

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 11:56:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rev. T. J. FitzGerald	Testifying for First Unitarian Church of Honolulu	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to recommend that you appoint Ramoda Anand to the Statewide Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committee. Ramoda's many years of service and advocacy across all the islands of Hawai'i is an example to all of us. His successes in advocating on behalf of those who move in a range of ways is well known, and the kindness, wisdom, and compassion he offers in his work is truly an example to all who seek to serve our community. I have worked with Ramoda on justice matters our church has supported. I have also learned a great deal from Ramoda about the way political change happens in this state. And in all of these times, Ramoda approaches his work with a highly positive outlook and a wonderful sense of humor. His presence would be a welcome addition to any working group, but I think that his passion for fairness and equity make him perfectly suited to advise on one of the bedrock principles of participation in government: voting. His selection is wise and I know his counsel to the Advisory Committee will be wiser still.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak more about this at the hearing on this measure.

Submitted with aloha
Rev. T. J. FitzGerald
Senior Minister
First Unitarian Church of Honolulu

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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 18, 2022

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads
Senate Committee on Judiciary
The Thirty-First Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: GM591 - Nomination of Ramoda Anand to the statewide voters with special needs advisory committee

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM591** for the nomination of Ramoda Anand to sit on the statewide voters with special needs advisory committee.

Mr. Anand has been very involved in his community and advocating for individuals with disabilities. Being a person who has cerebral palsy and utilizes a wheelchair for mobility he contributes his expertise in addressing the development of policies for home and community-based approaches. His experience is an asset to the Council in promoting systems change and advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for GM591.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Thirtieth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 591 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Statewide Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAMODA ANAND, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 591** to confirm the nomination of Ramoda Anand, for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

As a SAAC member, we were privileged to have Mr. Anand be nominated by Governor Ige to serve on The Statewide Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committee. Mr. Anand has demonstrated strong advocacy skills by participating in various meetings and advocating for individuals with disabilities.

The SAAC is pleased with Mr. Anand's appointment to the Statewide Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committee, by fulfilling the State's requirement for representatives of individuals with DD. We look forward to his contributions to improve the quality of life for individuals with DD.

The SAAC appreciates the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 591.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Bathey Fong".

Bathey Fong

President, Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC)

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 12:42:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Curran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Lee Curran and I am testifying as an individual who is a member of the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu and a co-facilitator of the Transformative Justice Task Force which is part of Faith Action for Community Equity, (FACE). I am testifying in full, unequivocal, enthusiastic **SUPPORT** of GM 591, consideration and confirmation to the Statewide Voters With Special Needs Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, RAMODA ANAND, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Ramoda is a vibrant, highly qualified candidate who will be a tremendous asset to this Advisory Committee. He has shown our First Unitarian congregation what being a disabled person living a full, purpose-driven, social justice conscious and active life can look like. He has dismantled some of the ableist stereotypes around people with disabilities and educated our congregation about participation in the democratic process as a means to achieve equity and justice for ALL.

I ask that you confirm Ramoda Anand to the Statewide Voters With Special Needs Advisory Committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lee Curran, Makaha

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 1:35:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Gilham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ramoda Anand is an excellent choice for this position. I fully support his consideration.

He will serve the State well.

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 1:58:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ms. Jill Rabinov	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I hereby fully support the appointment of Gubernatorial Nominee Ramoda Anand to the Statewide Voters With Special Needs Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Jill Rabinov

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:39:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy S. Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, Ramoda Anand is a thoughtful and inventive worker. He attended the Social Justice Council of the Unitarian Church. I appreciated his input. He is also responsible about following through on what he thinks is important. He will be an asset to the Governor's Advisory Committee for Accessibility to Voting. I support him.

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 2:46:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Geil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RAMODA ANAND lives with a condition that makes communication very difficult, so he has lived the situation of Statewide Voters With Special Needs, letting him know from firsthand experience the needs and situations that can make a difference. Ramoda is highly intelligent and interacts with wisdom. His advice should enhance the work of the Special Needs Advisory Committee. For that reason, I recommend that his appointment be approved, as I believe the committee would benefit from his participation.

