

March 20, 2022

WRITTEN STATEMENT
Roselani Manuwai-Rowe

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the State Rehabilitation Council?

I am interested in fulfilling the responsibilities of a Council Member for the State Rehabilitation Council. I am the Executive Director of the Parent Training & Information Center for the State of Hawai'i Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and our obligation to represent the PTI on the State Rehabilitation Council is required. I am also interested to continue to receive and be part of a resource for individuals with disabilities that improves lives.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Rehabilitation Council?

As a current member of the council, I see the council acting on behalf of individuals with disabilities for an equitable and meaningful work, education and living setting. We have reviewed policy and programs for individuals with disabilities to be sure accessibility and affordability are addressed.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Rehabilitation Council, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the State Rehabilitation Council.

Because of my current position as the CEO/Executive Director of the Parent Training & Information Center for Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, 30+ years working for individuals with developmental disabilities and my 20+ experience in management, I understand what it takes to work alongside people to improve outcomes.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

To see this council, create a standardized approach to reaching students with disabilities across the State who are on the waiting list for Department of Vocational Rehabilitation by streamlining the wait time on the wait list.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the State Rehabilitation Council?

Passionate
Intentional
Confident

These qualities can help to start conversations, ask questions to gain answers and reduce delaying decision making.

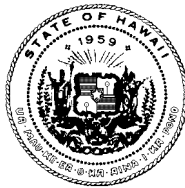
6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the State Rehabilitation Council?

I have not had one previous experience that would make me stand out. I like to use my expertise and knowledge in a team approach where many hands are fulfilled by their input and experience. I do not recall a time where I stood out.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the State Rehabilitation Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts and if I did, I would bring that to the attention of the Chair or recuse myself.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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April 1, 2022

TO: The Honorable Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director
Maureen Bates, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

SUBJECT: **GM 659 – Relating to consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Roselani Rowe, for a term to expire on 06-30-2025.**

HEARING: Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference, State Capitol

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Department of Human Services, supports the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Roselani Manuwai-Rowe to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Ms. Manuwai-Rowe is seeking to serve a second term appointment to the SRC as a representative of a parent training and information center as described by section 348-8(a)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Ms. Manuwai-Rowe is the Executive Director at Leadership in Disabilities and Achievement of Hawaii (LDAH), a non-profit organization. The LDAH works on multiple projects, including the Hawaii Parent Training and Information Center (Hawaii PTI), that benefit children with or at risk of disabilities, their families, and the professionals who serve them.

Ms. Manuwai-Rowe's efforts enhance educational, work experience, and life opportunities for children and youth with or at risk of disabilities by empowering them and their families

through screening, identification, information, training and mentoring, and public outreach and advocacy.

Ms. Manuwai-Rowe's membership in the SRC would fulfill the composition requirement. In addition, her rich employment experiences and perspectives will help shed light on some of the obstacles and challenges individuals with disabilities face that directly impact employment outcomes in the community for participants of the DVR Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nomination.