

# GM685

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council On Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, SARAH AHINA, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

**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 24, 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 685 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Sarah Ahina

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 685** to confirm the nomination of Sarah Ahina for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

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 Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. Mrs. Ahina is an individual with a developmental disability who resides in Waianae. She was first appointed in July 2009 to serve on the Council. She is a

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani  
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graduate of the Council-sponsored Partners in Policymaking (PIP) Leadership Academy. The PIP Academy is an innovative program for individuals with DD and family members of individuals with DD. The program is designed to provide information, training, resources and skills, which promote productive partnerships between people who need and use services and those in position to make policy and law.

She is motivated to become a leader in self-advocacy and mentor other individuals to become their own advocates and to start their own business. She serves as an example of a person who had managed her own business, "Keoni Kanaloa Da Kine Crafts." Her business involved making pillows, blankets, pouches, and various hair and ear ornaments. Due to her visual limitations she is no longer actively involved in making her crafts. However, she continues to motivate others by telling her story, and how she had started and managed her own business.

Mrs. Ahina is one of the founding members of the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Council (SAAC). She was SAAC's past President and currently serves as its Historian. She is active in providing training to other self-advocates about emergency preparedness.

Her reappointment will assist the Council in its activities to promote self-determination and empowerment for individuals with DD to become self-advocates, and increase employment opportunities in the community.

The Council is pleased with Mrs. Ahina's nomination to continue serve on the Council and looks forward to her contributions to improve the quality of life for individuals with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 685** to confirm Sarah Ahina to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator



Josephine C. Woll  
Chair

**HAWAII SELF-ADVOCACY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

One Vision - One Voice

Supporting Advocacy, Independence and Choice

919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113  
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March 17, 2016

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

Dear Senator Baker, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 685 - Gubernatorial Nominee, SARAH AHINA

The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 685**, the confirmation of Sarah Ahina to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Sarah was the past SAAC President. She is very active in the community. She gets along with others. She is a trainer and helps people learn about emergency preparedness. She supports people with disabilities to reach their goals and dreams. She teaches others to speak up for themselves. She is an officer for SAAC as our Historian.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of GM 685**.

Sincerely,



Bathey Fong  
President

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [SAAC96814@gmail.com](mailto:SAAC96814@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM685 on Mar 24, 2016 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 3:54:14 PM

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**GM685**

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for CPH on Mar 24, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan Ahina	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee: I am writing in strong support of GM685, Mrs. Sarah Ahina, my wife. I first met Sarah in 1998 when we both were living in The Arc in Hawaii apartments in Wahiawa. Sarah would always help her neighbors with things like showing them how to shop, cook, use the post office, and speak up for themselves. I was very impressed with her and we started dating. When we wanted to get married and people told us we shouldn't because of our disabilities, Sarah advocated for our rights. We got married and even purchased our own place. She is a very strong woman who I admire and respect. There was a time in our relationship when she felt I wasn't treating her right, she let me know it and we had counseling with our pastor. I am now a better person because of Sarah's support. She is a great role model for our peers and I feel lucky to have her in my life. I look forward to supporting her 4 more years on the DD Council. Mahalo for allowing me to provide testimony in strong support of GM 685, Sarah Ahina. Aloha, Jonathan Ahina

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Response from Sarah Ahina  
GM 685-State Council on Developmental Disabilities

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?  
I want to make a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) in the area of self-advocacy by working side to side with the DD Council.
- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?  
As a self-advocate, I will represent other individuals with DD who are self-advocates in making sure that our voice is heard in planning activities to address self-determination.
- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?  
By calling for help when I cannot help the consumer.
- (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.  
I feel I am qualified to serve on the DD Council through my experiences as a student in special education at Castle High School, my volunteer experience with Easter Seals Hawaii and Abilities Unlimited, and my work experience at Kmart and Lanakila Rehabilitation Center.  
  
Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Council.  
  
I feel I have communication skills to be able to verbalize in advocating on behalf of individuals with DD. I am comfortable in speaking to others about self-advocacy and rights of individuals with DD. I have knowledge with the self-advocacy movement in Hawaii and on the mainland.  
  
I am volunteer for Kahana 'O Keakua United Church of Christ and I am going to Ho'opono school for the Blind to learn job skills. I am sewing baby blankets and pillows to sell.
- (5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?  
I hope to work with the Council in organizing and training self-advocates and family members to interact with policymakers, to be aware of their rights, to know about individual budgets and person-centered planning. I want to help improve the Council and the community.

Sarah Ahina  
GM 685-State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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

1. I consider myself an outspoken person. I am determined to fight for what is right.
2. I am a trustworthy person. People trust me in my words and actions.
3. I am a dedicated person.

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

I started my own business called Keoni Kanaloa Da Kine Crafts. I make pillows, blankets, flowers for the ear, pouches and scrunchies for the hair.

(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?

No, I can't see any conflicts. However, if there is a conflict, I would let the DD Council know and excuse myself from voting on a matter.