



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

**LATE**

April 10, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director  
Maureen Bates, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

SUBJECT: **GM 728 & GM 729— RELATING TO NOMINEE FOR STATE REHABILITATION  
COUNCIL**

Hearing: Friday, April 12, 2019, 2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination of Ms. Helen Sanpei to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Ms. Sanpei is seeking an appointment for her first term on the SRC. She will assume the SRC member role representing the State Workforce Development Council per section 348-8(a)(9), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Ms. Sanpei is the Principal of McKinley School for Adults where she has worked since 2003. Ms. Sanpei, a Waianae High School graduate, began her career in education by giving back to the same community as a counselor and teacher. Ms. Sanpei experience includes serving as a Principal, Vice Principal, and Deputy District Superintendent for various elementary and high schools on Oahu. While working as the Principal for Queen Kaahumanu Elementary, Ms. Sanpei was awarded the National Distinguished Principal award representing Hawaii in Washington D.C. (1993), and achieved the Honolulu District Blue Ribbon School distinction. She has served on various committees, is currently active on the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation (WASC) Chairperson and Committee Member, and she serves as a Hawaii School Leadership Academy Mentor Principal where she is able to impart her wealth of knowledge.

For nearly 50 years, Ms. Sanpei has been involved with the education of Hawaii's students. Her commitment to provide counsel and mentorship will assist the SRC with its guidance to DVR and our common goals of providing education and training opportunities for those with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this committee.

To: Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Date: April 12, 2019, 2:45 pm, Room 016

**RE: GM 728: In Support of the Nomination and Confirmation of HELEN SANPEI to the State Rehabilitation Council**

Dear Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members;

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Helen Sanpei to the State Rehabilitation Council. As the current Chair, I am submitting testimony on behalf of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

The SRC was established in the 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The SRC provides an external, consumer-oriented perspective as it acts in partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) on services that address the employment needs of individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Sanpei has extensive experience as a teacher, school counselor, and school administrator. Currently, Ms. Sanpei is the Principal for the McKinley Community School for Adults. In addition, she is involved in additional professional and community activities.

Based on Ms. Sanpei's experience as an educator and administrator, knowledge of the education system, and desire to serve, we believe that she will be of great value to the State Rehabilitation Council and the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Ku  
Chair, State Rehabilitation Council