – 2016) State Plan.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

Collectively with the other members, we will review and discuss the State Plan, always keeping in mind of the DD Council’s Mission and Vision. As a member, I will serve as the conscience/monitor of the State when implementing programs and initiatives.

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

My experience in the hospitality industry of over 30 years, I was trained and learned to serve all guests equally, including the internal guests my co-workers. As a human resources manager, I trained employees on the American Disability Act (ADA) to accommodate and serve guests with always kindness and equality, with “aloha”. Also I used the laws and principles of ADA when interviewing

someone for a job or processing an employee's claim for Worker's Compensation or Temporary Disability Insurance.

As an employee of Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii (ATRC), I am more aware of people with disabilities when they come to our office and to be respectful of their needs. Also, the organization's mission is similar to the Council, to link individuals with (assistive) technology so all people can participate in every aspect of community life.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I will join the employment committee and represent parents whose children will be going through the transition phase of their life, advocating for higher education or vocational. To promote partnership with businesses to give people with intellectual and development disabilities employment and post-secondary options.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

Committed, passionate and cheerleader. When I was asked to attend the Health and Early Childhood committee meeting, I was excited. After the first meeting, I was hooked. The opportunities, resources and programs discussed were overwhelming in a good way, such as addressing the Health goal of the DD Council that people with developmental disabilities will have access to quality healthcare.

After each meeting I always feel invigorated and ready to help; understanding system barriers and change them through initiatives.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

One of the Council's committee is Employment. With 25+ years of human resources administration experience I feel, I can contribute by providing information, resources and support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family on transition planning to vocational and/or higher education.

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I don't foresee any conflicts of interest while serving on the board. Should there be any changes in my involvement in other activities, I will inform Waynette to make sure that there will be no conflict of interest.