

To: Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Cathy Betts

Re: GM 503

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

For the last twenty years, I have worked primarily in the areas of violence prevention, law, and policy. I believe that well-made policy can have a deep impact on individuals, families, and the broader community. I deeply believe that economic justice, gender justice, and racial justice are intricately interwoven, and that no oppression can be undone without taking a hard look at the myriad ways individuals, families, and communities are undervalued and marginalized, thereby affecting their social determinants of health, wellbeing, and their ability to thrive.

During my time as deputy, I worked alongside former Director Bhanot on all substantive matters, including budget preparation, legislative reviews, meetings with community stakeholders, review of litigation, on-going re-organizations of the department's staff offices and divisions, and the department's first strategic plan. We drafted our critical mission, vision, and core values and we instilled heart into the work we undertook. I handled various crises daily; the Director's office is a hub of activity and often requires quick analysis of issues and quick execution of decisions. As the only deputy for a large and complex department, my roles and responsibilities changed daily.

I began serving as Director in September of 2020, as we navigated national political unrest and the trauma of surviving a deadly pandemic which has ravaged our public health, economy, and at times, the human spirit. During the last 5 months, I have witnessed our staff working at a relentless pace to quickly serve our residents in need. We have dispersed millions of dollars in funds throughout the state for food assistance, health care coverage, childcare assistance, and more, at a rate that we have never seen within DHS. I credit our staff and employees who come to work every day with a sense of commitment to their community. It is not easy work and it often goes unnoticed.

I have served in my various roles within DHS according to my core values: respect, dignity for others, and a strong work ethic. I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this role and am committed to consistently working towards our residents' self-sufficiency and well-being, so they can access the resources they need to live in safety and dignity. I look forward to continuing my collaborative and consensus-based approach to leading this department and appreciate your favorable consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY  
CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
AND  
ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 503

**February 18, 2021**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Videoconference**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CATHERINE BETTS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

We strongly support the appointment of Catherine Betts to the position of director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our keiki, our kupuna, and the disadvantaged.

Ms. Betts is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Ms. Betts has been serving as the director of the Department of Human Services since September 2020. Prior to that, she served as deputy director for the department since October 2017. She previously served as executive director for the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and deputy attorney general with the State's Department of the Attorney General. Her work experience and knowledge of DHS will benefit the department and the State; therefore, we support her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

ANDREW T. GARRETT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

February 10, 2021

TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
For Hearing on Thursday, February 18, 2021  
3 p.m., State Capitol, Room 225

By

RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

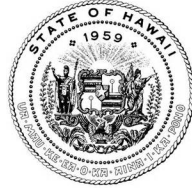
**Governor's Message 503: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE A. BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Catherine A. Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Betts on a multitude of matters since she was initially appointed as the deputy director of the department in 2017.

Director Betts is a dedicated, knowledgeable and compassionate public servant who is well suited to assist the administration is getting us through the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Bett's background and extensive experience in both the public and private sectors will be a great asset as she leads DHS during these trying times. Her commitment to strengthening the social safety net for Hawaii residents is unquestioned.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 503 and Catherine A. Betts. We humbly request your favorable consideration.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony of  
David Y. Ige  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**  
Thursday, February 18, 2021  
3:00PM, Room 225

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message 503**

Submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Director, Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Betts

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and committee members:

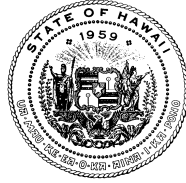
I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Catherine Betts, as the director of the Department of Human Services, a position she has held since September of 2020.

Catherine Betts has worked in the Department of Human Services since 2011. Before taking on her current role she served as Deputy Director. She worked closely with the Social Services Division, Child Welfare Services Branch to maximize federal funding for the division while increasing staff training, morale and retention. Prior to that she served as Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women where she spent six years spearheading progressive legislation for women and advocating on behalf of victims of gender-based violence.

Before her time in the department Ms. Betts practiced law in a variety of contexts most notably as Deputy Attorney General where she represented the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch. She has her Juris Doctorate from the University of Hawai'i and is licensed to practice law in the state of Hawai'i and US District Court.

My administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I am confident that Catherine Betts will continue to support our employees in the Department of Human Services in this effort. Moving forward together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY  
ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM503**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Director Of The Department Of**  
**Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at**  
**noon on 12-05-2022.**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 18, 2021

Room Number: Online

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports the confirmation of Ms.  
3 Betts for Director of the Hawaii Department of Human Services.

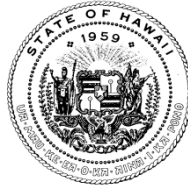
4 Ms. Betts' professional accomplishments are numerous, and include extensive family advocacy  
5 and support for vulnerable and victimized persons. As an administrator and senior leader in the  
6 executive branch, she has demonstrated care and consideration to her workforce through various  
7 morale-building initiatives, including continuity of the 'Ohana Nui concept. Through a  
8 combination of personality and professionalism, Cathy has helped solidify a close working  
9 relationship between DHS and DOH, on which we look to build for a better post-pandemic  
10 Hawaii.

11 As the Director of Health, I respectfully urge the swift and unanimous confirmation of Ms. Betts.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

13 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

14



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN  
DEREK J. CHOW  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 18, 2021  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**G.M. 503**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Senate Committee on Human Services

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). Ms. Betts earned her BA from the University of California, Los Angeles and her JD from the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law.

Ms. Betts has served as Deputy Director at DHS since Oct. 2017, assisting the Director and managing and overseeing operations. She previously served as executive director for the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Deputy Attorney General with the State of Hawaii, Law Clerk in the First Circuit Court, a Community Outreach Coordinator for The Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children; and as an attorney in private practice.

The DOT appreciates its partnership with DHS in addressing homelessness and believes Ms. Betts has the compassion and drive to keep Hawaii's people and their families healthy and safe with opportunities to thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2021  
3:00 P.M.  
VIDEOCONFERENCE & CONFERENCE ROOM 225**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 503**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022

Chairperson San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

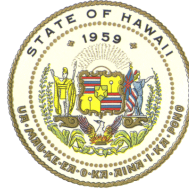
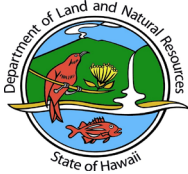
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 503, consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Ms. Betts' extensive record of public service, whether as an deputy attorney general, as the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, or as Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services, has consistently demonstrated a dedication to supporting and advocating for the well-being of keiki, individuals, families, and communities in Hawaii. Her commitment to serving the people of Hawaii, especially the underprivileged, make her an outstanding choice to head the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**Thursday, February 18, 2021  
3:00PM  
State Capitol, Videoconference, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE  
CATHY BETTS  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports Governor's Message 503 nominating Cathy Betts to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services for a term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022.**

Ms. Betts earned a B.A. in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She went on to earn a J.D. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, William S. Richardson School of Law.

Prior to coming aboard at the Department of Human Services, Mr. Betts practiced law in both the private sector and government. She also served as the Executive Director for the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. In 2017, she was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services. She has, since last September, been serving in the capacity of interim Director of the Department of Human Services.

Her legal background, administrative experience, and extensive knowledge of the Department of Human Services makes her an excellent choice to continue on as the Director of the Department of Human Services. The Department of Land and Natural Resources looks forward to working with Ms. Betts and her Department on solutions related to the homeless.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's strong support of Governor's Message 503, nominating Cathy Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.  
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540  
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

ISAAC W. CHOY  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair;  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair;  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director  
Department of Taxation

Date: February 18, 2021  
Time: 3:00 P.M.  
Place: Via Videoconference, Hawaii State Capitol

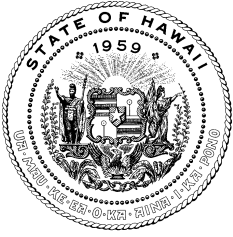
**Re: G.M. 503, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation Director of the  
Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Betts**

I am in strong support of G.M. 507 and the confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Prior to being appointed as the Director of the DHS in September of 2020, Ms. Betts served as the Deputy Director of DHS since October of 2017. She has extensive experience in the field of welfare and civil rights law, policy, and administration, including serving as a Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division focusing on Child Abuse and Neglect and the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

I believe that Ms. Bett's experience, work ethic, and strong desire to serve the underprivileged will make her an excellent candidate for the position of Director of the DHS.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of Catherine Betts as Director of the DHS.



# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5<sup>TH</sup> Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 | energy.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Testimony of  
**SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer**

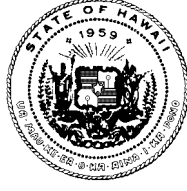
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**  
Thursday, February 18, 2021, 3:00 PM  
Via Videoconference

In SUPPORT of  
**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503, CATHERINE BETTS**  
As Director, Department of Human Services  
**(Written Testimony Only)**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of the appointment of Ms. Catherine Betts to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Betts has admirably led the Department as the acting Director, especially through the COVID emergency, and prior to that as the Deputy Director. Her passion and prior experience in advocacy for our most vulnerable community members ground her commitment to excellence in leading the Department. The Department of Human Services implements the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LiHEAP) program, which helps low-income families with utility payments, a critical need at this time and an invaluable program for Hawaii's clean energy transition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of  
Women**

Support for GM503  
February 16, 2021

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Honorable Members,

I write to express strong support for the confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Director Betts is an ideal candidate and brings an extensive record advancing the economic security and social rights of marginalized communities in Hawai‘i. She successfully rebuilt the Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women for over half a decade as its executive director. In this role, she was instrumental in passing landmark legislation that greatly advanced the safety of women and girls on Hawai‘i campuses, the rights of domestic violence and sexual assault victims, and access to emergency contraception for rape victims. She also led the charge for paid family leave to reduce poverty and the gender wage gap for women.

Director Betts also brings a demonstrated record of partnerships at the community, state, and federal levels. She worked closely with the U.S. Department of Labor to secure a significant federal grant which led to the publication of foundational research that continues to guide the state on paid family leave policy. In addition, one of Director Bett’s greatest assets is her unrivaled knowledge of internal processes, policies, and practices across state government. She has been an invaluable resource to our staff in successfully navigate and problem solve within government systems.

Finally, the best description of Director Bett’s overall qualifications is that she is a role model public servant. Her dedication to sharing power and uplifting the most vulnerable people is widely admired by the Filipino community, women’s rights community, and those who have had the privilege of working alongside her. Accordingly, the I ask that the Committee confirm Catherine Betts.

