

**Sandra T N Jakob**  
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February 25, 2024

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination to the State Rehabilitation Council

Dear Senator San Buenaventura,

Increasing the opportunities for those individuals with disabilities who face barriers to employment leads to greater economic self-sufficiency and more active participation in community life. The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) plays an important role by providing the connections for these individuals between education and career preparation. The goal of the State Rehabilitation Council is to review, analyze, and advise DVR to better help these individuals achieve better employment outcomes, and I believe that I can contribute to this effort.

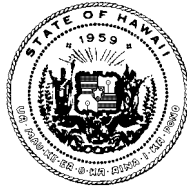
I earned a Master of Education in Counseling and Guidance with a specialization in Rehabilitation, am a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, and a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. I gained practicum experience at DVR and spent a year in an internship providing supported employment. I have been working with persons with disabilities as a vocational rehabilitation specialist in the private sector for over 20 years. I provide adjustment to disability counseling and assist clients with identifying feasible vocational alternatives given their change in capabilities. I am an advocate for my clients; my goal is to help them to achieve their goals by providing adjustment to disability counseling, education, exploration, testing, communications with others involved in their case, coordination, and addressing barriers and concerns. The experience that I have in working in the private sector on the Big Island gained throughout the years will allow me to provide an alternate perspective and contribute to the State Rehabilitation Council in carrying out its purpose. There are no conflicts of interest with my serving on the Board.

Sincerely,

*Sandra Jakob*

Sandra Jakob, MEd, CRC, LMHC

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  
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TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 24, 2024

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director  
Lea Dias, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

SUBJECT: **GM 560 – Relating to Consideration and Confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Sandra Jakob, for a Term to Expire 06-30-2026.**

Hearing: February 28, 2024, 1:00 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconferencing, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Sandra Jakob to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

**PURPOSE:** The SRC was established by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The SRC acts in partnership with the DVR on services that address the employment needs of individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Jakob is seeking appointment to the SRC as a qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor from a private agency with knowledge of and experience with Vocational Rehabilitation Programs per section 348-8(a)(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as established under section 796d of 29 U.S. Code § 725, and she resides in Hawaii County, satisfying the requirement of section 348-8(a), HRS, that the "council shall include at least one member from each county."

Ms. Jakob has a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and has been a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and Licensed Mental Health Counselor for over twenty years. She works at PACBLU Hawaii, a company whose mission is to assist injured individuals in Hawaii's worker's compensation system to adjust to their disability and return to work. Ms. Jakob is eager to offer input about the scope and effectiveness of services provided to individuals with disabilities and plans to participate actively in the SRC.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Ms. Jakob.