

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I want to make my community better and good for everyone.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

To listen to other board members about issues facing people with disabilities.

To speak up and participate in the meetings

To educate myself about issues so I can contribute.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I want everyone to feel protected

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I am a young adult with autism who lives in hawaii and wants to make it better.

I am a hard worker and a good communicator.

I am creative and willing too hare ideas with others.

I am good with computers and can attend meetings virtually.

I like to be part of the group.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to learn a lot about the issues affecting our Hawaii Disability Community.

I hope to meet new friends and expand my support circle.

I hope to make a meaningful contribution.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

Creative

Encouraging

Good with technology

I think these qualities will allow me to help come up with ideas, share them with the group, and help when needed.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

I am a team member of Special Olympics and Best Buddies. I like being a contributing part of the group.

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

No conflicts of interest



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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July 1, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Thirtieth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Chang, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 854 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Renee Manfredi

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 854** to confirm the nomination of Robert “Jack” Whitaker for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L.106-402 - DD Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000) is clear in determining the composition of this body to ensure that all the stakeholders are represented and engaged in the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of services and supports for individuals with DD..

The law specifically requires that not less than 60 percent of the membership of the Council be comprised of individuals with DD, parents, immediate relatives or guardians. Additionally, each Council shall include representatives of relevant State entities, including State entities that administer funds provided under Federal laws related to individuals with disabilities, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.); Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.); Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.); and Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et seq. and 1396 et seq.); Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; State Protection and Advocacy system; and representatives, at all times, of local and non-governmental agencies, and private nonprofit groups concerned with services for individuals with DD in the State.

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
The Honorable Stanley Change
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The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. Mr. Whitaker's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for representatives of individuals with DD. He is involved in numerous community activities such as Special Olympics and volunteers at local hospitals and nursing homes. As a special Olympics Athlete, he is involved in our local developmental disability community, as an athlete and helping raise money for their local teams. Mr. Whitaker is a part of the Best Buddies UH chapter and the Hawaii Autism Foundation.

Mr. Whitaker has a long history of employment. His experience working brings a valuable perspective to the Council. Hawaii has numerous employment goals and strives to be a leader in employing people within the developmental disabilities field. He has successfully navigated the employment field and will help others do so as well.

Mr. Whitaker's appointment to the Council would assist us to achieve our 2017-2021 State Plan goal addressing self-advocacy and self-determination that states, "Self-advocates have the supports needed to build a statewide self-advocacy network that helps individuals have the life they want through leadership, education, and full participation in the community." We look forward to Mr. Whitaker's appointment to the Council and the numerous contributions he will make representing individuals with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 854** to confirm Mr. Whitaker to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

June 24, 2020

Dear CPH Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Robert Jack Whitaker, who has recently been nominated to serve on the DD Council. “Jack” is an energetic and bright young adult with autism. He has an amazing memory and will work hard to achieve a goal. He is smart and a good listener, and he loves to learn more and be a part of solutions. He would be a great addition to DD council.

Mahalo,

Darrell Whitaker

June 24, 2020

Dear CPH Committee,

Please accept this letter on behalf of Robert Jack Whitaker, who has been nominated to serve on the DD Council. Jack is a smart, compassionate, and genuine young man with autism. He is a hard worker and willing participant. He participates in other groups on Oahu, including Special Olympics and Best Buddies. He enjoys being part of a group and will actively listen and participate in sessions. I wholeheartedly support his nomination.

Mahalo,

Paula Whitaker