



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 585 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Michelle Muralt**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 585** to confirm the nomination of Michelle Muralt 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. Muralt's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for representatives of individuals with DD.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Gubernatorial Nominee
Michelle Muralt
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Ms. Muralt'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." Her perspective is also indispensable in regard to developing and implanting our new five-year state plan in the coming year. We look forward to Ms. Muralt'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 585** to confirm Michelle Muralt 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 style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

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 585 Nomination of Michelle Muralt 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 Michelle Muralt 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. Muralt for approximately years. She is a loyal volunteer at the 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 as a substitute to staff a table for Feeling Safe, Being Safe at an Oahu Community Emergency Preparedness Fair. She assisted people who came to our exhibit and explained emergency preparedness, and how to prepare a personal "Go Kit." She was also interested in learning about and visited other exhibits at the fair. She has truly grown as a person, and I have enjoyed working and interacting with Ms. Muralt.

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