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 4:07:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Carla Allison and I strongly support the confirmation of Ramoda Anand to the Statewide Voters With Special Needs Advisory Committee.

If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting and/or working with Ramoda, you only need to enter his name into a Google search to learn of his many years of service and advocacy across Hawaii's islands.

If you've had the pleasure of meeting and/or working with Ramoda, then you already know the wisdom, compassion, and positive outlook he brings to his advocacy work. And you also know that his vibrant sense of humor is a joy to experience.

As a member and active justice leader at the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, I've personally learned from Ramoda's passion for fairness and equity, and am grateful for his many contributions to our community.

I ask that you all swiftly confirm Ramoda Anand to the Statewide Voters With Special Needs Advisory Committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carla Allison

Honolulu

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:01:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kevin landers	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only
Recorded as In Support			

Comments:

Aloha

Please appoint Ramoda Anand to the Statewide Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committee - his knowledge, advocacy work experience and impacted lived experience make him uniquely & profoundly qualified for this role.

Mahalo

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 4:57:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I strongly support the confirmation of the Governor's nominee, Ramoda Anand, to the Voters with Special Needs Advisory Council, as provided in the measure before you this morning. I have been impressed by Ramoda's history of energetic activism when faced with obstacles. His eagerness to stand for this appointment is characteristic. Ramoda has chosen his earlier engagements so well that in prevailing he has often smoothed the way for others. Our community could not find a better advocate for individuals with special needs than Ramoda Anand, and no more important issue for his attention than voting access. Ramoda can help the State become a model for greater inclusion of these eligible voters, and in the process ignite the passion for voting among all of us.

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:30:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
francine less	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Recorded as In Support

Comments:

I support the nomination of Ramoda Anand for confirmation to this committee. He is an activist in many areas of social just concern.

Francine Less

1212 Nuuanu Avenue, #1406

Honolulu 96817

GM-591

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:46:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Jacobs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Re: Support of GM591.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Allison Jacobs and I am testifying as an individual who is a member of the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu and a co-facilitator of the “A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity (A.D.O.R.E.) program.

I am writing to request that you confirm Ramoda Anand’s selection to the Statewide Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committee. I have personal knowledge that Ramoda has been involved with social justice matters, not only in our church community but over the years I have also seen him at the legislature advocating for social justice issues.

Ramoda is a highly qualified candidate whose knowledge, kindness, compassion and sense of humor will be an asset to the Statewide Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Allison Jacobs, Kaimuki

From: [Kabba Anand](#)
To: [Sen. Karl Rhoads](#)
Cc: [rhoads1 - Leslee](#); [Ramoda Anand](#); [Eulalia Paz](#)
Subject: Nomination to the Statewide Voters with Special Needs Advisory Committee
Date: Saturday, February 26, 2022 5:17:56 PM
Attachments: [Ramoda CV.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

February 27, 2022

Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Senator Rhoads,

In response to the questions you posed:

1. The Special Needs Advisory Committee is being constituted to ensure equal and independent voter access to voter registration, casting of ballots, and other related services.
2. My role will be to join other committee members in reviewing election procedures, services, and access to information (technology).
3. I applied to be nominated after Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator of the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities, encouraged me to do so.
4. I love politics and have voted ever since I was legal. Due to multiple physical and visual challenges I have experienced many obstacles on the way. I previously served on the Maui County Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and enjoy working as a team for the greater good.
5. I hope to learn a lot and help solve issues that might discriminate against persons with disabilities as they want or try to vote in Hawaii.
6. Protection of the voting rights for persons with disabilities as well as their access to voting locations and equipment.
7. I do not foresee any obvious conflicts of interest. Should I need, I will recuse myself.
8. I have been a disability rights activist for many years on Maui and in Hawaii.
9. I do not have skeletons in the closet.
10. Attached