Sincerely,

Khara Jabola-Carolus



**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 11:08:30 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Scott Nakasone	Testifying for DHS/Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division	Support	No

Comments:

This testimony is in strong support of Cathy Betts as the Director of Human Services.

Since Cathy's appointment as a Deputy Director, to now a nominee for the Director's appointment, she has never wavered in her passion to make a positive difference and to look for better ways to get things done. Her public calm demeanor should not be confused for someone who has a fiery passion to do what's right with a balance of what makes sense for those that receive services, those tasked with the delivery of services, and the community as a whole.

Her understanding of the Department pre-COVID, her experience and knowledge of helping the Department navigate through the height of COVID, and her vision for the Department as we plan towards moving post-COVID makes her the logical choice for the appointment of Director of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to support this nomination.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA  
MAJOR GENERAL  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
COLONEL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503,  
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CATHERINE BETTS

PRESENTATION TO  
THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services,

I respectfully submit testimony in SUPPORT of Governor's Message 503, relating to the Gubernatorial Nomination of Catherine Betts for the Director of the Department of Human Services.

I have worked with Ms. Betts as a peer on the Governor's cabinet and have a deep respect for her leadership and expertise. She has broad experience in the human services arena, and brings a wholistic perspective having worked extensively in both the public and private sectors. Ms. Betts is a seasoned leader and someone I believe is trustworthy and committed. I would be honored to continue service with her and am confident she will be one of the beacons to help guide and lead our state in this time of crisis.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

MG Kenneth S. Hara: kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1211

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO  
DIRECTOR

JOANN A. VIDINHAR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

February 18, 2021

To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair,  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Via Videoconference

From: Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. No. 503 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director  
of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
CATHERINE BETTS**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

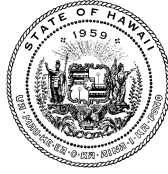
My name is Anne E. Perreira-Eustaquio, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in strong support of Governor's Message 503, Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Betts, as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Betts has demonstrated that she has the leadership and experience to lead the DHS. As the Director, Ms. Betts works to ensure that timely, efficient, and effective programs, services, and benefits are provided to our State's most vulnerable. Before serving as the Director, Ms. Betts was the Executive Director for the Commission on the Status of Women where she spearheaded legislative that strengthened women's rights, including equal pay and gender equality in the workplace. In addition, Ms. Betts' legal background and experience as a Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division, where she represented the DHS in child abuse and neglect cases, demonstrate her ability to lead and counsel on very sensitive matters, understand complex administrative rules, and advocate for those in need of support.

I urge you to confirm Ms. Betts to serve as the Director of the DHS so that she may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Betts.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO  
COMPTROLLER  
  
AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**  
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY  
OF  
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021, 3:00 PM  
VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 503

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 503.

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, **CATHERINE BETTS**, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-22

Testifying in **SUPPORT** of GM 503 for Catherine A. Betts, Esq. I've known Ms. Betts for about 5 years, especially in her previous role as Deputy Director for the Department of Human Services. She is very cooperative, has a lot of experience in this field and with her law work experience, would be an excellent choice for the directorship of the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY  
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 17907  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

Statement of  
**Hakim Ouansafi**  
Hawaii Public Housing Authority  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**Thursday, February 18, 2021**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of  
**GM 503**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CATHERINE BETTS,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 503, to consider and confirm Ms. Catherine Betts to the position of Director of the Department of Human Services.

Since becoming the interim Director for the Department of Human Services (DHS), Ms. Betts has provided leadership, support, and care to the State's often overlooked and under-served populations.

Ms. Betts has many years of experience serving in the Human Services arena as a sex abuse community outreach and educator, Deputy Attorney General, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Deputy Director of DHS, and acting Director of DHS. Ms. Betts uses this experience to work with her staff to provide hope and a better quality of life.

I am honored to be working alongside with her on a broad spectrum of HPHA issues, and know that she has and will continue to bring a fresh perspective on how to deliver department services, improve the experience of those we serve, and strive to efficiently and effectively maximize taxpayer dollars to serve those in our community who rely on the critical services that DHS provides.

The HPHA urges the Committee to pass GM 503 and confirm Ms. Betts to the position of Director of Human Services.

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 10:27:09 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
HPHA - Barbara Arashiro	Testifying for Hawaii Public Housing Authority	Support	No

Comments:

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**Thursday, February 18, 2021**

**3:00 PM**

**Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol**

In consideration of

**GM 503**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CATHERINE BETTS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022**

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 503, to consider and confirm Ms. Catherine Betts to the position of Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Since taking over in September 2020, Ms. Betts has proven to be knowledgeable, experienced, and dedicated. With over a decade of experience working within DHS, Ms. Betts has both an extensive understanding of all programs being implemented by

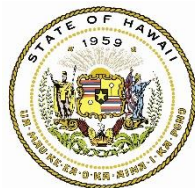
the department and its attached agencies and knows how to work within the legislative system to effectuate comprehensive legislation and departmental appropriations.

As the Executive Assistant of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), I have worked closely with Ms. Betts to assist the over 40,000 families and individuals that DHS and HPHA serve. Ms. Betts is a woman of great integrity, knowledge, high moral character, care and vision. Her open and honest nature and approach to confronting, and ultimately solving issues, has proven to be most effective when working with diverse personalities and achieving goals.

Please pass GM 503 and confirm Ms. Betts to the position of Director of Human Services.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS  
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-8630 Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

February 18, 2021

To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

From: Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director  
Hawaii Workforce Development Council

**Re: GM 503 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Betts, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services.

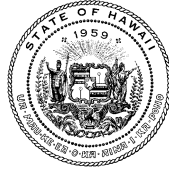
The Hawaii Workforce Development Council (WDC) administers the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is a core partner of the program. The department and WDC works closely to ensure education and training services are available to those with barriers to employment.

I have known Ms. Betts for over 15 years in her various capacities. We both are former Executive Directors of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. Ms. Betts has strong leadership skills, legal training, experience developing programs and working well with a cross-section of individuals and communities with compassion.

As DHS' Deputy Director for nearly three years and Director since September, Ms. Betts comes prepared to lead the department with vision and the tenacity needed to move the organization forward through the impact of the pandemic and economic challenges. She will continue to do a good job.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support. I urge your Committee to confirm Ms. Betts as DHS Director.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO  
COMPTROLLER  
AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

FEBRUARY 18, 2021, 3:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225 & VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 503  
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DIRECTOR OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
CATHERINE BETTS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 503. I support the nomination of Ms. Catherine Betts to the position of Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Ms. Betts has led the DHS as Director since September 2020 and Deputy Director since October 2017. She has also served as the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women since 2011. In addition, prior to becoming a public servant, Ms. Betts has worked as an attorney in the private sector.

Ms. Betts has a proven track record of leadership within State government. She has been a pleasure to work with these past two years and I believe she will leverage her leadership skills and legal experience to improve DHS and serve the community as the Department's director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**MAX N. OTANI**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Tommy Johnson**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Jordan Lowe**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 503  
CONFIRMATION AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CATHERINE BETTS.

By: Max Otani, Director

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

February 18, 2021; 3:00pm  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225  
Via Videoconference

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully request your support in forwarding to the full Senate the nomination of Catherine Betts to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). Ms. Betts has served in leadership positions at DHS since 2017, culminating in her appointment as Director in September 2020.

A graduate of the Richardson School of Law, University of Hawaii at Manoa, she has demonstrated her dedication as a public servant who is passionate about addressing the needs of the abused, neglected, and less fortunate citizens of our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [dbedt.hawaii.gov](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

Thursday, February 18, 2021  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
**GM 503**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-5-2022.**

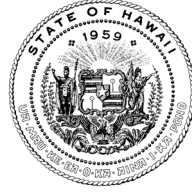
Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee.

I am writing in **support** of Catherine Betts, to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Catherine has been with DHS as the Director since Fall 2020 and as the Deputy Director three years prior. In these roles she led a department of over 1,900 employees with a budget of \$3.6 billion while overseeing operations, policy, budget, and legislative matters. Cathy's other previous experiences as the Executive Director of Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, as an attorney in private practice and with the State Attorney General's office, demonstrates that she is well positioned to lead such an important and socially impactful department, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I strongly support the confirmation of gubernatorial candidate, Catherine Betts, as the Director of the Dept. of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. BOX 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the Senate Committee on Human Services  
Thursday, February 18, 2021  
3:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference**

On **Governor's Message No. 503**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the **Director of the Department of Human Services**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Catherine Betts**, for a Term to Expire on December 5, 2022.

Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Catherine Betts to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

For more than three years, I have had the opportunity to work with and closely observe Ms. Betts, as she served as the deputy director and director for the Department of Human Services. Ms. Betts is a skillful advocate and a collaborative, thoughtful, and tireless public servant. Ms. Betts has demonstrated she possesses the competence, tenacity, temperament, and aptitude needed to lead the Department of Human Services and to maintain and improve Hawaii's programs and services that serve as safety nets for our most vulnerable residents.

Ms. Betts will continue to be a valued and highly productive member of Governor Ige's cabinet, and I respectfully request that you recommend approval of her nomination as Director of the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM No. 503. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.



**LATE**

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 4:43:50 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Donohoe	Testifying for DHS / Benefit Employment & Support Services Division	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the Benefit, Employment & Support Services Division, I proudly support the appointment of Ms. Catherine Betts to the position of Director, Department of Human Services.

Ms. Betts has served the Department with distinction as Deputy under Director Bhanot, and continues to lead the Department with focus, purpose, and dedication.

Ms. Betts is an individual of high integrity, providing the Department and Divisions solid leadership, experience, knowledge of our many programs. Further, she cares deeply for our staff and recipient families.

Please join BESSD in supporting Ms. Catherine Betts appointment as DHS Director.

Respectfully,

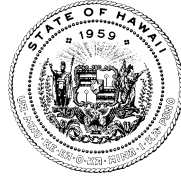
Brian Donohoe

Administrator

BESSD

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 18, 2021 AT 3:00PM IN CR 225

IN SUPPORT OF

**GM503**

for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the  
Department of Human Services,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, **CATHERINE BETTS**,  
for a term to expire 12-05-2022

February 18, 2021

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee:

We provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Betts served as the Deputy Director to the Department of Human Services, working closely with former Director Bhanot to manage and oversee all operations, including policy and budget decisions. She worked to improve staff morale and retention, increased staff training, expanded communication with the Judiciary and community partners, and emphasizes the need to maximize federal funding mechanisms for the Social Services Division.

