



The Senate  
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Aloha Cynthia Fowler:

Congratulations on your nomination to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. To assist the Hawaii State Senate with its confirmation process, we request that you submit the following information to our office no later than February 21st, 2025, to ensure that we proceed in a timely manner:

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

I have an adult daughter born with a genetic disease that has led to severe intellectual and developmental disabilities. She lives in Colorado, where we raised her, in a small group home. I would like nothing more than to have her living here in Hawaii, but the resources for housing and caregiving are sorely lacking and she would not be able to access the same quality of care and life that she has there.

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

I've actually been on the Council for a year, but I have to admit that I struggle with what my role is. I would like to see us working on more advocacy for housing for individuals with I/DD and improving access to resources and services.

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 do believe that I am qualified for this position. I have served on the national board of directors for the Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Alliance (the disease my daughter has) and was the national chair for Outreach. My background is in physical therapy and I worked with the Hawaii Dept of Education for 4 years in the role of a physical therapist assistant on Kauai providing IEP services for students 3-21. I currently work as the Regional Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association and have been certified as an NTG trainer in the area of dementia in the I/DD population.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?  
One word: HOUSING
  
5. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.  
Bullish- I am not going to set aside my agenda because it's 'inconvenient' or 'improbable' to change.  
Resourceful - I love doing outreach and finding resources. How is this working in another state? What programs are they using that allow access in this state?  
Hard Worker - I love "TO DO" lists, getting after them, and getting them done. I am service driven and like to pull up my sleeves and get to the nuts and bolts of a problem.
  
6. Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a member.  
I think my role at the TSC Alliance as the Outreach Chair will be helpful. We don't have a lot of resources and I don't think we are accessing as many programs as we might be able to in Hawaii and I'd like to see us better utilizing our resources.
  
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?  
I do work for the Alzheimer's Association and we have partnered with the DD Council on a few projects, none to my knowledge, that would be considered a conflict of interest.

Please be aware that testimony submitted to committees – including your responses to the above questions - is posted on the Legislature's website; you may wish to remind individuals who intend to submit testimony on your behalf of the public nature of the testimony.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Here is the link to your nomination on the State Capitol website:

[Measure Status Details for GM 604](#)

Mahalo,

Amelia Dudley  
Office Manager  
Office of Sen. Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213  
Honolulu, HI 96813





**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**

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March 24, 2025

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

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT:** GM604 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Governatorial Nominee Cynthia Fowler

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM604** to confirm the nomination of Cynthia Fowler for a term to expire 30, 2028.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L.106-402 - DD Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000) 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 DD. The Governor's Nominee meets all the Federal Requirements for Council membership.

Ms. Fowler is the parent of a child with a developmental disability. Her appointment to the Council fulfills the Federal requirement of parents serving on the Council. She would make an excellent council member for the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities based on her extensive experience supporting individuals with disabilities and their families. As the Kaua'i Program Specialist for the Alzheimer's Association, Hawai'i Chapter, she provides education, support, and outreach to communities across the island. Her background includes over a decade of experience as a physical therapist, delivering services to students receiving special education through the Department of Education and the Department of Health on Kaua'i. Her professional expertise, lived experience, and dedication to improving systems of care make her a strong candidate for the Council.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 604** for the confirmation of Cynthia Fowler to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

**GM-604**

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 4:09:06 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 Cynthia Fowler on GM604.