

1). Why do I wish to be a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?

I wish to be a member because I believe I can help to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

2). What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?

I believe the roles and responsibilities are the same. People want to see a change and have a voice and being on the Council helps to give you the voice.

3). Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities as 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, and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the board?

I have good communication skills, I believe in a good cause and to make a difference. I've done a few speaking engagements.

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

Going into becoming Chairperson I've had a passion for making transportation, housing, employment and medical accessible for people with a disability. Being disabled myself I find the barriers in all of these. I know I can't accomplish them all but I would like to make a small step to making a change.

5). Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will affect the State Council Developmental Disabilities?

- 1). positive
- 2). hard working
- 3). passionate

These three qualities would affect the council in a positive way because I am pushing to make a change in a positive direction.

6). Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a member?

Meeting other people to advocate for change.

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

No, I don't see any conflict of interest. If one comes up I can communicate and talk each side over.

**GM-612**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 4:14:49 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/24/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Whiteside	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The reason I believe i am a great fit for the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities is because I am passionate about advocating for people with Disabilities and making sure their voices are being heard. Thank you!



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'Ī**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**  
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

March 24, 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 612 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities Gubernatorial Nominee Sierra Whiteside

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 612** to confirm the nomination of Sierra Whiteside for a term to expire June 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 law specifically requires that not less than 60 percent of the membership of the Council be comprised of individuals with DD, parents, immediate relatives or guardians. Additionally, 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 meets the Federal requirement for the Council to be represented by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sierra Whiteside has served and is serving as the chair of the Council. She is a self-advocate that leads by example and is a role-model for our self-advocates in advocating for themselves and others. Sierra Whiteside has become a quick leader on our Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 612** to confirm Sierra Whiteside to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

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

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

**GM-612**

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:15:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/24/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawaii Self Advocacy Advisory Council	Testifying for Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Self-advocacy advisory council stands in support of Sierra Whiteside on GM612.