



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMAMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
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February 18, 2022

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
Thirtieth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT:** GM 604 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Michelle Arakawa

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 604** to confirm the nomination of Michelle Arakawa for a term to expire June 30, 2026.

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; 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 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.). The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership.

Ms. Arakawa's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for a representative of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. She is currently an Educational Specialist with the Department of Education (DOE). We look forward to Ms. Arakawa's continued contributions to increase coordination and collaboration between the Council and DOE. Her participation on the Council's Transition and Employment Committee has assisted the Council to address its State Plan and carry out activities relating to increased access to information on supports needed to prepare students for the transition from high school to adult life.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 604** to confirm the appointment of Michelle Arakawa to continue on the board of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

**GM-604**

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 6:15:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michelle Arakawa	Testifying for DOE	Support	No

Comments:

I am Michelle Arakawa, representing the Department of Education, I kindly ask for your consideration and confirmation of my nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities GM 604. I have served on the committee for the past three years and would like to continue contributing to the work the council does in serving individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.