



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
1010 Richards Street, Room 217
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

May 8, 2020

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

FROM: Maureen Bates, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

SUBJECT: **GM 713** - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Annette Tashiro, for a term to expire 06-30-2022

Hearing: Tuesday, May 23, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services, on behalf of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), supports the nomination of Ms. Annette Tashiro to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). The SRC was established by the 1992 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The SRC acts in partnership with the DVR on services that address employment needs of individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Tashiro is seeking appointment to the SRC as a representative for the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC). A representative may be the chairperson or other designee of the SILC as established by section 348-8(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, as required by Title 29 U.S. Code § 725, et seq.

Ms. Tashiro is a retired Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and is familiar with the vocational rehabilitation program and the needs of individuals with disabilities. Ms. Tashiro continues to be an active member of the community as an advocate for Emergency Preparation, Homeless, Aging with Dignity, and Equal Access to community services. Ms. Tashiro's membership would fulfill the composition requirement for a SILC Representative and her vast experience would be an asset to the State Rehabilitation Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of confirmation.