



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 718 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Evan Nakatsuka, for a term to expire 06-30-2020**

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. Evan Nakatsuka 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. Nakatsuka is seeking appointment to the SRC as representative for Business, Industry, and Labor per section 348-8(a)(5), Hawaii Revised Statutes, as required by Title 29 U.S. Code §796d.

Mr. Nakatsuka is the Director of Workforce Programs at Lanakila Pacific, a non-profit organization with a mission to build independence for people with cognitive, physical, social or age-related challenges. Mr. Nakatsuka assists individuals with disabilities that aim to become rehabilitated and return to employment. Mr. Nakatsuka's area of expertise is needed on the council to advise DVR on how best to prepare individuals with disabilities entering the workforce to fulfill the demands of employers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.