

State Council of Developmental Disabilities Questions & Answers:

1: I wish to be a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities because as someone with a Developmental Disability (Autism), I want to make sure that people with Developmental Disabilities are not just given the support that they need but also treated well like people without Developmental Disabilities.

2: I perceive the roles & responsibilities of those on the Council to be very important in making sure that those with Developmental Disabilities are given a voice when it comes to their rights and the support that they need in a world that still needs to make progress on their treatment.

3: I feel that I am qualified for the position on the council because I am one who would make sure to attend a meeting, take notes, and when given the chance to speak, explain in a formal manner about the topic at hand, recount my past and present experiences as a neurodivergent person.

4: I hope to accomplish giving more progress to the rights and support of those with Developmental Disabilities. I want to see a better world for people like me.

5: My three best qualities that describe me is that I'm Well-Spoken, Mindful and Empathetic.

6: One experience that would help me would be me talking in a meeting at TheBus' Kalihi Transit Center about how the disability pass needs to be for people with both Developmental and Physical disabilities, as though each person is unique, those that fall under the disability umbrella do need the pass. I feel that me speaking about the disability pass is one example of how I can be beneficial as a member of the Council.

7: The only possible conflicts of interest I could see when I am a part of the council would be the scheduling of my job and any possible meetings that the Council would have. I would overcome these

conflicts by talking to my boss at my job to see if there would be any arrangements for my schedule if I can attend the meetings.

Thank You,

Ho'opi'ookalani Balaz.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
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April 7, 2025

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

Dear Senator San Buenaventura, and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: GM 603 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities Gubernatorial Nominee
Ho'opi'ookalani Balaz

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 603 to confirm the nomination of Mr. Ho'opi'ookalani Balaz for a second term to expire 06-30-2028.**

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 each Council shall include representatives of relevant State entities, including State entities that administer funds provided under Federal laws related to individuals with disabilities. The Governor's nominee, Mr. Balaz, meets the federal requirements for Council membership and brings valuable experience and dedication to this role.

We are honored that Governor Green has renominated Mr. Balaz. He has consistently demonstrated strong advocacy skills by actively participating in various meetings and advocating for individuals with disabilities. His volunteer efforts at community events, such as Best Buddies and Alzheimer's Walks, further reflect his commitment to supporting and uplifting the DD community.

The Council is confident that Mr. Balaz's ongoing contributions will positively impact efforts to improve the quality of life for individuals with DD in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 603** to confirm Mr. Ho'opi'ookalani Balaz for a second term to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Thirty third Legislature
State Capitol, State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 603 - Gubernatorial Nominee, Ho'opi'okalani Balaz

The Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 603**, the confirmation of Ho'opi'okalani Balaz to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Ho'opi'okalani Balaz is a strong advocate. He is a great example to others. He is a graduate of Leeward community college and has completed the UH Manoa Maternal and Child Health program in 2023. He has volunteered at the Best Buddies program and was the Champion of the year in 2021 and 2022. He now works for Special Olympics Hawaii in Kapolei. He has been awarded several honors with Best Buddies and serves as an officer and a member on the Self-advocacy advisory council. He continues to participate in his community. He is a team member for Special Olympics. He teaches others to speak up for themselves. He is committed to working for people with disabilities and likes to make people feel good about themselves. He is serious about his commitment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of GM 603**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Renken".

Sincerely,

Timothy Renken

President of the Hawaii Self Advocacy Council

e-mail: zosimo.arista@doh.hawaii.gov SCDD website: <http://hiddcouncil.org/> HISAAC website: <http://hisaac.org/>

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GM-603

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 4:50:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 4/7/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ho'opi'ookalani J Balaz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of serving on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Thank You.