



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 18, 2022

The Honorable Jarret Keohokalole, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Thirtieth First
Legislature State
Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator, Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 605 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Kiriko Takahashi

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 605** to confirm the nomination of Kiriko Takahashi 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 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.

Dr. Takahashi is the Director of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Center on Disability Studies. Her appointment on the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement to represent the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service.

The Honorable Keohokalole

Page 2

February 18, 2022

Dr. Takahashi has worked within the disability field for over 20 years. Her background is in research, and data will help guide the Council regarding federal trends and grants available to Hawai'i. Her knowledge will keep the Council informed and updated on the best practices within the disability field at a state and federal level. Her perspective within the research field will be valued in the creation and implementation of our new five-year state plan that will begin next year.

The Council is pleased with the nomination of Dr. Takahashi, welcoming her reappointment and the opportunity to continue to work with her. Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 605** to confirm Dr. Kiriko Takahashi 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 contained within a thin blue rectangular border.

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

GM-605

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 5:13:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	No

Comments:

We are pleased to offer testimony in strong support of GM 605, nominating Kiriko Takahashi to serve a term on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Kiriko currently serves as the Interim Director at the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies. As the state's Protection and Advocacy System we are an integral partner with them (along with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities) in the federal DD Tri-Agency Network. Kiriko has done an outstanding job since assuming the position of Interim Director. She has diligently worked to make the Tri Agency relationship a meaningful one and has sought new ways to make sure that the Center on Disability Studies is fulfilling its mission to assist the disability community. She is very bright and dedicated and extremely hard working. We strongly support her confirmation and believe she will be an excellent member of the DD Council.

GM-605

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 12:14:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eric Folk	Testifying for UHM Center on Disability Studies Postsecondary Support Project	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Eric Folk, University of Hawai'i Center on Disability Studies.

I have known and worked with Dr. Kiriko Takahashi for approximately 14 years. As a colleague I can attest to her incredible drive and enthusiasm for initiating, innovating, and executing important work in our field of disability studies. In addition to managing numerous federally funded projects, she also is the fulltime interim director of our UH Mānoa Center on Disability Studies, and the mother of three incredible children. I don't know how she manages it all with such competence and grace. Kiriko is a force of nature and an advocate of the highest quality. As someone who works closely with the Developmental Disability Council and people with disabilities in supporting our statewide UH system inclusive postsecondary project for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, I can say with the utmost confidence that Kiriko will perform admirably during her appointment. She has the knowledge, knowhow, dedication, skills, and drive that will help her excel in her appointment. Please support Dr. Takahashi's appointment to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

GM-605

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 10:56:34 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hye Jin Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly recommend Dr. Kiriko Takahashi for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities as she has been a fearless leader in the field of disability studies and a strong advocate for individuals with disabilities. As an interim director of Center on Disability Studies, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, she has successfully led Hawaii University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and Pacific Basin UCEDD to promote research, training, and services for individuals with disabilities. As part of the work, she has led the Consumer Advisory Council, consisting of community organizations and advocates, and the University Coordinating Council, consisting of university personnel invested in disability issues, and has contributed to strengthening the statewide support system for individuals with disabilities.

GM-605

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 11:39:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megan Dabrowski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support Kiriko Takahashi's nomination to continue to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

GM-605

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 12:22:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Uyehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Lisa Uyehara, Associate Specialist Faculty at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, College of Education, Center on Disability Studies. I am writing this testimony on behalf of Dr. Kiriko Takahashi who is a current member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and is seeking continuation of her position. Dr. Takahashi brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the council as the Interim Director of the Center on Disabilities Studies, and the Principal Investigator and co-Principal Investigator on a number of research projects for students with disabilities. I wholeheartedly support her continuation on the council.

Sincerely,

Lisa Uyehara, MA, JD, Associate Specialist Faculty

GM-605

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 3:03:59 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sean Nagamatsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Dr. Kiriko Takahashi to continue to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. She has been a visionary and stalwart contributor to the betterment of the community of people with developmental disabilities in Hawai'i.

GM-605

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 10:30:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jerica Manoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support appointment for Kiriko Takahashi for the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities. She is an excellent and qualified leader and great supporter and representative for the Disabilities community.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

February 15, 2022

To: Members of the Heath Committee, Hawaii State Legislature

From: Robert A. Stodden, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus & Past Director
Center on Disability Studies

Re: Letter of Support for Dr. Kiriko Takahashi (GM605)

I am very pleased to support Dr. Kiriko Takahashi in her appointment to the Hawaii Developmental Disabilities Council for the State of Hawaii. I have carefully reviewed her professional papers and find her to be a highly qualified candidate for this important role. I am very familiar with the excellent performance and significant professional contribution she has made toward persons with disabilities in the State of Hawaii. Previously, as a faculty member, and now, during her time of appointment as Director, she has actively applied her knowledge and skills to direct the Center on Disability Studies into new and exciting areas of research, training, and service.

She has applied a unique set of skills and knowledge to her position as Director of the Center on Disability Studies, which have contributed to the Center being a valuable place in this university. She has strategically applied this skill set to advance the mission of the university and the Center on Disability Studies in ways that carry significant value to the disability community.

Personally and professionally, I find Dr. Takahashi to be a very hardworking and committed individual, possessing a strong sense of equity for all students' right to an equal education – this includes consideration for those who are underrepresented as learners. She has displayed the necessary personal and professional behaviors to work closely with a diverse range of persons in both the university and community.

From my review of her professional papers and my experience working with Dr. Takahashi, I strongly support positive consideration in her appointment to the Developmental Disabilities Council for the State of Hawaii. If I can provide further information regarding her application, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at: stodden@hawaii.edu or phone: 808-478-1505 (cell). Thank you very much for this opportunity to support her appointment.

GM-605

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 8:50:25 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Naomi Rombaoa Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Dr. Kiriko Takahashi's nomination to continue to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Takahashi is highly qualified and brings many years of experience to the table. She will continue to be an asset to this program.