During her time as Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Ms. Betts led legislative campaigns to reform police response to domestic violence, Title IX reform at the University of Hawaii, a bill of rights for domestic workers, strengthening the equal pay statute, as well as paid family and medical leave for workers. She has worked in both the Department of Attorney General and in private practice.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**LATE**



Testimony on behalf of the  
**Hawai'i State Youth Commission**

IN SUPPORT OF GM503

February 18, 2021

To: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Iles Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Human Services

From: Kawika Pegram, Legislative Lead  
Lauren Yamaguchi, Chair  
Karen Abe, Communications Lead  
And Commissioners of the Hawai'i State Youth Commission

Established within the Department of Human Services, the Hawai'i State Youth Commission fully supports and advocates for the placement of Catherine Betts to the Directorship position of the Department of Human Services. An accomplished attorney and a fierce champion of rights, Betts has a history of leading from the ground up with a focus on justice and equality. Her work on women's issues at the Commission on the Status of Women shows her commitment to social justice and a willingness to hear all sides with a vision for the future - including young people.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Department of Human Services and its proven leader, Catherine Betts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,  
The Hawai'i State Youth Commission



TO: Chair San Buenaventura  
Co-Chair Ihara  
Members of the Committee

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.  
Chief Executive Officer

RE: GM 503  
Catherine Betts, Director  
Department of Human Services

It is with unqualified adoration and appreciation that I submit this testimony in support of Ms. Cathy Betts for confirmation as Director of the Department of Human Services. I cannot think of another person perfectly suited, at this moment, to lead a department of such significance.

Her experience, compassion, wise analysis, sharp sensibility and leadership are in desperate need. Cathy has been a community spokesperson, a community facilitator, a community ally, a community leader, a policy advocate, and a good listener. She is innovative, grounded, smart and measured.

I need not say more. Please confirm Cathy Betts to the position of Director of Human Services. Thank you.

*Pearls of Hope in a Sea of Change*



February 18, 2021

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: GM 503 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of GM 503, the confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Ms. Betts has extensive experience serving the people of Hawaii in both the public and private sectors. In addition to currently serving as the interim Director since September 2020, Ms. Betts has served as the Deputy Director within DHS since 2017. She has also led the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and supported reform and progress which includes the passage of the Compassionate Care Act. In addition to holding several positions within the private sector, Ms. Betts has also received honors from the Hawaii State Legislature, the National Association of Commissions for Women, and the YWCA of Hawaii.

We believe that Ms. Betts's extensive experience coupled with a juris doctorate from the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law as well as a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Los Angeles qualifies her for this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 503. Your consideration for the confirmation of Ms. Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Diesman  
Senior Vice President, Government



15 February 2021

Senator Joy San Buenaventura  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Regarding: GM 503: Nomination of Catherine Betts for Director of the Department of Human Services

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

I am Gary Simon, President of the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition (HFCC).

I am testifying as an individual who has worked in healthcare for over thirty years, and I am offering testimony on behalf of HFCC.

***HFCC strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.***

Ms. Betts is an expert in the fields of human services administration and human services, including implementing policies and programs which promote the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Hawai'i.

Hawaii will benefit greatly from her continued leadership at the Department of Human Services.

We urge you to support her nomination and confirmation, and we thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With warmest aloha and mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Simon".

Gary Simon  
President  
Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition  
2630 Oahu Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Email [gsimon@aarp.org](mailto:gsimon@aarp.org)

## **GM503 Director of DHS: Catherine Betts**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES:

- Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, Chair; Sen. Les Ihara, Vice Chair
- Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2021: 3:00 pm
- Videoconference



### **Hina Mauka Highly Recommends Catherine Betts as DHS Director:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current CEO of Hina Mauka, a non-profit Treatment and Prevention agency for substance use disorders, mental health disorders and other behavioral health conditions providing treatment for over 2,500 patients a year and providing prevention to thousands of youth and families each year.*

HSAC is most appreciative that Ms. Betts presents candid discussions to explain her vision in a way that providers can understand and that Catherine Betts listens to providers with an intent to consider creative ideas, if possible. A collaborative mind brings us together.

We fully support Catherine Betts nomination as Director of DHS.

*Aloha, Alan Johnson, President and CEO, Hina Mauka*



# Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Senator San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Ihara, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: GM 503, Consideration and Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services  
3:00 PM February 18, 2021

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and committee members,

The Hawai'i Children's Action Network thanks you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the nomination of Cathy Betts to the position of Director for the Department of Human Services.

Director Betts' entire career has been focused on public service. From her time in the Attorney General's office representing families to her role as the Executive Director at the Commission on the Status of Women, Director Betts has consistently worked to ensure children and families have their best chance to thrive. Her previous experience working in the field has given her an understanding of the state's safety net programs and how they impact the lives of people.

There is an unprecedented openness and willingness to work together in the Director's office. Director Betts has repeatedly made herself or key members of her staff available to assist community organizations since the pandemic. She has kept the focus on ensuring families have their needs met and are safe. An example of this is how our state has maintained federal waivers for our child care subsidy. Child care is the backbone of our economy and the federal waivers will ensure that our child care sector is sustained. Director Betts understands we will not see our workforce or economy return if parents do not have safe places for their children to be cared for. She is able to see both the "big picture" and the impacts at the personal level and understands the interconnectedness of the two. And we are excited that the Department is led by someone with a personal experience in child care. As the mother to two young children, Director Betts understands the challenges working parents face and the complexity of the child care system.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have seen an increase in usage across all of the safety net programs. For some families in our community, DHS is the lynchpin keeping them from falling through the cracks. The Department is currently serving more people through benefits programs than they did during and after the Great Recession. Director Betts has been a leader in DHS since becoming the Deputy Director in 2017. Her knowledge of the programs, federal requirements, state requirements, limitations of programs and areas for opportunity and collaboration will be instrumental to building back post-pandemic. We have greatly enjoyed working with her and look forward to doing so in the future.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



# TESTIMONY

Harm Reduction Hawaii  
c/o 1658 Liholiho St #205  
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: GM503 to be heard on Thursday February 18, at 3PM in conference room 225

## Comments Only

To the Senate Committee on Human Services

I want to stress the importance of the working relationships between DHS and various local NGO's that work in the social service area. Both Ms. Betts as director and the legislature should understand that issues that undermine this important collaboration among service providers should not be swept under the rug.

Very Truly Yours;



Tracy Ryan  
Executive Director, Harm Reduction Hawaii



**February 18, 2021 at 3:00 pm**  
**Via Videoconference**

**Senate Committee on Human Services**

To: Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr.

From: Hilton Raethel  
President and CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**GM 503, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the**  
**Department of Human Services, Catherine Betts**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities, and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** the nomination of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services. We have appreciated Ms. Betts' commitment to helping the most underserved in our community, her openness to meeting with members of the community, and her willingness to engage in difficult conversations and make changes if they are appropriate. She has a deep, public service-driven ethic that she clearly applies to her role as leader of the department that is encouraging.

The state is in a very difficult budget situation, and DHS has a unique role in helping those who have been most affected by the pandemic and other social issues that cause hardship. She has proven to be an effective leader throughout 2020 and we've appreciated her commitment to programs like the hospital and nursing facility sustainability programs to support both providers and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony for this nomination and we would urge your committee to approve Ms. Bett's confirmation.

THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 18, 2021  
TIME: 3:00PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 503**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

As the Director of Public and Legislative Affairs in the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, I, Elena Cabatu, submit my testimony in strong support of Catherine Betts and her nomination as the Director of the Department of Human Services, GM 503.

I have known Ms. Betts since 2011 when she served as the Executive Director of the State Commission on the Status of Women and I served as the Hawaii Island representative on the commission. Over the last 10 years, she and I have supported each other in the growth and development of our careers, especially in our shared focus on the health and safety of Hawaii's families, women, and children.

Prior to the Commission, Ms. Betts began her career fighting the good fight for people who need a champion in their corner. Over the years, her work on preventing violence, abuse and neglect in Hawaii has positively impacted so many families throughout our state. The Department of Human Services would be well served to have Ms. Betts confirmed as its Director. Her body of work as a women's and children's rights attorney, Executive Director of the State Commission on the Status of Women, and most recently, as the Deputy Director of DHS has prepared her to step up as the Director.

Please confirm Ms. Betts' nomination. Hawaii's people will thrive under her leadership!



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Human Services  
Thursday, February 18, 2021; 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: GM0503 -- SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CATHERINE BETTS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.**

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Hirokawa and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA), a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** the confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of Human Services.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

The HPCA has long held that the social determinants of health -- more than any other factor -- contribute to the overall wellbeing of our people. Persons who experience homelessness, language barriers, and poverty are more likely to suffer persistent, chronic health issues and have shorter life expectancies than those who do not.

We believe that Ms. Betts's impeccable credentials, steadfast dedication and tireless commitment to furthering the health and wellbeing for all of Hawaii's communities make her uniquely qualified for the position of Director of Human Services. As demonstrated throughout her career, Ms. Betts fully understands the importance of socio-economic equity in the pursuit of optimal health outcomes for all our citizens.

**For these reasons, the HPCA urges your confirmation of the nomination of Ms. Catherine Betts for the position of Director of Human Services.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

February 17, 2021

TO: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Christy MacPherson, Director, PHOCUSED

SUBJECT: Testimony: Consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Betts.

Hearing: February 18, 2021 at 3:00 pm  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong SUPPORT of the confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

PHOCUSED is a nonpartisan project of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice and comprises health and human service organizations and the people they serve across the State of Hawai'i. We have been collaborating on advocacy pertaining to critical procurement and service delivery issues that directly impact our providers.

Over the course of this pandemic, PHOCUSED service providers have met with Ms. Betts on several occasions, first when she was the Deputy Director of DHS and recently as the Director. Our experience is that she has been more than willing to meet and openly discuss safety net and funding concerns that our providers have. She includes her deputies in these meetings and they are always prepared to respond to questions specific to their departments and contracts.

Our providers support the confirmation of Catherine Betts because they feel that she is a strong and skilled leader who is open, honest, collaborative and sensitive to the needs of their organizations as they serve their clients and consumers every day. She is a valued partner and we hope to continue to be able to work with her in her capacity as Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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733 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1180 • HONOLULU, HI 96813 • (808) 587-7605 • PHOCUSED.ORG



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i

To: Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Human Services  
Hearing Date/Time: Thurs., Feb. 18, 2021, 3:00 pm  
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 225  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i in strong support of Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services

Dear Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i ("PPVNH") writes in strong support of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

PPVNH has been fortunate to work with Director Betts for over 10 years – first while she served as Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and co-chair of the Hawaii Women's Coalition, then as DHS Deputy Director and now Director. We count her as a trusted partner as well as a strong voice for both the state and the people of Hawai'i. Her passion and dedication to serving the needs of the community cannot be overstated. We look forward to continuing to work with DHS to protect and promote the health and human service needs of the state with Director Betts at the helm.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this nomination.

