

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 732: In Support of the Nomination and Confirmation of ARTHUR CABANILLA 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 Arthur Cabanilla 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.

Mr. Cabanilla is seeking re-appointment to the SRC as a representative for the council as a Current or Former Recipient of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; for an additional term.

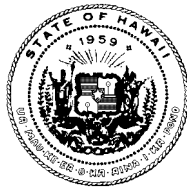
Mr. Cabanilla has been a valuable member of the SRC providing a perspective that only consumers of Vocational Rehabilitation services can provide. In addition, he has substantial professional experience working with individuals with disabilities and extensive knowledge of assistive technology. Mr. Cabanilla is actively involved in the community by serving on other boards and committees that advocate for and support the blind.

We believe that Mr. Cabanilla's experience, knowledge, passion, and desire to serve will continue to be of great value to our consumers, State Rehabilitation Council and the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Michele L. Ku
Chair, State Rehabilitation Council



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



April 11, 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 732 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ARTHUR CABANILLA, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.**

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

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination of Mr. Art Cabanilla to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Mr. Cabanilla is seeking an appointment for his first term on the SRC. He will assume a SRC member role representing a Disability Advocacy Group per section 348-8(a)(6), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Mr. Cabanilla is the founder of Six Sense Solutions where he works as an Access Technology Specialist since 1992. He assists individuals with varying disabilities with instruction on how to use technology, such as low-vision products, computer basics, screen readers, and other devices for the blind.

Mr. Cabanilla gives back to his community by being active in consumer organizations such as the Hawaii Association of the Blind (HAB) where he serves as President. Mr. Cabanilla is also an advisory board member for the Library for the Blind.

His perspective as a former VR recipient, and his valuable skills as an Assistive Technology Specialist, are welcomed when providing counsel to DVR as his knowledge and experience will benefit the blind and visually impaired, and the other populations DVR serves.

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

GM-732

Submitted on: 4/6/2019 5:16:12 PM

Testimony for HMS on 4/12/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Testifying for Oahu County Committee, Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:

The Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats is proud to support the confirmation of Mr. Arthur Cabanilla to the State Rehabilitation Council.

Mr. Cabanilla has served the blind community throughout his career. He is knowledgeable as to the issues surrounding access for people with disabilities, such as through screenreaders, and has insight into the needs of our vulnerable workers. We Democrats wish Mr. Cabanilla success in doing the State's Vocational Rehabilitation duties on the Council.

Please vote in favor of confirming Mr. Cabanilla.

Thank you,
Dylan P. Armstrong, Vice Chair
Oahu County Committee, Oahu County Democrats

April 9, 2019

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Committee on Human Services
State Capitol, Room 016
State of Hawaii
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ARTHUR CABANILLA, for a term to expire 6/30/2021.

Dear Senator Ruderman and Committee Chairs,

I would first like to express how honored I am to serve on the State Rehabilitation Council. I truly believe my participation can bring a unique perspective on behalf of blind and visually impaired people. In my position as President of the Hawaii Association of the Blind, it is a personal as well as a professional responsibility to advocate for the employment of the blind and visually impaired community. As one can surely imagine, many sight-impaired individuals struggle to advocate for themselves due to circumstances and forces beyond their control. Even one person offering physical or emotional support can make all the difference.

In recent years I have served on a number of various boards which represent a diverse group of disabled individuals. These experiences have allowed me to gain a deeper understanding and have grown my respect for the needs of other disabled individuals outside the blind community. For example, I have been privileged to sit on the Consumer Advisory Board for the Library of the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In an advisory capacity, myself and others offered thoughts and suggestions on subjects such as public relations, community outreach, and even the library's remodeling plan.

In closing, I would like to extend gratitude and appreciation for my nomination. Also, should it be confirmed, I give my sincerest assurance I will work diligently with the other council members toward addressing the educational vocational and employment challenges for all disabled individuals of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Art Cabanilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Art Cabanilla
President, Hawaii Association of the Blind

GM-732

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 2:57:23 PM

Testimony for HMS on 4/12/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Tada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

From: [Brandon Young](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: testimony
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:51:57 PM

Dear Sen. Ruderman and other members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Brandon Young and I am a blind person. I am submitting testimony for the nomination of members to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). I am testifying in opposition to the nomination before you of the President of the Kona branch of the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC). If you did not already know, this organization holds and uses certificates of Section 14C of the Fair Labor Standards Act. This section allows organizations to pay people less than the minimum wage. This organization is receiving federal funds and could most certainly pay their employees a decent wage. I would ask you to question this nominee on this practice during the hearing tomorrow. I would also oppose the appointment of Art Cabinalla to this position as well. Art may be a qualified individual for this position, however, he has not been willing to champion the legislative issues that we have had for the past two years in this session. Unless Art is willing to champion the march for ending sub minimum wage payments for the blind and all others with disabilities, then I would recommend you not appoint him for this position.

Thank you for considering my testimony on this matter.

Brandon Young