



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 Richards Street, Suite 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 29, 2018

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

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT:** GM 614 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Catherine Sorensen

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 614** to confirm the nomination of Catherine Sorensen for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L.106-402 - DD Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000) 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. Dr. Sorensen's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for a representative of Title V – Maternal Child Health (MCH) of the Social Security Act. Title V is the MCH (MCH) Branch of the Department of Health Family Health Services Division. She is the Maternal and Child Health Branch Coordinator, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program which receives funding from the Administration for Children and Families. The program addresses the needs of special populations, such as racial/ethnic minorities, youth at-risk for homelessness, and children and adults with disabilities.

We look forward to Dr. Sorensen's appointment to serve as the Title V - MCH representative on the Council, and her contributions in helping the Council achieve its State Plan goals for persons with DD and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 614** to confirm Catherine Sorensen to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

**Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT**  
*California Psychologist PSY14443*  
*Hawaii Marriage and Family Therapist 87*

April 6, 2018

The Honorable David Ige  
Governor of Hawaii  
Chambers of Hawaii State Capitol  
State of Hawaii

RE: Recommendation for Dr. Catherine Sorensen for State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Governor Ige:

I am delighted to recommend Dr. Catherine Sorensen to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities as the representative from the State Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Branch.

I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Sorensen in a professional capacity for several years addressing the issues that affect individuals with prenatal exposure to alcohol, their families, and the community. Dr. Sorensen served as the first Statewide Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) coordinator where she expanded awareness and knowledge across the islands about this preventable public health issue. She is an active member of the FASD Action Group that has taken up the charge to bring support and services to all affected by FASDs. Dr. Sorensen brings her skills, energy, and enthusiasm as an evaluator/program specialist to the Group. She conducts herself professionally with a high level of sensitivity and collegiality, supporting a team-approach to meet the goals and activities of the Group. I greatly appreciate her participation in our Group and truly enjoy working with her.

I have no reservations and wholeheartedly support her nomination for this important State Council. Dr. Sorensen's first-hand experience, expertise, and knowledge of persons with disabilities along with her professional training and skills will enhance and support the work of the Statewide Council on Developmental Disabilities. Most of all, she is truly a team player who gets the job done.

Sincerely yours,

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT  
Member, FASD Action Group

P.O. Box 6611, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-9178  
Telephone: (808) 375-5767  
Fax: (808) 239-7164

email: [ayabusaki2@gmail.com](mailto:ayabusaki2@gmail.com)

April 4, 2018

The Honorable David Ige  
Governor of Hawaii Executive  
Chambers of Hawaii State Capitol  
State of Hawaii

Dear Governor Ige,

I am pleased to recommend Catherine Sorensen, Dr.P.H. M.P.H. to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) as the representative from the Department of Health Maternal Child Health Branch that administers funds under Title V of the Social Security Act.

I have been very fortunate to have worked with Dr. Sorensen in a professional capacity for the past ten years. Ms. Sorensen was born and raised in Hawaii and is highly qualified educationally and professionally to serve the State of Hawaii. She is a graduate of Punahou School and achieved a Doctorate of Public Health in community planning from the University of Hawaii.

Ms. Sorensen has a professional interest as well as a personal interest in developmental disabilities. She has worked in several capacities within the Department of Health (DOH) and is currently the Child Abuse and Neglect program coordinator at the Maternal and Child Health Branch. As a colleague, Cathy gives her full time and attention to the affairs of populations that are most at risk for child abuse and neglect, one of which are children with special health needs. She has a plethora of public health leadership, organizational, and federal grant management skills that have been acquired in different capacities within the DOH. In her career with DOH she has done much work in the community that would serve this council well. After work hours she is a caregiver for a young adult with special needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to recommend Cathy Sorensen to the DDC. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [noelkong70@gmail.com](mailto:noelkong70@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Noella J. Kong

# LISA RONQUILLO

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Public Health Analyst

April 9, 2018

Senator Rosalyn Baker,

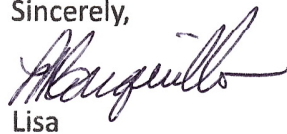
My name is Lisa Ronquillo. I serve as a Public Health Analyst with the Health Resources and Services Administration . I am very happy to support Dr. Catherine Sorensen's nomination to the State Developmental Disability Council.

I came to know Catherine in 2010 when she served as the Hawaii Department of Health, Primary Care Office program manager. In this position, Catherine was responsible for supporting the development and expansion of a statewide comprehensive primary health care system for the medically underserved for Hawaii. This work required that she provide technical assistance to organizations and communities interested in expanding access to primary care. Accomplishing this requires working collaboratively with federal and state agencies creating a team-approach to meeting the project goals and requirements.

Catherine's first-hand expertise and knowledge of persons with disabilities along with her professional skills will support the work of the Statewide Council for Developmental Disabilities.

I am happy to respond to any questions you may have regarding my work with Catherine and her skills. I can be reached at (925) 640-3854 or [Ronquillo320@gmail.com](mailto:Ronquillo320@gmail.com).

Sincerely,



Lisa

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
HEALTH RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION  
FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION  
P.O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

April 9, 2018

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee  
Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 230  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee:

My name is Matthew J. Shim, Chief of the Family Health Services Division (FHSD) at the Health Resources Administration (HRA), Department of Health (DOH). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Governor's Message No. 614 gubernatorial nominee, Dr. Catherine A. Sorensen to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Dr. Sorensen serves as the Coordinator of the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program in the Maternal and Child Health Branch (MCHB) in the FHSD, HRA, DOH, and has been in this position since February 2017. In her current position, Dr. Sorensen leads the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grant providing leadership to assure children live in safe and nurturing families.

Prior to joining the MCHB, Dr. Sorensen served as the Coordinator of the FHSD Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program, and more recently as the Program Manager of the FHSD Primary Care Office from August 2008 through January 2017.

Dr. Sorensen brings critical expertise in research, evaluation, and management of community coalitions to the position. In addition, she brings a strong commitment and dedication, not only to individuals and their families with developmental disabilities, but also to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

I ask for your Committee's favorable consideration to confirm Dr. Sorensen to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Shim, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Chief, Family Health Services Division