Sincerely,

Laurie Field  
Hawai'i State Director  
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawai'i



**TO:** Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

**DATE/LOCATION:** Thursday, February 18, 2021; 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 225/Video Conference

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 503 CATHY BETTS FOR CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**We support Cathy Betts, gubernatorial nominee, for the position of Director of the Department of Human Services.** Cathy is an experienced attorney, advocate and leader who is highly qualified to serve our State as the Director of the Department of Human Services. She served previously as the Deputy Director of the Department for the previous three years and also notably shepherded through several policy successes during her tenure leading the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women prior to that.

Cathy is a champion for the children and families of Hawaii and has consistently fought to protect, preserve and uplift the rights of our residents. Her exceptional career as an attorney, advocate, and leader has garnered her a great deal of respect from peers and the community alike. She is a leader who wants the best for our community, collaborates to achieve the most effective outcomes and understands the complexities of managing a large state department. She leads with honesty, integrity, clarity and a sincere mission of serving Hawaii. We are confident that Cathy will work with all constituents to ensure the best for the Department and the many children and families of Hawaii.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of GM 503**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



February 17, 2021

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

**RE: Confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS**

**Hearing: Thursday, February 18, 2021, 3:00 pm, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

Hawaii Women Lawyers (HWL) submits testimony in **support** of the confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services (“**DHS**”), for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

HWL is a nonprofit organization comprised of approximately 300 members. HWL’s mission includes improving the status of women in the legal profession, increasing the number of women attorneys in positions of authority and responsibility, and promoting the advancement of all women.

HWL believes that increasing opportunities for, and improving the visibility of, qualified women in leadership positions is extremely important. Leadership positions throughout our State should be adequately balanced and reflect the composition of Hawaii’s citizens.

Among other accomplishments, Ms. Betts served for many years on the HWL Board of Directors and as the Executive Director for the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. She has been an effective advocate on a variety of women’s issues throughout her career. Ms. Betts is extremely qualified to serve as DHS Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this confirmation.





ALOHACARE

To: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chair  
Committee on Human Services

Hrg: February 18, 2021 at 3:00pm, Room 225/Zoom

From: Francoise Culley-Trotman, Chief Executive Officer

RE: **In consideration of GM 503, Cathy Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services**

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AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony to strongly support the confirmation of Cathy Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS), for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

Founded in 1994, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving 73,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating access to quality health care for all. We believe that health is about supporting whole-person care, including access to housing and food security, to build a stronger, healthier Hawai'i.

Ms. Betts has a long history of advocating for women and children, previously serving as the executive director for the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and the Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General. Ms. Betts has been serving as the director of DHS since September 2020, and as Deputy Director since October 2017, leading the agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and working closely with community-based organizations and providers to rapidly address the needs of Hawaii's most medically and socially vulnerable populations.

In these extraordinary times, we believe that Ms. Betts has demonstrated the leadership, compassion, and commitment to lift up the medical and social needs of our most vulnerable residents, centering their needs and ensuring that they have the resources necessary to experience better quality of life.

AlohaCare looks forward to working closely with Ms. Betts and the Department of Human Services in providing the services that Hawaii residents need to live healthy and thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

Date: February 17, 2021

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Noriko Namiki, YWCA O'ahu CEO

Re: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Betts, for a term to expire at noon on 12/5/2022.

Hearing: Thursday, February 17, 2021  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara and members of the Committee on Human Services,

It is my pleasure to submit this testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 503, consideration and confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of Human Services.

Ms. Betts' extensive work history from her work in the courts, to her work as an advocate, to her work as a leader within the State of Hawaii where she has served in positions as the Director of the Commission on the Status of Women, Deputy Director and Interim Director of the Department of Human Services all make her a great asset to the State of Hawaii.

Ms. Betts has continually showed leadership and excellence in her all her work and for that reason she was chosen as one of the four award recipients recognized as an outstanding Hawaii woman leader at the 2020 YWCA O'ahu Leadership Luncheon.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Governor's Message 503. We humbly request your favorable consideration so that Ms. Betts may continue her positive, productive and effective leadership for the people of Hawaii in her role as Director of Human Services.

February 13, 2021

Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr.  
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Re: **GM 503** – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Betts

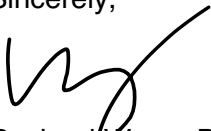
I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Cathy Betts as the Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS). As someone who previously served in this position and worked with Ms. Betts when she led the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, I can attest to: what is needed to lead this department; her character, commitment, knowledge, and experience; and how she is an excellent fit for this role.

As Ms. Betts' professional resume highlights, she has a deep understanding of DHS, local communities, social services, and how the three branches of government can work to improve systems and quality of life for children, families, and individuals in Hawai'i. In addition to technical, legal, and professional knowledge and experience, Ms. Betts brings her strong work ethic, cross-sector networks, values of social equity, and compassion. She is the right person to lead DHS through the pandemic and catalyze positive impact for current and future generations.

As is known, DHS is a large state agency. Leading it comes with great responsibility to: those you serve in the community and your colleagues. Ms. Betts has demonstrated her care for both, which is vital to the DHS goal of well-being. If we want to improve our economy, public health, business, and environment, we must remember that we are all in this time together, to respect and support each other, and to create the space for more diverse representation, equity, and access. As the COVID-19 pandemic starkly revealed, this is more important than ever. Ms. Betts has dedicated her career to these goals, and we are fortunate she brings all her strengths and talents to serve Hawai'i in this way.

One Shared Future is an organization founded for our interconnected communities: we collectively imagine a positive future for Hawai'i and bring people together across sectors to create that future by creating safe spaces and providing professional development experiences. It is in this spirit that I urge to you confirm Cathy Betts as DHS director so that she has the opportunity to continue working with others to lead Hawai'i to a thriving future.

Sincerely,



Rachael Wong, DrPH  
Founder & Strategic Advisor

**LATE**

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 11:14:32 AM  
Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Tan	Testifying for Child & Family Service	Support	No

Comments:

Child & Family Service is in full support of the confirmation of Cathy Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services. Cathy has the experience and skill set to lead the DHS. She is a strong leader who listens deeply and cares greatly. We have found Cathy to be an incredibly smart, strategic and responsive leader. We strongly support her confirmation.

Karen Tan, LCSW

President & CEO - Child & Family Service

February 13, 2021

Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr.  
Members of the Committee on Human Services

Re: **GM 503** – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, Catherine Betts

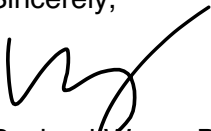
I am writing in **strong support** of the confirmation of Cathy Betts as the Director of the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS). As someone who previously served in this position and worked with Ms. Betts when she led the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, I can attest to: what is needed to lead this department; her character, commitment, knowledge, and experience; and how she is an excellent fit for this role.

As Ms. Betts' professional resume highlights, she has a deep understanding of DHS, local communities, social services, and how the three branches of government can work to improve systems and quality of life for children, families, and individuals in Hawai'i. In addition to technical, legal, and professional knowledge and experience, Ms. Betts brings her strong work ethic, cross-sector networks, values of social equity, and compassion. She is the right person to lead DHS through the pandemic and catalyze positive impact for current and future generations.

As is known, DHS is a large state agency. Leading it comes with great responsibility to: those you serve in the community and your colleagues. Ms. Betts has demonstrated her care for both, which is vital to the DHS goal of well-being. If we want to improve our economy, public health, business, and environment, we must remember that we are all in this time together, to respect and support each other, and to create the space for more diverse representation, equity, and access. As the COVID-19 pandemic starkly revealed, this is more important than ever. Ms. Betts has dedicated her career to these goals, and we are fortunate she brings all her strengths and talents to serve Hawai'i in this way.

One Shared Future is an organization founded for our interconnected communities: we collectively imagine a positive future for Hawai'i and bring people together across sectors to create that future by creating safe spaces and providing professional development experiences. It is in this spirit that I urge to you confirm Cathy Betts as DHS director so that she has the opportunity to continue working with others to lead Hawai'i to a thriving future.

Sincerely,



Rachael Wong, DrPH  
Founder & Strategic Advisor

Benjamin E. Lowenthal  
Attorney at Law  
81 N. Market Street  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i 96793

February 10, 2021

Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr.  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: Appointment of Catherine A. Betts, Esq. (GM 503)

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I applaud and strongly support Catherine Betts's appointment to serve as our Director of the Department of Human Services. Ms. Betts and I took the Hawai'i State Bar together in 2007 and we served as law clerks in Honolulu that same year. While our careers ended up taking very different paths on different islands (Ms. Betts practiced family law and entered government service on Oahu while I practice criminal defense and appellate litigation on the neighbor islands), we have remained close friends and colleagues. I am impressed by her commitment to public service and her ability to grasp and explain the complexities in the administration and distribution of family services in our island state.

I am confident that Ms. Betts will continue lead the Department of Human Services with her strength, resolve, and intelligence. She listens, collaborates, and, when necessary, acts decisively. She is sensitive to the unique set of challenges each island community poses. I have no doubt that as Director she will strengthen the Department's efforts to help the most vulnerable people in our community on every island. She is an ideal leader and I hope that she is confirmed.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this letter.

Very truly yours,

/s/Benjamin Lowenthal

Benjamin E. Lowenthal

Written Statement of  
**EDWIN H. SNIFFEN**

before the  
**Senate Committee on Human Services**

February 18, 2021  
3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Teleconference

in consideration of

**G.M. 503**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Dear Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of the appointment of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Cathy has served as acting Director of DHS since September of 2020. During her service as acting Director and in her previous capacity as Deputy Director, she has continued to support much needed services through programs such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Med-Quest, and the Preschool Open Doors. Her work in the field of women's rights and victim advocacy further demonstrate her compassion and service oriented focus.

For these reasons I humbly request your favorable consideration of the nomination of Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services.

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 8:21:58 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathaniel Kinney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Catherine Betts is an excellent candidate for Director of Human Services and is just the type of person we need in these tough times.



