

Date: March 31, 2023

To: Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawaii State Senator
District 2, Puna

Re: Governor's Message No. 572 Nomination of James LaBrie to the State Council on
Developmental Disabilities

Dear Senator Joy San Buenaventura:

Here are my responses to the questions that you asked to reply to:

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities? **As a person with a developmental disability I want to be an advocate for people who need services and support from the Developmental Disabilities Division. I also want to try and help families figure out what services they would need.**
- (2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities? **I understand that the role of being a council member is to hear individual concerns and see how we provide them with answers.**
- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, 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 Council on Developmental Disabilities. **I believe that as an individual who receives services from the Developmental Disabilities division, I have seen many things that I can advocate for. For example, if a person does not like the home that they are in, I could help them figure out a better home placement, or I can direct them to their case manager and find a home that matches their needs. My skills include being able to speak up for an issue that needs to be fixed right away and be done in a timely manner. As a person who has lived in many foster homes since the age of 15, I have experienced many difficulties and faced many challenges, but was able to overcome those difficulties by advocating for myself.**
- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service? **What I hope to accomplish during my term of service is to make sure that people in DD homes are happy with the services that they are getting. I believe that I can help people in homes have a better experience at home and at their programs.**
- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the State Council on Developmental Disabilities? **The three qualities are being outspoken, taking on different challenges**

and speaking on behalf of others who have disabilities. This would benefit the DD council by having a voice to help make changes in the lives of people with disabilities.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the State Council on Developmental Disabilities? By being someone who has lived in foster homes since I was 15 years old, in August 2018-2019, I have had to work through obstacles for eight months. For example, I was in a home where the caregiver who was on the license was always at another job and not present to give me care and had his family member take care of me. The licensed person should be present to provide care to me, not another family member who is not licensed to provide care for me. I was moved to another home in April 2019. It was difficult to go to doctor's appointments, feed me, shower me, etc by people who did not care about me because I was not their client in their home.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest? I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest while serving on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I would not apply for another board while serving on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

James LaBrie
91-1193 Kupipi Place
Ewa Beach, HI 96706



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 Richards Street, Suite 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 572 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee James LaBrie

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 572** to confirm the nomination of James LaBrie for a term to expire June 30, 2027.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L.106-402) is clear in determining the composition of this body to ensure that all the stakeholders are represented and engaged in the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of services and supports for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD). The law specifically requires that not less than 60 percent of the membership of the Council be composed of individuals with I/DD, parents, immediate relatives or guardians.

The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. Mr. LaBrie's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for representatives of individuals with I/DD.

Mr. LaBrie 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 lived experience of residing in over 20 foster homes is an asset to the Council in promoting systems change and advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families Mr. LaBrie is also a member of the Hawai'i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) when he isn't in school studying to become a Pastor.

We look forward to Mr. LaBrie's contributions to the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 572** to confirm James LaBrie to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

GM-572

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 6:27:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/5/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carter Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Carter Lam and I am writing in support of James Labrie for the position in the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. James currently serves on our welcome team at Reunion Church. I have had the pleasure of knowing James for a while now and I can say with confidence he is someone who genuinely cares about others. He is always the first to volunteer to serve and is both reliable and dependent. He leads and serves by example and is always thorough and excellent in his communication. James Labrie is someone I trust and feel confident in representing the best interest of others.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration,
Carter Lam

GM-572

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 8:59:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/5/2023 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaili Swan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly nominated James Labrie because he is a strong advocate for hawaii self advocacy advisory Council and wants to join dd council board member and I strongly support for GM572 for James Labrie.