



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 723 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Roselani Manuwai-Rowe, for a term to expire 06-30-2022**

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

The Department of Human Services, on behalf of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), supports the of confirmation of Ms. Roselani Manuwai-Rowe 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. Rowe is seeking appointment to the SRC as the representative for the Parent Training & Information Center per section 348-8(a)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes. Ms. Rowe is the Executive Director at Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawaii (LDAH) which is a non-profit organization with multiple projects benefitting children with or at risk of disabilities, their families and the professionals who serve them, including the Hawaii Parent Training and Information Center (Hawaii PTI).

Ms. Rowe's efforts enhance educational, work and life opportunities for children and youth with or at risk of disabilities by empowering them and their families through screening, identification, information, training and mentoring, as well as public outreach and advocacy. Ms. Rowe's membership to SRC would fulfill the composition requirement plus her experience and perspective would help shed light on the obstacles and challenges individuals with disabilities face that directly impact employment outcomes in the community for participants of the DVR Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.