**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:52:13 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a testimony in STRONG SUPPPOR of confirming Cathy Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services. As a representative for AAUW of Hawaii public policy team, I had a pleasure of working with Cathy when she was the Executive Director of Hawaii State Commission on Status of Women (HSCSW) and co-chair of Hawaii Women's Coalition (HWC). I give full credit to Cathy's steady, inclusive, collaborative leadership for passing of legislations which positively impact the lives of women, girls and working families in Hawaii during her years at HSCSW and HWC. Through listening, relationship building, and serving, Cathy was able to bring together community advocates and legislators. At a personal level, she made me feel so welcome when I first joined HWC, so gracious answering all the questions I had, and always being inclusive. I will always be thankful to Cathy for helping me become a productive community advocate.

Please confirm Cathy Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services and thank you for your consideration.

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:41:36 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimi Ide-Foster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Cathy is a friend and colleague who I have found to be of strong moral fiber and possessing excellent leadership skills. I have had the opportunity to serve with her on the Board of Hawaii Women Lawyers and worked with during her tenure with the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. She is a trailblazer and an amazing example to women in the community. I strongly support support her appointment as Director of Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kimi Ide-Foster, Attorney at Chun Kerr LLP

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:23:04 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara and members,

Strong support fo the Confirmation of Cathy Betts to be the Direction of the Department of Human Services. It is my honor to testify on her behalf.

I can think of no one better for this position. She is one of the most knowledgeable and diligent advocates for the welfare of Hawaii's Families that I know. It was my privilege to work with her for five years when she was Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. She was a skilled Coalition builder, able to bring diverse points of view together to help us form a cohesive public policy.

Obviously as the Deputy Director she is well prepared to step in as Director.

Please confirm Ms. Betts. She will provide the leadership that is sorely needed during these difficult times.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann S. Freed

Co-Chair Emeritus, Hawaii State Women's Coalition

Testimony Titiimaea N. Ta'ase  
IN SUPPORT  
GM 503 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Director of the Department of Human Services,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

February 14, 2021

Aloha Chair Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara Jr., and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 503, and ask that you confirm Ms. Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

I support Ms. Betts's nomination because I believe she possesses the requisite skills and attitude necessary to further the goals of the Department of Human Services. She has spent her whole career in the service of others and has worked diligently and tirelessly to better the lives of the people of Hawai'i. Ms. Betts has been an advocate for many of our State's most vulnerable populations and her work on behalf of children, women, the elderly, and the poor has been nothing short of inspirational. Her heart is always in the right place and the toil of her hands has always been for the people who need help the most.

I have known Ms. Betts since 2005 when we attended the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i Manoa together. From our first interaction I was struck by the strength of her conviction and her drive and willingness to do the hard work necessary to bring about positive change. It has been sixteen years and nothing has changed. She is still the driven, hard-working, and compassionate person I met all those years ago. It is my great honor to submit this testimony in support of a leader that I admire and believe in. I again ask that you confirm Ms. Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Pankaj Bhanot  
Honolulu, HI  
[pankajbhanot@gmail.com](mailto:pankajbhanot@gmail.com)

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

From: Pankaj Bhanot

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021

Re: GM 503 for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services. My name is Pankaj Bhanot and I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Catherine Betts' consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) for a term to expire at noon on December 05, 2022.

I had the pleasure of working with Cathy as a colleague, mentor and supervisor in my capacity as the Director of DHS from September 2016-August 2020; and Deputy Director of DHS from December 2010-January 2012 and January 2015-August 2016. During my tenure as the DHS Deputy Director, Cathy served as the Executive Director of the Commission of the Status of Women; and recently as the Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services from September 2017-August 2020.

Cathy possesses relevant professional experience and all tangible and intangible knowledge, skills and abilities that are needed to manage and lead DHS, one of the most critical and complicated executive agencies in the State of Hawai'i, during the pandemic and challenging economic times. Cathy played a critical role in developing DHS' response to the Covid-19 pandemic; development and implementation of the first comprehensive strategic plan for DHS based on Article IX Section 3 of the Hawaii's Constitution, 'Ohana Nui, multigenerational and integrated approach to alleviating poverty in Hawai'i, and Aloha Spirit; functional reorganization of all major divisions of DHS; development of DHS' budget and critical legislative initiatives; overseeing the operation of all major business units of DHS; and overseeing and managing all major litigation efforts of DHS.

She successfully lead the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women for nearly seven years and oversaw several legislative and policy successes including: the final passage of the Compassionate Care Act, which ensures rape victims have access to emergency contraception

emergency rooms in Hawai'i; various state Title IX reforms to ensure Hawaii continues to protect and preserve the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink's legacy; protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; reforms for temporary restraining order process; and increased training on gender based violence. Cathy has also practiced in government and private legal practice since 2006. Cathy's legal background and experience as a deputy attorney general (Family Law Division) will be an asset as all DHS programs, benefits, and services are heavily regulated by the federal and state laws and rules.

Cathy was honored by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 2014 for her commitment to Title IX, received the President's Award from Hawai'i Women Lawyer's in 2015, and successfully hosted the 2016 National Association of Commissions for Women Annual Conference which brought together Commissions from every state, here in Hawai'i. In March 2018, she received the Women's History Month Honoree award by Family Values at Work, an organization dedicated to expanding paid family and sick leave across the nation, as well as being awarded Soroptomist International's Central O'ahu Ruby Award Winner. In May 2020, she was recognized as one of four YWCA Women's Leader Awardees. Most Recently, in February 2021, Cathy was awarded the Rhoda Lewis Award by the Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation for outstanding public service. Cathy has deep roots in the community and has also served on the board of Hawai'i Women Lawyers, Hawai'i Filipino Lawyers Association, as co-chair and Chair of the HSBA Diversity, Equality, and the Law Committee, the Board of Directors for Hawai'i Women in Filmmaking, and the Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts.

Cathy earned her BA in Sociology from the University of California at Los Angeles and her juris doctorate from the University of Hawai'i, William S. Richardson School of Law, where she served as the Patsy T. Mink Legislative Fellow in the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye's Washington D.C. office.

In addition to her very successful and well-decorated professional career, Cathy, along with her husband Aubrey, is raising two wonderful children and finds time to contribute to many social causes.

Cathy's educational background, professional experience, character, integrity, fairness, professionalism, empathy for those who are struggling to make ends meet, desire to serve and do the right thing for right reasons, commitment to protect health and safety, and promote well-being and self-sufficiency of Hawai'i's families and children, makes her an ideal person to lead DHS during these challenging times.

For the foregoing reason, I strongly urge the Senate Committee on Human Services to recommend Cathy's appointment to the full Senate to be confirmed as the Director of the Department of Human Services for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 15, 2021

To: Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Judy Kern

Re: **GM503**, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Position: SUPPORT

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

I was privileged to serve on the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women during Cathy's tenure as Executive Director. Her strong leadership, coupled with extensive knowledge and skills in legislative, budgetary, organizational management and programmatic areas advanced HSCSW's work on behalf of women and girls in Hawaii. Successful advocacy, community outreach and education efforts resulted in increasing protections against domestic violence/sexual assault, gender-based discrimination and bias in the workplace, educational institutions, and elsewhere that pervasive gender-based inequities were identified. Cathy excelled at bringing diverse and frequently opposing groups to the table to work together to achieve common goals.

As current DHS Director, Cathy continues to be an effective and collaborative leader, applying her abilities and experience to ensure DHS services continue to support the entire state. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact all segments of society, her commitment to DHS' work on behalf of the vulnerable and marginalized, those most disproportionately affected by the pandemic, remains steadfast.

Cathy is a gifted leader whose integrity and dedication inspires the best in people. She is an individual with a proven track record in the human services arena. I respectfully urge the committee to confirm Cathy Betts to continue serving in the critical role of DHS Director.

February 15, 2021

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

I write in my personal capacity to stand in **strong support of the nomination of Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services.**

I know that Ms. Betts will lead the department well because I have watched her do it.

I first met Ms. Betts when she was Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women. I knew her as a William S. Richardson School of Law graduate, past Congressional fellow for Senator Daniel K. Inouye, and former Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division, having worked on Child Welfare cases. I came to her then, in early 2016, pregnant with my first son and worried about how I'd navigate the delicate situation of taking leave while proving I could still do my job as Public Information Officer for the Department of Human Services well. Even though she had bigger statewide problems to handle, Ms. Betts sat down with me and talked me through the options and pitfalls. She talked to me about both the legal limits and the unspoken obstacles I would face as a professional woman becoming a working mom. From then on, I trusted Ms. Betts as a colleague and a friend.

My time at the Department of Human Services Director's Office lasted a total of four years. I was there in the Director's Office to welcome Ms. Betts as deputy in 2017. I had two years to watch Ms. Betts acclimate to the department and prepare to lead it.

It's hard to pick one story that exemplifies her ability to lead DHS because Ms. Betts was always present through every difficult decision, crisis and change movement. I can't remember a situation during the two years our time with the department overlapped where she wasn't right there with me and the rest of the team working hard and getting things done. I have countless memories sitting in her office -- me gathering information and crafting responses to media while she was on the phone talking through the bigger fixes to ensure systems were functioning at worst and improving when possible.

Between my time with DHS and my journey since, I have had the privilege to see how Ms. Betts leads. She is firm but graceful. She is diplomatic. She has a vision -- one of true equity for all of Hawaii. She knows that this vision means prioritizing children and families, the heart of the Department of Human Services. She lives this with her own family and every day she has led DHS over these last few years.

As a woman who worked for Ms. Betts with two sons not much younger than hers, I gained so much from Ms. Betts. Perhaps the most important gift Ms. Betts gives me is her role as a mentor, ally, and friend. We need more people like Ms. Betts in state government.

Keopu Reelitz  
Private citizen, working mom



February 16, 2021

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and fellow committee members,

Ms. Betts' career has been dedicated to building up Hawaii's families and children. She has worked as a Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division, assisting Child Welfare cases. She led the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) as Executive Director. She has been deputy director of DHS since 2017 and acting director since August 2020. She has also worked to support and advocate for victims and survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

Ms. Betts is a working mother who highlights why we need parents, especially those who take on primary caregiving and childcare duties, in leadership positions. She is a role model, ally and friend to moms and dads working outside the house. Her perspective, having birthed and raised two young sons through her career as a public servant, gives her the perspective the Department of Human Service needs to help Hawaii's families through this difficult period. When she says family comes first in work, she means it.

