



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 610 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Shana Metsch

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 610** to confirm the nomination of Shana Metsch for a term to expire June 30, 2025.

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.

Ms. Metsch is the mother of a daughter who was born with special needs. Her appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement of parents represented on the Council. We are fortunate to have Ms. Metsch nominated to serve on the Council to represent families living on Kaua'i.

The Honorable Keohokalole

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Her accomplishments as an active participant for the Epilepsy Foundation of Hawai'i, a strong advocate for her daughter in supporting her to live at home and advocating on her behalf to receive appropriate family-centered care will serve as a model for other parents who may need support to keep their children at home. Her knowledge and experience relating to disabilities and health care will assist the Council with its State Plan specifically around individuals with developmental disabilities at a younger age.

The Council is pleased with the nomination of Ms. Shana Metsch, the reappointment will allow us the opportunity to continue to work with her. Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 610** to confirm Ms. Shana Metsch 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