



State Rehabilitation Council

Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division
601 Kamokila Boulevard, Room 515
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Voice: (808) 692-7715
TTY: (808) 692-7715
FAX: (808) 692-7727

March 31, 2017
THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2017
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Josh Green, Chair Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT FROM RENE BERTHIAUME OF NOMINEES FOR THE
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

I Rene Berthiaume, as a current member of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and Chair of its Legislative Committee, as well as past SRC Chair, I highly recommend the confirmation of George Massengale, Lanelle Yamane and Mark Travalino. In the interest of time for the Human Services Committee I am recommending all three in my testimony.

The State Rehabilitation Council is a federally mandated council, which means in order to receive federal funds for public vocational rehabilitation in Hawaii, which is approximately 80% of VR's budget, it is very important that the state maintains full membership of this Council under 504 of the Federal Rehab Act. Failure to do so can result in the reduction of federal monies. It has become more difficult these days to find dedicated individuals in our community willing to give their time as volunteers and serve on this Council in order to provide free public Vocational Rehabilitation for persons with disabilities in Hawaii.

I have served on the Council with all three of these individuals and have the highest regard for their background, commitment and willingness to serve. Again, I strongly recommend all George, Lanelle and Mark for a seat on the SRC.

Thank you for your consideration and feel free to contact me any time with any questions.

Rene Berthiaume
808-221-4137

