



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**STATE COUNCIL**  
**ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING**  
**1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122**  
**HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813**  
**TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543**

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Jarret Keohokalole, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT:** GM 581 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Kiriko Takahashi

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 581** to confirm the nomination of Kiriko Takahashi for a term to expire June 30, 2022.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L.106-402) is clear in determining the composition of this body to ensure that all the players involved in the development, implementation, and use of DD supports are represented. The law specifically requires that 60 percent of the membership of the Council be comprised of individuals with DD, their parents, or family members. Additionally, the following agencies are required to be on the Council: Department of Health; the agencies that administer funds provided under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Older Americans Act of 1965; Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act; the Protection and Advocacy Agency; the Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; agencies and private non-profit organizations concerned with services to individuals with DD. The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership.

Dr. Takahashi is the Director of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Center on Disability Studies. Her appointment on the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement to represent the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Gubernatorial Nominee

Kiriko Takahashi

March 31, 2021

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Dr. Takahashi has worked within the disability field for over 20 years. Her background is in research, and data will help guide the Council regarding federal trends and grants available to Hawai'i. Her knowledge will keep the Council informed and updated on the best practices within the disability field at a state and federal level. Her perspective within the research field will be valued in the creation and implementation of our new five-year state plan that will begin next year.

The Council is pleased with the nomination of Dr. Kiriko and welcomes the opportunity to work with her. Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 581** to confirm Dr. Kiriko Takahashi to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:45:07 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Thomas Conway	Testifying for Center on Disability Studies	Support	No

Comments:

Dr. Takahashi is an outstanding faculty member and assest to the Center on Disability Studies (CDS) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I have worked with her for over 10 years and found her to be both professional and compassionate. I highly recommend she be appointed to the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:23:22 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lesley Fukushima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support GM581.

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:24:23 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Megan Dabrowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support Kiriko's appointment to the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:39:50 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Angela Lehua Matian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear State Council on Developmental Disabilities,

I, Angela Lehua Matian, support the appointment of Dr. Kiriko Takahashi on the council. Dr. Takahashi is a valuable asset to our project with her extensive experience in education specifically in developmental disabilities. She has numerous publications and evaluation experience. Please consider Dr. Takahashi for a seat in your council.

Sincerely,

Angela Matian

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:02:41 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marla Arquero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I completely support Kiriko's appointment.

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:11:34 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carol Lee-Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Gubernatorial Nominee, Kiriko Takahashi for this position. She is a life long advocate, researcher and brilliant scholar on Developmental Disabilities. She is very very qualified and is the perfect choice.

Sincerely,

Carol Lee-Arnold



**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:13:47 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eric Folk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I whole-heartedly support Dr. Kiriko Takahashi's appointment to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Takahashi has the appropriate training, experience, and competencies to be a constructive and contributing member of the council. Dr. Takahashi has a doctorate in Special Education, she has worked in the field of disability support services, she is currently the interim Director of the University of Hawai'i Center on Disability Studies (UHCDS), she is an instructor in the field of Disability Studies, and has an impressive record of securing extramural funding for various research and support projects. Dr. Takahashi's long involvement in the field of disability gives her the grounding and perspective to be a powerful advocate and supporter of people with disabilities and an excellent resource for the DDC. Finally, is a tireless organizer and supporter of emerging professionals in our field and she shares her skills freely in all of her endeavors. I encourage you to confirm Dr. Takahashi without hesitation. Feel free to contact me if I may provide any additional information. Submitted March 30, 2021, By Eric Folk, Assistant Specialist, and Principal Investigator UH CDS

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:16:54 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sean Nagamatsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kiriko is a highly qualified and well regarded member of the disabilities studies community. She has been the director of one UCEDD and interim director of a second. She would be an excellent addition to the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:38:01 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Kobayakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 30, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I support the nomination of Kiriko Takahashi to the Hawaii State council on Developmental Disabilities. Kiriko will be a welcome addition to the Council and has valuable information to share related to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kobayakawa

45-312 Koa Kahiko St. Kaneohe, HI 96744

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:39:12 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerica Manoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support appointment for Kiriko Takahashi for the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities. She is an excellent and qualified leader and great supporter and representative for the Disabilities community.

Mahalo!

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:50:17 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jerrick Feliciano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dr. Kiriko Takahashi is deserving to be a state council member on developmental disabilities. I have known Dr. Takahashi for 10+ years and for as long as I have known Dr. Takahashi she has worked tirelessly to serve people with developmental disabilities. Dr. Takahashi is a strong leader which she shows through managing multiple research projects and community events as the PI (Principal Investigator).

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:56:07 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia A. Morrissey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dr. Takahashi will be an excellent addition to the Governors Council on Developmental Disabilities. As director of the Center on Disability Studies, College of Education, University of Hawaii at Mānoa she is an internationally and nationally recognized expert on many aspects of research and policy that affect people with disabilities. She will be able to bring insight, clarity, and creativity to the many issues that Council is expected to address. I, as the immediate, former director of the Center on Disability Studies and as a former member of the Council, endorse her appointment 100%. She is an exceptional resource to the state of Hawaii. Patricia Morrissey

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:58:03 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Uyehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am writing this testimony on behalf of Dr. Kiriko Takahashi. She is the current interim director for the University of Hawaii, Manoa, College of Education, Center on Disability Studies (CDS). She has years of experience in the field of disability and diversity and is the Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator on many research projects at CDS. She is my supervisor and over the course of a decade has mentored me, and supervised me with compassion and her wealth of knowledge. I have first hand witnessed her ability to work with the disability population through positive engagement and compassion, and feel she will be an asset. Sincerely, Lisa Uyehara

**LATE**

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:01:49 PM  
Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa-Marie Eng	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kirko is a responsible individual with the care and integrity to support people with disabilities.



**LATE**

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:19:12 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alex Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I strongly support the appointment of Kiriko Takahashi to the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Takahashi's work as the director of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at UH Mānoa makes her a qualified HSCDD member.

**LATE**

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:43:07 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Floyd Masga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing this letter of support for Kiriko Takahashi for the position of State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Ms. Takahashi is more than qualified for this position. I have known Ms. Takahashi professionally for over eight years. She has always worked hard to address the needs of Island areas as well as Hawaii. She has always been compassionate as well as an advocate for disabilities.

In conclusion, I deeply support her appointment. Your support with this appointment will be highly be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Floyd Eric R. Masga

**LATE**

**GM-581**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:32:53 AM

Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Genesis Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message 591 for the consideration and confirmation of Dr. Kiriko Takahashi to the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

As an individual, I've work with Dr. Takahashi as an employee and student. Her extensive expertise in issues in Hawaii and development disabilities would be an asset to the council. In addition, her role as the Director at the Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa will further collboration within the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.