Ms. Betts has a vision for the Department of Human Services that looks to move this state toward greater equity. She recognizes the ways in which communities and families are traumatized, sometimes at the hands of her own department. She actively seeks to reduce that trauma toward better outcomes for clients -- children and families. She believes in the potential of the Department of Human Services. She understands that giving Hawaii's families assistance when they most need it is critical to building a thriving state.

Ms. Betts' leadership style will guide the department through this time of crisis and into a brighter future. She is guided by a core set of values that prioritizes equity, kindness, and healthy families and communities. She perseveres through difficult times steadfast with grace. She puts the department and her family above everything. She is dedicated to the success of DHS.

Mahalo for taking the time to review this testimony, Natalie Wallsgrove

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 12:21:39 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cameron Black	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services through December 5, 2022, and possibly beyond. Cathy is experienced, dedicated, capable, and friendly; all skills needed for the Director of DHS. Thank you.

Testimony Jessica R. Domingo  
IN SUPPORT  
GM 503 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Director of the Department of Human Services,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

February 16, 2021

Aloha Chair Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara Jr., and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 503 and ask that you confirm Ms. Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

I support Cathy's nomination because I believe there is no one more qualified to lead the Department of Human Services through this very challenging time. Cathy's experience with the Department of Human Services as well as her life-long commitment to serving the people of Hawai'i will help further the goals of the Department of Human Services.

The Department of Human Services provides crucial and sometimes life-saving assistance to the State's most vulnerable populations. The Department needs someone at the helm who is knowledgeable, hardworking, trustworthy, and compassionate. Cathy possesses all of these qualities and so many more. She advocates for the rights and protections of families, women, children, the elderly, and the indigent.

Her skills as an attorney and an advocate will allow her to participate thoughtfully and respectfully in discussions and decision making. Cathy is always the first to volunteer if anyone needs help and is always thinking of ways to find solutions to the challenges she may face. The work Cathy has been able to do at the Department of Human Services allows relief to those people most in need. During a time when some in our community feel hopeless, Cathy is the driving force making sure their needs are being heard and met. She works tirelessly and selflessly to make sure the people of Hawai'i have access to the services that they need.

I have known Cathy since 2012 when we both served on the board of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association. I was inspired by her then and continue to be inspired by her. Cathy has spent her career in the service of others and has carried herself in a way that inspires others to join her. Cathy has been an inspiration to so many people, and not just to those of us in the legal profession. As someone who has gotten to know Cathy over the years and has the privilege of calling her my mentor and friend, I can say with the utmost confidence that the State of Hawai'i would benefit greatly from her continued service as the Director of the Department of Human Services. It is my great honor to submit this testimony in support of a leader that I admire and believe in. I again ask that you confirm Ms. Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

February 16, 2021

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura and fellow committee members,

I am writing in support of the nomination for Ms. Catherine Betts to continue in her role as Director of the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Betts is a working mother who understands the needs of children and families in Hawaii. Having two young children herself while excelling in her career as a public servant gives Ms. Betts the perspective and ability to lead DHS through this difficult period. She is a role model, ally, and advocate and has the experience necessary to carry on the important work of DHS.

Ms. Betts has dedicated her career to improving the lives of women and children in Hawaii. She has worked as a Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division and assisted in Child Welfare cases. She led the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women as the Executive Director before stepping into her role as Deputy Director and ultimately becoming the Director of the Department. Ms. Betts career has improved countless lives through her policy advocacy, talented ability to organize community with cohesion, and vision for the future.

Ms. Betts has the skills necessary to move the DHS toward greater equity. She actively seeks to improve the services provided and approaches her work with a commitment to putting Hawaii's children and families first. She believes in the work of the department and strives for better outcomes for each person served. She is guided by a core set of values that prioritizes equity, kindness, and the health of families and communities. Ms. Betts has the leadership style and skills necessary to guide the department through this difficult time in history and into a brighter future.

Thank you,



Michelle Rocca, LMHC

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY  
JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
February 18, 2021  
3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation Governor's Message 503 as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

I am Joseph H. Campos II, and currently serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am writing this letter in **Strong Support** of the nomination and confirmation of Catherine Betts as Director of DHS. Director Betts has an in-depth understanding of DHS and the essential services DHS provides to Hawaii's most vulnerable residents. Her experiences as a Deputy Attorney General representing DHS in child welfare cases, as Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women, as Deputy Director of DHS, and since September 2020, serving as Director of DHS – uniquely qualifies her to continue to lead DHS through the pandemic and transition to recovery.

Director Betts' professional commitment to public service, her tireless efforts, and her understanding of the complex legal and administrative processes required to oversee a statewide staff of more than 1,500 who deliver benefits and services to more than 400,000 Hawaii residents, makes her a valuable and necessary asset to our State.

Director Betts' humanity and humility are essential parts of her leadership, and throughout the pandemic she has emphasized health and safety measures for staff, DHS providers, and the public DHS serves. Her open communication has promoted and encouraged the various units of DHS to be responsive and empathetic to the needs of the community to find ways to improve access to benefits and services. She is especially mindful of the multiple pandemic and economic stressors on families with children and Hawaii's multigenerational households. She has worked collaboratively with legislators, other executive branch agencies, and community providers to deliver additional federal stimulus funds and address community needs.

With her leadership and guidance, DHS will continue to innovate and be responsive to the fundamental needs of Hawaii's residents so that everyone has opportunity to recover and thrive. I **strongly support** the nomination of Ms. Betts to continue to serve as the Director of DHS.

Date: February 12, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Human Services Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Committee members

From: Amy Monk, former Commission on the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Subject: Testimony in Support of GM 503, Catherine Betts as Director of the Dept. of Human Services

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in SUPPORT of GM 503 to confirm Catherine Betts.

I have known Catherine Betts for about a decade. I can say with confidence that she combines the best attributes of a public servant and leader. She efficiently and knowledgeably carries out her duties with competence. And competence cannot be undervalued. Moreover, she cares deeply for the welfare of the clients who fall in the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Services and her work reflects the compassion she has for those that suffering from abuse, poverty and in serious need of official intervention and assistance.

In 2011, when the commissioners of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women interviewed for the Executive Director position, it was Betts' background in law, professionalism, and our confidence in her leadership that dictated our selection. She was a Deputy Attorney General with the State Attorney General where she represented DHS litigating complex child abuse and negligent cases. She was a law clerk in the First Circuit Court preparing briefs for Mental Health Court, Adult Drug Court. Early in her career she was a did community outreach and education for The Sex Abuse Treatment Center.

In the six years Cathy Betts was the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women she managed the Commission's participation in many, many issue-oriented efforts and was our lead in formulating policy and action. She coordinated action with non-profits and other allies as the co-convenor of the Hawaii Women's Coalition. She was a stalwart in the long effort to pass legislation to required emergency rooms to provide emergency contraception to sexual assault victims. She was the Commission's point person on issues of paid family leave, raising the minimum wage, gender-based violence in the workplace, Title IX at the University of Hawaii, domestic violence, family leave, and trafficking. The variety and breadth of the issues, and the coordination with many partner organizations was great preparation when she was selected to be the Deputy at the Department of Human Services. Though she was a staff of one, she augmented with legal interns and assistance of a wide circle of friends and commissioners. She chaired task forces and working groups with county departments, state agencies, community and non-profit representatives to resolve the rape kit backlog, Title IX compliance, gender discrimination, accommodation.

She took on many tasks associated with the job of Executive Director, but I want to mention that she did so with compassion for the victims. When she identified indigent and immigrant victims of violence she referred them to pro bono legal service. When victims didn't know who to call and ended up calling the Commission, they found a sympathetic ear and good advice. I recall Betts telling us about a woman in the Coast Guard whose commander was demanding sexual relationship.

It wasn't surprising that when the DHS Director stepped down, she became the acting director, then appointed to complete the term of the Director of DHS. Her accomplishments deserve another term as Director.

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 4:57:00 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole Woo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I enthusiastically support the nomination of Catherine Betts to the position of Director of the Department of Human Services for a term to expire on Dec. 5, 2022. Please confirm her nomination. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.



**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 5:09:48 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
marilyn b lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the committee,

I stand in strong support of the nomination of Catherine Betts to serve as director of the Dept of Human Services. Ms Betts is a strong supporter of many of the issues under the Jurisdiction of this Dept and has proved her worth during her tenure as Deputy director. Her service both in this Dept and her former service as Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women were exemplary, and she is well respected by the Community.

I urge your positive action on her nomination.

Respectfully

Marilyn B. Lee

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Chair, Committee on Human Services

RE: GM503 – Recommendation of Catherine Betts as Director, Department of Human Services

Dear Chair San Buenaventura:

I **strongly support** the recommendation of Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services. She leads the department with the strength of an advocate and sincere compassion for every human life. Ms. Betts serves with humility and excellence in everything she does and those she encounters. The passion which serves is not only for work but in public service as well as to her staff, family, and greater community.

In addition to her public service as Family Attorney, Executive Director at The Commission on the Status of Women, and Deputy Director for the Department of Human Services, Ms. Betts was awarded the Rhoda Lewis Award by the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation in January 2021 and was the first public sector awardee of the 2020 YWCA Women's Leader Award in May, 2020.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Korenaga

# Tiffany Kao Chong

February 16, 2021

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Service

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

I write in strong support of gubernatorial nominee Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services. Ms. Betts has been a tireless advocate for those in our community over the years. From women and children to those facing poverty, Ms. Betts has served our community for nearly two decades. She has done community outreach and education with the Sex Abuse Treatment Center, served as a Deputy Attorney General representing the State of Hawaii, Child Welfare Services Branch, and also served as the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

Most recently Ms. Betts has been serving as Deputy Director and Director of the Department of Human Services. I had the opportunity to work with her on a task force and found her to be completely invested in the goals of the task force. She kept everyone focused on the task and was able to encourage dialogue. I know she uses that same enthusiasm and advocacy in her other projects. She is invested in positive outcomes for the department and the community at large.

When I first met Ms. Betts in law school, it was obvious she was smart. However, it was even more apparent that she had a deep love and commitment to the betterment of the people of Hawai'i. The State needs leaders like Ms. Betts. I encourage this Committee to confirm without hesitation Catherine Betts for the position of Director of the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

*Tiffany L. H. Kao Chong*

Tiffany L. H. Kao Chong

Dina Shek  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021

**RE: Support for Nomination of Catherine Betts  
to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services (GM 503)**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to support the nomination of Catherine Betts to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Services for the state of Hawai'i. I have known Ms. Betts for nearly eighteen years, and she has always been a champion for traditionally underserved communities by fighting for equality and by ensuring access to resources for all people to achieve lives of meaning and abundance. This is an especially challenging undertaking, especially during today's pandemic and resulting economic crisis.

