

April 7, 2023

Aloha Senator San Buenaventura,

Mahalo for the opportunity to continue to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I am sorry but I will not be able to attend my hearing on 4/10/2023 as I will be out of state on a previously planned engagement. Although I cannot make it to the hearing, I wanted to let you know that I am willing to serve.

I have been a Social Worker for the past 13 years working with many different groups of people. For the past 10 years I have been working with individuals with developmental disabilities (DD). Through all of my experiences I recognized the need to support DD individuals with having their own voice and obtaining their desired life. This is what I feel continuing to serve as a board member will help me to do.

I feel the role and responsibilities of a board member is to help empower, advocate and support DD individuals. As a board member I try to stay abreast of the current issues and situations that effect the DD population. Since I have been working with the DD population for a while now, I feel my skills of person centeredness, adaptability, empathy, and patience help in my decision-making abilities. During my term of service, I hope to continue to help link available resources as well as get more involved in DD council activities.

Three qualities that best describe me are dedication, passion and understanding of the DD population. These qualities benefit the State Council on Developmental Disabilities as I show up, treat others with respect and participate in active listening. My previous experience of being a DD Case Manager benefit the council because I am able to have a broader view of the issues at hand. I do not foresee any conflicts of interest. But if a conflict should arise, I will be sure to communicate my situation and discuss options or alternatives.

Mahalo,

Alana Souza



**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 10, 2023

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

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT:** GM 666 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Alana Souza

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM666** to confirm the nomination of Alana Souza, for a second 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 Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. Ms. Souza is with the Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division, Health Care Services Branch, Contract Monitoring & Compliance Section. Her appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for a representative of Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

Ms. Souza's past positions in the Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division and her current position with MQD has provided the Council with a direct link to convey its issues and concerns for persons with Intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) receiving health care services through the QUEST Integration program. Furthermore, her reappointment to the Council will continue to strengthen the Council's advocacy to assure that individuals with I/DD have access to quality health care services.

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
GM 666  
April 10, 2023  
Page 2

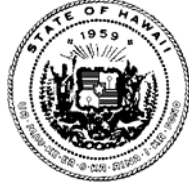
We welcome Ms. Souza's reappointment to serve on the Council and look forward to her continued contributions to assist us to improve access to health care services for individuals with I/DD. Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 666** to confirm Ms. Alana Souza's reappointment 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, flowing style.

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 9, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director  
Judy Mohr Peterson, Administrator, Med-QUEST Division

SUBJECT: **GM 666 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALANA SOUZA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

Hearing: April 10, 2023, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the Governor's nominee, Alana Souza, to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Per section 333E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities provides advocacy, capacity building, systemic change, planning, coordinating activities, promoting interagency collaboration, and enhancing coordination to better serve individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The Governor's nominee meets the federal requirements for Council membership. Ms. Souza works at DHS in the Med-QUEST Division (MQD). Her appointment to the Council will fulfill the federal requirement for a representative from the State's Medicaid program.

Ms. Souza's past positions in the Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division, her current position with MQD, her training as a social worker, and her past service on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities provide her with the knowledge, experience, and valuable

insight to listen and understand the issues and concerns people with developmental disabilities and their families may have when receiving health care services through the QUEST Integration, Hawaii's Medicaid program. Her appointment will also ensure the continuation of the strong relationship between the Council and DHS MQD.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

**GM-666**

Submitted on: 4/9/2023 11:59:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/10/2023 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Yamanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Alana Souza to the State Council for Developmental Disabilities.

I became acquainted with Ms. Souza when we went to college at Hawaii Pacific University from 2009 through 2012 and continued to stay in touch as friends through the present time. I worked with Ms. Souza as a social worker at Ann Pearl Nursing Facility and worked as her supervisor at a post acute rehab facility until other work opportunities came about. Ms. Souza's work ethics and characteristics were outstanding. She was dedicated in everything she was involved with. She worked closely with patients and families to provide the best care/ discharge planning/psychosocial support.

Ms. Souza supported adults of all ages at the healthcare facility with medical conditions that were life-changing. Ms. Souza assisted with discharge planning and coordinated services and connected patients with other resources to provide support with planning a safe discharge. Ms. Souza was always very dependable and resourceful and will always get the job done. She went above and beyond to help others at work on a professional level and on a personal level. Ms. Souza will definitely be an asset and a good addition to the Council on developmental disabilities.

Denise Yamanaka, MSW, LSW, ASW-G

Manager, Social Services

The Villas Rehab

**GM-666**

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 6:28:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/10/2023 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashley Wakuta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Alana Souza to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

I know Alana will continue to be an asset to the Board. She is passionate about what she does and has been an advocate for those who are vulnerable for many years.

I worked with Alana when she was a Social Worker in a nursing facility and she has continued to be a lifelong friend.

Sincerely,

Ashley Wakuta

Director of Nursing

Garden Isle Rehab & Nursing