

GM 718

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, JODI ASATO, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: State Rehabilitation Council

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HMS

Introducer(s):

Testimony in support of the confirmation to Gubernatorial nominee, Jodi Asato, to the State Rehabilitation Council

Dear Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland (Chair), Senator Gil Riverre (Vice Chair) and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

I respectfully and strongly urge your confirmation of Ms. Jodi Asato to service on the State Rehabilitation council.

Having delighted at watching this young professional mature over the past two decades, I am certain that she will be an exceptional asset to the Council that makes critical decisions about the vocational opportunities for persons with disabilities in our state. From her position as program manager at the Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC), she would bring cutting edge knowledge about this most vital aspect of support to persons with disabilities who are in the process of preparing for and securing the highest level of employment possible. Equally importantly, Ms. Asato would bring to service on the Council a profound respect for persons with disabilities, a dedication and responsibility to be a contributing council member and personal integrity beyond any reproach.

Please do take favorable action on the nomination of Ms. Jodi Asato for service on the State Rehabilitation Council. She would decidedly bring to that service solid knowledge of assistive technology resources, profound respect for persons with disabilities and a compelling commitment to quality service with consummate integrity.

Thank you for this opportunity to convey my strong support of such a deserving nominee for public service.

Sincerely,

Ann Ito, Director
KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities)
University of Hawaii at Manoa
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March 24, 2016

Ms. Jodi Asato
Deputy Director
Assistive Technology
Resource Centers of Hawaii
200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 430
Honolulu, HI 96817

RE: Support for Nomination for State Rehabilitation Council

I am pleased to support your nomination to the State Rehabilitation Council. You have been an integral part of ATRC's efforts to offer statewide services and I applaud your commitment to improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities by providing services in assistive technology through outreach, demonstration, training and technical assistance to consumers, families, and professionals.

By being on the State Rehabilitation Council I know you will be able to support the Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation with the knowledge and experiences of your work at the Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii and assisting Access to Independence to provide better resources, opportunities and standard of living for persons with disabilities. We appreciate your efforts in promoting and supporting independent living as a core value and employment as one of the key components to independence.

I look forward to our continued collaborative relationship. You will be a valuable asset to the State Rehabilitation Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annette C. Tashiro".

Annette C. Tashiro, M.Ed., CRC
Program Manager

Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong
616 Honua St.
Honolulu, HI 96817
March 24, 2016

Reference/recommendation for Jodi Asato
HMS03-29-16-2

Dear Senator Chun-Oakland and Committee Members:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I write this letter on behalf of Jodi Asato. Mrs. Asato has spent her entire career working on behalf of persons with disabilities. She understands the individual as well as the system in which the person needs to find services and supports. Her employment with the state of Hawaii's Assistive Technology Act Program has kept her up to date on disability needs and solutions.

Mrs. Asato is a problem solver and has the ability to listen to many points of view, which I believe will make her a great asset to the State Rehabilitation Council. She is well known in the disabilities community and respected by her peers.

It is with pride that I recommend you select Mrs. Asato to serve on the State Rehabilitation Council.

Sincerely,



Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong