



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
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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 582 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Governatorial Nominee Melissa Gibo**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 582** to confirm the nomination of Melissa Gibo 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.

The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. Ms. Gibo is the Director of Organizational Effectiveness at Catholic Charities Hawaii. Ms. Gibo's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement to have a representative of a non-profit organization concerned with services to individuals with DD. Catholic Charities provides direct services to individuals with DD through the Community-Based Services Waiver Program.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Gubernatorial Nominee
Melissa Gibo
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Ms. Gibo has worked within the disability field since 2003. Her knowledge of case management and specific DD services will be vital to the council in our planning and implementation of our new five-year state plan. As a representative of non-profit groups and her various affiliations with Catholic Charities, Ms. Gibo would provide the Council with direct input from services providers on how best to coordinate services and serve as a liaison to assist the Council in building capacity of service providers in the community.

The Council is pleased with the nomination of Ms. Gibo and welcomes her back to the Council, having served on the Council several years ago we look forward to the opportunity to work with her.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 582** to confirm Ms. Gibo to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 582: RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF MELISSA GIBO TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

TO: Senate Committee on Health (HTH)
FROM: Stella M. Q. Wong, Vice President-Programs, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: **March 31, 2021, 1:00 p.m. ; via videoconference**

Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, and Members, Committee on Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, gubernatorial nominee, MELISSA GIBO, for a term to expire 06-30-2024. I am Stella M. Q. Wong, with Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Vice President – Programs. I have known Melissa Gibo for over 15 years.

Ms. Gibo started at Catholic Charities Hawaii in 2006. Her interest in working with the developmentally disabled led her to head our Developmental Disabilities Waiver Services. There she headed our program that provided case management and nursing supervision over foster homes for the DD clients.

During the ten years Ms. Gibo headed the program, she helped develop policies, procedures and best practices for the program. At one point, Ms. Gibo was in charge of over 40 clients and their foster homes. She was able to maintain the quality of care for these clients, by offering training to the foster home owners and close monitoring of the clients.

Ms. Gibo was recruited by the Department of Health to help run the DDWS program for the State and improve the system. However, in 2018 she returned to Catholic Charities Hawaii to become the Director Organizational Effectiveness. She is currently in charge of risk management, program effectiveness and quality improvement.

Ms. Gibo still has a passion for the developmentally disabled and continues to volunteer to work with several groups. She would be ideal for the Council on Developmental Disabilities because of her commitment to better the lives of the DD clients and her constant pursuit to bring best practice to the groups that work with this population.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 70 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless, and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable in Hawai'i.

We urge your support for Ms. Melissa Gibo's appointment to the Council. Please contact me, Stella Wong at 808-527-4888 or swong@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



GM-582

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:07:22 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Lum Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in **strong support** of GM 582, appointing Melissa Gibo to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

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GM-582

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 5:28:48 PM
Testimony for HTH on 3/31/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Abigail George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Abigail George and I strongly support the confirmation of Melissa Gibo as a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Melissa's dedication to support individuals with disabilities is paramount. Her work ethic is impeccable. And I truly feel this world is a better place because of Social Workers like Melissa.