



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 716** - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Christina Pascua, 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 Ms. Christina Pascua 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.

Ms. Pascua is seeking appointment to a second term to the SRC as representative for the Disability Advocacy Groups representing 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.

Ms. Pascua served on the council for her first term and continued as a holdover in interim status. Ms. Pascua has a Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education and is employed as a Transition Coordinator at Kapolei High School. Ms. Pascua would like to be able to bridge the gap between society and our population of individuals living with a disability by educating the public to help people see beyond the "disability." She also aims to encourage and support those living with disabilities to empower themselves in setting and reaching reasonable goals for their own betterment of overall life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.