



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

May 12, 2020

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

FROM: Maureen Bates, Administrator
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

SUBJECT: **GM 714 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Arthur Cabanilla, for a term to expire 06-30-2022**

Hearing: Thursday, May 14, 2020, 3:00 pm
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services, on behalf of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), supports the confirmation of Mr. Arthur Cabanilla to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). The SRC was established in 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.

Mr. Cabanilla is seeking appointment to a second term to the SRC as representative for the council for the Disability Advocacy Groups. This group represents a cross section of individuals with physical, cognitive, sensory, and mental disabilities, and parents, family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of individuals with disabilities who have difficulty in representing themselves or are unable due to their disabilities to represent themselves as required by section 348-8(a)(6), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Mr. Cabanilla has been a valuable member to the SRC during his first term providing a personal perspective and lived experience that only an individual with a disability can provide. In addition, Mr. Cabanilla has substantial professional experience working with individuals with disabilities and extensive knowledge of assistive technology to assist individuals with disabilities to have equal access and equal opportunity. Mr. Cabanilla is actively involved in the community by serving as a strong advocate for those who are blind or visually impaired.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.