As the Legal Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai'i, I have worked for over a decade providing direct legal services and systemic advocacy for Hawai'i's low-income, immigrant, and under-resourced families in Kalihi Valley and across the state. Many of our clients are part of the vast "working poor" who are eligible for financial and health benefits provided by the state of Hawai'i.

Under Ms. Betts' leadership, both as Director and as Deputy Director, the Department of Human Services has been responsive to the needs of families, and the DHS staff is quick to address any problems raised by advocates. For example, during the pandemic, problems with language access and presumptive disqualifications from benefits were sadly the norm with many state agencies. In contrast, DHS took immediate steps to protect vulnerable families, including reducing administrative lapses to SNAP and Med-QUEST benefits, expanding childcare assistance, maintaining essential services for homeless individuals and people with disabilities, and continuing to provide language access to recipients. Most recently, Director Betts and her Med-QUEST administrators responded quickly to federal inclusion of Micronesian recipients (legally residing under the Compact of Free Association) for Medicaid, becoming the first state to fully update its online system to ensure compliance and accessibility. As an attorney and advocate, I witness every day the significant and immediate impact of these actions to prevent homelessness, promote resiliency, and save lives.

Please vote to CONFIRM Ms. Catherine Betts' nomination to service as the Director of the Department of Human Services to continue her leadership serving the people of Hawai'i. Director Betts exemplifies the effective management and principled leadership that is needed today to ensure that everyone in Hawai'i can thrive even during these challenging times.

Thank you for your consideration,



Dina Shek  
Legal Director, Medical-Legal Partnership in Hawai'i  
Faculty Specialist, William S. Richardson School of Law  
(affiliations listed for identification purposes only)

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 10:22:21 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tyler Iokepa Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 17, 2021

TO: Senator Joy San Buenaventura  
Chair, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **GM503 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. Hearing Date: Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Conference Room: 225**

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Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

I respectfully offer this testimony in **strong support** of Cathy Betts' appointment as director of the Department of Human Services.

I have known Cathy in a personal and professional capacity for many years, most recently as Deputy Director for the Department of Human Services, a Board Member for Hawaii Women Lawyers, and the Executive Director for the Commission on the Status of Women.

What has most impressed me about Cathy is that she is compassionate and driven by doing the right thing, but also strives to listen to people who may have viewpoints from her own. As the Executive Director for the Commission on the Status of Women, Cathy worked very hard to bring together a group of advocates with very diverse backgrounds and positions. As a fellow board member for Hawaii Women Lawyers, I always trusted Cathy's advice and counsel without hesitation, and found her to be honest, hardworking, and insightful on issues we worked on together.

The Department of Human Services has been fortunate to have Cathy recently serve as a deputy director, where she has gained invaluable insight into the role the director plays in overseeing DHS's many social services benefits and programs. Her leadership skills will continue to serve her well as the director of the Department.

For the above reasons, I strongly support Ms. Betts' nomination, and request that the Committee advise and consent to her nomination as the director of the Department of Human Services.

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 1:24:51 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makanalani Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate committee on Human Services,

My name is Makanalani Gomes and I am writing in **strong support** of GM 503, the consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Catherine Betts**, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. I am currently, a Hawaiian Studies graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the school of Hawaiian Knowledge, Hawai'inuiākea at the center for Hawaiian Studies, Kamakāōkalani. My research focus is healing indigenous trauma. As a native Hawaiian Filipina womxn, I've lived and been at the forefront of bearing the traumas and inequities that our society has, it is with this understanding and lived experience that I strongly support Ms. Betts for confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services. I know and have full confidence that Ms. Betts will continue to be a champion for the people of Hawai'i especially marginalized folx like myself and the communities I come from. If this pandemic has taught us anything it is that we desperately need womxn who understand and acknowledge the health, wellbeing, and class inequities in positions of power.

I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Betts in her capacity as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women when I worked for former State Representative Mele Carroll and when I was an AmeriCorps paralegal in the Family Law department at the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i. Her grace, compassion, and listening skills are what I admire the most. And to be clear, by grace I mean her innate ability to direct and focus her passion and fire for truth and justice seeking despite the playing of politics. Her various works as Director of the Commission have manifested into measures in which I am now benefitting from such as, Title IX reform at the University of Hawai'i, increasing the minimum wage, and strengthening Hawai'i's equal pay statute. Her work has not only provided an equitable and just future, but it has also strived to create a safe, supportive, and nurturing future for me as a womxn, (hopeful) future mother, academic, and professional.

She is not merely a Director, she is a womxn, wife/partner, mother, daughter, cousin, community member, ally and she actively recognizes that in those reflections so too are the people she serves and represents. And that is why I lend my full support in her confirmation.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Ms. Betts.



To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Services

From: Daisy Hartsfield

Testimony in Support, GM 503

Aloha and good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 503. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity.

I have the honor of knowing Cathy both in a professional and personal manner. Professionally, I first met her in 2008, when she was a young attorney starting as a new deputy in the Family Law Division at the Office of the Attorney General. It was clear then that she was passionate about helping others in need so that they could have better lives. Cathy and I also served on the Board of the Hawai'i Filipino Lawyers Association, where I learned more about her interests in the Filipino culture and the immigrant experience. Having immigrant Filipina mothers, Cathy and I became fast friends.

Through the years, I have watched Cathy blossom into a strong advocate and respected leader. I was not surprised when she became the Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). Under the mentorship of former DHS Director Panjak Bhanot, Cathy developed a keen understanding of how a government agency operates while still exemplifying the traits of an effective leader, e.g., clear communicator, inspirational, has integrity, sets clear goals/visionary, supportive, etc. Cathy has demonstrated that she is able to make tough decisions that may not be popular ones but are guided by present laws and policies and always in consideration of what is in the best interests for children and families.

Since assuming the directorship in September 2020, Cathy continues to lead the Department through an unprecedented pandemic. She has made sure that the approximately 2000 employees continue to have adequate amounts of PPEs, have the ability to telework, and were able to receive COVID-19 vaccinations through the Department of Health. Under Cathy's leadership, increased social services continue to be available for residents of Hawai'i despite the State's financial crisis. She has strengthened the DHS leadership team and provided an environment that encourages creativity, efficiency, and supportiveness.

A department that provides direct services that significantly impacts the lives of Hawai'i residents needs a leader that genuinely cares about people and understands how to best provide needed services while still being able to meet the daily operational needs of the department. Cathy is not just experienced and intelligent. She has a big heart. I do not know anyone who is a better person to lead DHS at this time. For all the reasons above, I hope that confirmation of Cathy as the Director of Human Services will be passed by your committee. Mahalo.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF CATHERINE BETTS,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE

DATE: Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

RE: GM 503  
Consideration and Confirmation of Catherine Betts as Director,  
Department of Human Services

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CHAIR SAN BUENAVENTURA, VICE CHAIR IHARA, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments reflecting my **strong support** of the confirmation of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services (“DHS”).

I have had the privilege of working with Cathy in different capacities throughout the last 14 years. As a fellow Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division, I witnessed firsthand the compassion that Cathy possesses in dealing with the vulnerable populations that DHS serves – the children and families affected by the trauma of child abuse/neglect as well as individuals with mental health issues. As a Special Assistant to the DHS Director, I worked with Cathy when she was the Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and later when she took on the broad responsibilities to care all those served by DHS. In all positions held, Cathy has been steadfast in advocating for those individuals, children, and families to ensure that their rights are protected, they have access to legal support, and ultimately, that they have a voice.

Cathy has and continues to bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to DHS from her many years of service and advocacy outside and within the Department. She works tirelessly for DHS, but also for the larger community, to build effective collaborations to better serve the families of Hawaii. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Ms. Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 2:22:30 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Cathy for 14 years, having first met her when we were both law clerks for different judges in the First Circuit. Cathy was originally the law clerk for Judge Waldorf, and then for Judge Chan, upon Judge Waldorf's retirement.

During our clerkship, it was not uncommon for the clerks to grab lunch together and "talk shop." These sessions provided a lot of insight into how each of us thought and processed information. I was always impressed with Cathy's intelligence and work ethic, and I knew the other clerks that worked directly with Cathy also held her in high esteem.

Beyond her qualifications, the thing I have always found most admirable about Cathy is her passion and her heart. She is so committed to doing the right thing and making the world a better place, it is inspiring. I have seen her take on incredible burdens to help her friends in times of dire need, and she does so with zero hesitation or expectation. I believe this strong sense of morality is something that is critical for this office, as the work affects so many people in need.

She has already done wonderful work, and I believe she will continue to do wonderful work. I give her my highest recommendation.

- Daniel Kawamoto

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
February 18, 2021 at 3:00PM

GM 503 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CATHERINE BETTS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 503. I strongly support the appointment of Gubernatorial nominee Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services (“DHS”).

Cathy is a progressive leader with the extensive experience and steadfast dedication needed to lead the department.

In my years working in the women’s movement, the law, and the community, I have rarely met an individual who is as tireless and truly dedicated to public service as Cathy. I had the privilege of working on the Act 222 Title IX Task Force with Cathy. Cathy was truly a visionary force who took a lead role in ensuring Hawai‘i’s students are protected from sexual violence and harassment. Many of the provisions codified in our state’s 2016 Title IX legislation was a result of the countless hours of work that Cathy dedicated to perpetuate a legacy of civil rights in Hawai‘i.

Cathy also exemplifies role-model government leadership and work ethic. Most recently, Cathy took on leadership over the State’s largest agency, as Director of DHS. She has successfully managed the Department’s operations, policy, and budget decisions during a global pandemic. Her seamless transition into leadership demonstrates her strong competency to continue serving as Director of DHS.

Cathy continues to prove herself to be a forward-thinking, community-minded public servant. I strongly urge the Committee to approve her nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 503.

