



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
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May 12, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,  
and Health  
Thirtieth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 599 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Santo Triolo

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 599** to confirm the nomination of Santo Triolo for a term to expire June 30, 2023.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L.106-402) is clear in determining the composition of this body to ensure that all the players involved in the development, implementation, and use of DD supports are represented. 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 Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership.

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Dr. Triolo is a parent of a son with a developmental disability. His appointment to the Council fulfills the Federal requirement of parents serving on the Council. As a parent from Maui, he would represent parents and be the liaison for the Maui DD Committee to keep the Council apprised about the needs, issues, and concerns of individuals with DD and their families in Maui County. In addition to his parent perspective, Dr. Triolo's professional background as a clinical psychologist would be an asset to the Council as it addresses the State Plan Health Goal, "People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have access to physical and mental health and medical and dental care, providing opportunities to ensure and maintain their quality of life and ability to provide their own care."

The Council appreciates the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 599 to confirm the reappointment of Santo Triolo to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.**

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus.  
Executive Administrator

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Dr. Santo Triolo for his request to be re-appointed to the state Council for Developmental Disabilities.

For the past three years Dr. Triolo and I have been colleagues on the E Ola Hou Prevent Suicide Maui County Task Force as well as on the Maui Police Department Crisis Intervention Training planning committee. I can tell you that Dr. Triolo is a passionate and tireless advocate in the mental health community and for folks with development disabilities.

I find Santo's knowledge and expertise to be a huge asset for our committees and our community.

It is for these reasons that I highly recommend him to be appointed to another term on the state Council for Development Disabilities.

Please contact me if I can answer any further questions in regards to Dr. Triolo's ability or integrity.

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Thank you for this opportunity to serve and respond to your questions.

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?

This is my second term serving on the Council. I have found it to be a great working body addressing important issues for this population of disabled individuals. My committee work has focused on early detection and intervention, both needed to avoid complications and needless suffering. On the general Council, I have worked in concert with other members to establish goals for self advocates, proper education, and support systems. We are far from the ideal potential and there is much to do to develop the best conditions for people with developmental disabilities. In short, there is much more work to be done.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?

The general role is to support individuals with developmental disabilities. Specific roles are many and include educating the public and government personnel that inclusion of people with developmental disabilities is to the best interest of our community. Also, I wish to have services and resources in line with the best scientific evidence.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a State Council on Developmental Disabilities member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I am a clinical psychologist with particular expertise in child development, learning disabilities, autism, neurogenic dysfunctions, and family systems. I am also a dad of a 23 year old young man with multiple disabilities. He is autistic, brain damaged, visually impaired, prone to seizures, and has genetic defects placing him at risk for multiple cancers.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I would greatly like to close the huge gap between the research findings and the services provided for this population. Today, what is

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Santo J. Triolo, Ph.D., ABAP

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

presented via science is not practiced in the schools and other programs working with the developmentally disabled.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

First, I greatly value what my son and others like him have taught me. They have provided me with an education not easily found in text books. Second, I have offered my expertise to the rest of the Council and answered questions regarding studies and other scientific findings. Lastly, I just wish to be human and offer myself as a helper, supporter and advocate.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a State Council on Developmental Disabilities member.

Nothing will top the experience of being a parent of a child born with tumors. I have written a book covering this experience entitled: *My first trip around the sun*. It covers my son's first year of life fighting for his life. I hope this experience gives me the empathy and understanding of others traveling similar paths.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not see any conflicts of interest.

Mahalo for your indulgence. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Santo J. Triolo, Ph.D., ABAP

Clinical Psychologist, Certified Forensic Examiner, Diplomate in Assessment Psychology

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