



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 584 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Bathey Fong

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 584** to confirm the nomination of Bathey Fong for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

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

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

The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. Ms. Fong's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for representatives of individuals with DD.

Ms. Fong's re-appointment for her second term to the Council would assist us in finishing our 2017- 2021 State Plan goal addressing self-advocacy and self-determination that states, "Self-advocates have the supports needed to build a statewide self-advocacy network that helps individuals have the life they want through leadership, education, and full participation in the community." Ms. Fong is currently the Hawaii Self Advocate Advisory Council's (SAAC) president. Her perspective as a self-advocate is indispensable in regard to developing and implanting our new five-year state plan in the coming year. We look forward to Ms. Fong's second term to the Council and the numerous contributions he will make representing individuals with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 584** to confirm Bathey Fong to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

P.O. Box 4777
Kaneohe, HI 96744

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole
Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message 584 Nomination of Bathey Fong to the State Coordinating Council
on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health,

I support the nomination of Bathey Fong to serve on the State Council on Developmental
Disabilities (DDC) representing people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD).

I am testifying as a business owner, disability advocate, and retiree of the Disability and
Communication Access Board (DCAB). I have known Ms. Fong for over 10 years. She is a hard
working volunteer with State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DDC) and a leader with the
Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC).

When I was still working at DCAB, she assisted me in staffing a table for Feeling Safe, Being Safe
at Oahu Community Emergency Preparedness Fairs for more than 5 years. She assisted people
who came to our exhibit and explained emergency preparedness, how to prepare a personal
"Go Kit," and how to obtain more information about the Feeling Safe, Being Safe program in
which she is a trainer. She also was a co-speaker with me on a webinar sponsored by the
Pacific ADA Center for Region IX about emergency preparedness and people with disabilities.
She is a leader, advocate, and life-long learner with whom I have had the pleasure and honor to
work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of her nomination to the State Council on
Developmental Disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

DEBBRA L. JACKSON
Owner
Alii Interpreting Services, LLC