

GM714

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council On Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER TOYAMA, 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
April 1, 2016

The Honorable 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 714 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Christopher Toyama

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 714** to confirm the nomination of Christopher Toyama 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 Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani
Page 2
April 1, 2016

The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. Mr. Toyama's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for representatives of individuals with DD. He was first appointed to the Council in July 2012 and is eligible to serve another four-year term.

He is a young man who lives independently in an apartment in Wahiawa operated by The Arc in Hawaii. He works at Costco Waipio as a product demonstrator. His experience in obtaining and maintaining his job would assist the Council in addressing one of its 2012-2016 State Plan objectives that "Individuals with intellectual and DD will have greater opportunities for vocational training, competitive employment, expanded work hours, and increased career options." His accomplishments in living independently and working at a large business firm is evidence that people with DD can live and work in the community.

Mr. Toyama is an enthusiastic individual who would like to help others achieve independence. His ability to articulate his point of view will provide an example for other individuals to speak for themselves. He is a member of the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) and currently serves as the Legislative Liaison in keeping SAAC informed of DD-related measures before the Legislature. He is involved with the Roman Catholic Bishop's Advisory Board for Persons with Disabilities as a Commentator for its monthly Ohana Mass. The Ohana Mass is an adapted liturgy for and with families of sons and daughters with disabilities.

We look forward to Mr. Toyama's continued contributions to the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 714** to confirm Christopher Toyama 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
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 28, 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, Senator Kidani and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 714 - Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER TOYAMA

The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 714**, the confirmation of Christopher Toyama to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for the term to expire 06-30-2020.

Christopher is the SAAC Legislative Liaison. He believes in people with disabilities learning about their rights. He supports them in speaking up for themselves. He is a good leader and teaches other people on how to be a leader. He is very active in his community. He has a job at Costco and is a good example for other SAAC members.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of GM 714**.

Sincerely,



Bathey Fong
President

Response from Christopher Toyama
GM 714-State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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

I want to bring my expertise in independent living and also employment.

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

My role would be to advocate and listen to everybody's side of the story. We also have to learn how to agree to agree, and agree to disagree in matters relating to intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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

I would advocate for others who cannot advocate for themselves.

- (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 believe I'm qualified because I've dealt with issues such as listening to others with IDD and helping them to contact others on how to resolve a problem or fix the problem.

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

I hope to learn better things regarding bills and measures before the Legislature. I hope to bring in new members on the Self-Advocacy Advisory Council and teach others leadership skills.

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

1. I'm able to do research on different topics.
2. I look at issues that's important to me such as adult dental and telehealth.
3. I'm outgoing and a go getter.

Christopher Toyama
GM 714-State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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

I see my expertise as working as a club demonstrator services for Costco Waipio.

- (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 don't foresee any conflict of interest. However, since I live in an apartment operated by the Arc in Hawaii, I would excuse myself from voting on any matters relating to the Arc.