Sincerely,

Cu Ri Lee  
Jr. Advisor, Office of Institutional Equity, University of Hawai‘i System  
Board of Director, Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands

DATE: Thursday, February 18, 2021  
TIME: 3:00PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference  
RE: Strong Support for GM503-Confirmation of the Appointment of Cathy Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services  
FROM: Meredith Nichols

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services. My name is Meredith Nichols and I am providing testimony in strong support for GM503 which seeks to confirm the appointment of Cathy Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). I have had the privilege to work with Cathy since she was selected as Deputy Director of DHS and more recently, as acting Director of DHS. Cathy's leadership, temperament, intelligence, and true heart for the community are a powerful combination that has propelled DHS forward, even during these most difficult recent times. She leads the diverse divisions that make up DHS with a clear and unifying vision that calls us to serve with integrity, optimism, and awareness that the work we do matters deeply for the people we serve. Those of you who have already worked with Cathy know that she is a woman of her word, highly dependable, tuned in to the many needs of our community and adept at creating workable solutions that balance human services needs with challenging fiscal realities. I trust her leadership and cannot imagine a better person to lead this critically important Department.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to share my support for Cathy's confirmation to the role she has already demonstrated excellence in fulfilling. Lucky Hawai'i nei to have such a talented leader excited to devote herself to public service!

Mahalo,

Meredith Nichols

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 2:59:17 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amanda Fernandes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee on Human Services:

My name is Amanda Fernandes and I am testifying in my individual capacity on GM 503, in support of the nomination of Catherine Betts to the position of Director of the Department of Human Services.

I have known Cathy Betts since 2016 and have worked with her professionally in different roles. During this time, Cathy has consistently demonstrated compassionate leadership. She possess in-depth knowledge of the issues affecting Hawai'i's families, particularly those who are low-income or otherwise require the services provided by DHS. Cathy is thoughtful and measured in her approach to problem-solving, and surpasses others in her ability to identify meaningful solutions rather than band-aids or quick fixes. Now more than ever, as more and more of our families fall into dire financial situations in the wake of COVID-19, Hawai'i needs a leader like Cathy at the head of DHS to ensure that nobody is left behind or pushed into the margins.

On a personal level, I know Cathy to be a good and kind-hearted person. She exhibits strength and has a seemingly bottomless well of empathy for others. I feel confident in our government agencies when we have good people leading them. For these reasons and many more, I urge the Committee to support the nomination of Catherine Betts for Director of DHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Amanda Fernandes

JENNIFER SOLIDUM ROSE  
1717 Mott Smith Drive #1001  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
[Jennrose.jd@gmail.com](mailto:Jennrose.jd@gmail.com)



TO: Committee on Human Services  
Chair San Buenaventura  
Vice-Chair Ihara

RE: GM 503  
Confirmation of Catherine Betts, Director  
Department of Human Services

DATE: Thursday, February 18, 2021  
TIME: 3:00PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **enthusiastic and unequivocal support** for the confirmation of Catherine Betts, as the Director of the Department of Human Services, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

I have known Cathy Betts for over 15 years, having met her as a law student when I was teaching at William S. Richardson School of Law. Ms. Betts and I sat on the Board of Hawaii Women Lawyers for many years, working together on community, policy, legislative and social issues to better the lives of women and children through legal advocacy. Professionally, I have worked with Ms. Betts extensively on issues related to Title IX and gender equity while in my capacity as faculty at the University of Hawai'i and more recently, as the UH System Director of the Office of Institutional Equity

Ms. Betts is a rare leader who possesses a deep and intersectional understanding of human services, empathy and emotional intelligence and a keen, analytical mind, all traits which serve her well in developing public policy and advocating for the well-being of families in Hawai'i, especially those who are living in poverty or represented by marginalized populations. She is innovative and a quick problem solver and also has a knack for bringing together various sectors of the field and the grassroots community to further dialogue toward advancing the needs of the most vulnerable and underserved.

I have not doubt she has both energy, leadership and vision to transform the Department of Human Services and I am pleased to provide my full support for her confirmation.

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 4:12:49 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cindy Shimomi-Saito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I have known Cathy Betts in a professional capacity for many years and have great respect for her. I am in strong support of her confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services.

Mahalo for the opporunity to testify in support of Cathy.



DATE: February 17, 2021

TO: Senator Joy San Buenaventura  
Chair, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Tiffany Yajima

RE: **GM503 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Services, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE BETTS, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.**

**Conference Room: 225**

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Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Human Services:

I am writing in favor of the nomination of Catherine Betts as director of the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Betts has dedicated her career to the community and the state as a reasoned and steadfast advocate and leader. I have known Ms. Betts for over 15 years and know her to be hard working, dedicated and balanced in her approach. If confirmed as Director the Department of Human Services I am confident she will effectively lead Hawaii's most essential social services programs and provide the Department with a valuable perspective that will benefit the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Ms. Betts.

**LATE**

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 9:58:04 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bhanu Vellanki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

CATHERINE BETTS is very professional . We need her services for State of Hawaii . She is a great asset to Department of Human Resources.

**LATE**

February 27, 2021

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM503 Strong Support for Confirmation of Catherine Betts  
Hearing February 28, 2021 at 3:00 PM; CR 225 & Videoconference

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members,

It is an honor to write a letter of strong support for the confirmation of Ms. Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services. I have known and worked with Ms. Betts for nearly a decade and Hawaii is most fortunate to have her leadership and commitment to public service. I was serving as Chair of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) when Ms. Betts interviewed for the position of Executive Director. Our Commissioners unanimously voted to offer her the position. She was tasked with restoring the Commission's pre-eminence in women's policy work, building public private partnerships, and establishing the Commission as the convener for collaborative initiatives to advance the status of women and girls in Hawaii. She excelled in every way! She gained the respect of community partners with her legal skills, knowledge, authentic passion for and commitment to the issues, and most of all, she established trust.

Governor Ige made a wise choice to select her as the Deputy Director of Human Services, where she gained valuable on the job experience. She has now stepped into the Director position with seasoning, confidence, vision, and resolve. She leads the Department that is critical in protecting our most vulnerable members of the community. She does so with compassion and integrity. The pandemic has brought exacerbating challenges and Ms. Betts is uniquely qualified to make a significant contribution to our recovery and future resiliency for so many who are struggling.

Ms. Betts' CV speaks volumes for her academic achievements, her breadth of professional experiences, and her vast community contributions. She continues to be a voice for those in need and an unflinching champion for the underserved. She has been recognized with many organizational awards for her outstanding efforts, yet she remains humble and totally dedicated to the work.

Ms. Betts represents the best in our next generation of leadership. I respectfully ask for your unanimous support of her confirmation. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Leslie Wilkins

[Lesliewilkins1@gmail.com](mailto:Lesliewilkins1@gmail.com)

808-280-0376

**TRISHA Y. NAKAMURA, ESQ.**  
P.O. Box 61619, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96839

**LATE**

To: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on  
Date: November 16, 2021 Hrg: February 18, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.  
Re: GM 503; Strong Support  
For the Nomination of Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services

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I share my strongest support of Catherine Betts as the Director of the Department of Human Services. I have known Cathy since 2003, when we were students at the William S. Richardson School of Law. After law school, Cathy has taken on numerous roles to help our state and families—from representing people involved in highly-contentious issues in our family court to taking on policy work to advance the interests of the Department of Human Services (“Department”). Cathy’s greatest skills for the job: her leadership and compassion.

#### SOLID FOUNDATION BUILT ON THE FRONTLINES TO HELP CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Cathy’s work prior to becoming an attorney was helping young people to learn skills to prevent against abuse; she then represented individuals in contentious matters before the Family Court, with a focus on her clients and advocating for the best interests of the child. Cathy has gracefully shepherded people through cases involving their families; she has also done the same in representing our State when the Department is forced to intervene to protect children in situations of neglect and harm. All of these cases are emotional and hard, requiring enormous compassion, patience, and strength. All impact families. All ultimately impact our State. This experience seeing how families are impacted by law and policy provide Cathy with a deep understanding and perspective that uniquely informs and grounds the work of the Department.

#### INFORMED SKILLS AND WORK TO BUILD POLICY

Cathy’s work truly is grounded in what is practical and what must happen to move forward to improve the lives of people. Cathy has truly built up her ability to work with diverse people in various capacities—from her work leading the Commission on the Status of Women to her work as a Deputy Director and now Director of the Department. Cathy is truly the right person to lead the Department in its work to build bridges within agencies to more effectively and efficiently deliver services, especially in a time where resources are reduced due to the pandemic. Cathy values multidisciplinary efforts and possesses the nuanced ability to interface within and with all three branches of government.

#### DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT AND SOLID LEADER

Cathy has served communities in different ways. She has served on career panels at the William S. Richardson School of Law investing in young future attorneys. She has also served on important initiatives by the Judiciary and Hawaii State Bar Association to promote diversity.

Cathy is strong and principled. She does her homework to inform the decisions she makes; she sets a course; and she then moves forward. She is able to take hard unpopular positions and back these positions up with research or data. She is also strong enough to know where compromise is required to move forward and warranted, not merely an easy solution in a challenging situation. Such is critical now as the pandemic has created additional hardships on our families and government.

Cathy’s compassion, skills, and experience are needed now. Thank you for your consideration.

**LATE**

**GM-503**

Submitted on: 2/18/2021 12:34:11 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/18/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cyd L. Hoffeld	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 17, 2021

From: Cyd L. Hoffeld, Hawai'i County Commissioner on the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women and Health Promotions Manager for Bay Clinic, Inc.

Subject: Testimony in **Strong Support of GM 503**, Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Committee members:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in **strong support of GM 503** to confirm Ms. Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services.

I have had the great pleasure and honor of knowing and working closely with Catherine Betts for three years. It was during our time together on the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women that I began to understand the depth and breadth of her exceptional character and expertise of laws and policies. Her leadership skills and collaborative nature paired with a strong understanding of the complexities on policy work continues to make her the best choice for this position.

As I thought about and considered why Ms. Betts should be reappointed as Director of Department of Human Services, I reviewed the many praiseworthy articles and news releases written about her good works as a young law clerk, Deputy Attorney General of the State of Hawaii, associate attorney, law partner, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, Deputy Director of the State of Hawaii Dept. of Human Services, and Director of the State of Hawaii Dept. of Human Services it is plain to see how accomplished and competent she is. It is not only her many accomplishments that make Ms. Betts an outstanding leader, it is her ability to provide a supportive and productive work environment, her ability to make tough decisions with transparency and clear forethought, it is about her ability to focus on issues while also being able to see the bigger picture and potential future impacts. These are skills that are not only apparent to those closest to her; it is also why Governor Ige chose her to fulfill the duties of Director of DHS and why she is greatly supported now.

With the pandemic and need for Med-Quest Division services for those unemployed or living with low socioeconomics, we need her expertise and compassion more than ever. That is why I am in **strong support of GM 503** to confirm Ms. Catherine Betts as Director of the Department of Human Services.

Mahalo!