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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

October 25 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE ELENA M.H. CABATU TO THE
HAWAII STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Hearing: Tuesday, October 25, 2007, 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services supports the nomination of Elena M.H. Cabatu to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms. Cabatu has seven years of experience in Washington, D.C. working on international women's rights and health issues at the Communications Consortium Media Center for which she is still a consultant. She returned home to Hawaii and is currently the Community Relations Manager for the Hawaii Health System Corporation's East Hawaii region. Her experience in women's rights and health issues and her media expertise will make her a valuable member of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Cabatu's nomination.

**Testimony on GM 88
Governor's Nomination for the Commission on the Status of Women**

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Thursday, October 25, 2007, 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 16 State Capitol**

My name is Sharon Ferguson-Quick and as Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I'm providing written testimony in support of the Governor's re-appointment of Elena M.H. Cabatu for the Commission on the Status of Women (GM 88) for a term to expire 6/30/10.

Hawaii Revised Statutes 367 established the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) on May 15, 1964. That legislation established a continuing body to aid in the implementation of recommendations, to develop long range goals and to coordinate research planning, programming and action on the opportunities, need, problems and contributions of women in Hawaii in (1) education, (2) homemaking, (3) civil and legal rights, (4) labor and employment and (5) expanded community horizons. In its 46 years the Commission has worked to ensure women and girls full and equal coverage under the law by informing governmental and non-governmental agencies and the public of women's rights, opportunities, and responsibilities; advocating for the enactment or revision of laws and/or policies that eliminate gender discrimination; identifying and supporting programs and projects that address women's concerns and needs; and establishing and maintaining an active presence in the community by facilitating information dissemination, acting as a liaison, clearinghouse, and coordinating body for issues relating to women. The HSCSW is the statewide link between the Honolulu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii County, which Ms. Cabatu will represent, Committees on the Status of Women, and the University of Hawaii President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms. Cabatu was selected to complete the term of Ms. Margaret Masunaga, beginning in July of 2007. She became a part of a group of diverse members who have expertise in a wide range of areas such as banking, hospitality and education. Ms. Cabatu's women's advocacy experience adds an established understanding of the barriers that impede women's progress and a commitment to finding solutions to remove them. Ms. Cabatu's work in both her professional and personal life shows her commitment to strengthening women's and girls' lives in the State of Hawaii.

I strongly support the confirmation of Elena Cabatu to the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women.

Sharon Ferguson-Quick
Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women
808-586-5757, Sharon.Y.Ferguson-Quick@hawaii.gov

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

October 25, 2007, 4:00PM

Conference Room #016

Hawaii State Capitol

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING
THE CONFIRMATION OF ELENA M. H. CABATU
Consideration and confirmation to State Commission on the Status of Women for
a term to expire 06-30-10

Sarah Craven
Chief, Washington D.C. Office
United Nations Population Fund

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Senator Ihara:

My name is Sarah Craven and I serve as the Chief of the Washington, D.C. office for the United Nations Population Fund, a U.N. development agency that is engaged in promoting the rights and health of women around the world.

I am pleased to offer my strong support of **Elena M.H. Cabatu** for consideration and confirmation to the State Commission on the Status of Women.

I first met Elena when she was finishing her senior year at Georgetown University and discovered that we both shared the common bond of having been raised in Hawaii. Elena invited me to attend the performance of her senior year thesis which was a one-woman spoken-word poetry and drama performance reflecting her multi-cultural background and the role and status of women in the Chinese, Hawaiian and Filipino cultures. It was a thoughtful, engaging and provocative performance that indicated to me that Elena was a young woman to watch as she was poised to take on the world around her in a significant way.

Shortly thereafter, Elena was hired as a Project Associate with the Communications Consortium Media Center, a non-profit media organization that has my agency as one of its clients. As part of her responsibilities, Elena became deeply immersed in the news coverage of the health, rights and well-being of women around the world. She utilized her journalism background to write clear and concise articles, media summaries and web-postings on international women's health issues. It was exciting to see her grow and develop in this role and quickly become a subject expert in international women's health and rights.

Elena will bring an important perspective to the State Women's Commission as a young woman who is committed to engaging and including the voices of young women in the policy dialogue. Elena was one of the founders of an organization called "Women to Watch" which was dedicated to helping young women navigate the Washington, D.C. policy world. She organized numerous after work events where senior level women were invited to share their perspectives and mentor younger women on how to find jobs and build careers. Women to Watch quickly grew to become quite a force for young women in the D.C. area.

Moreover, Elena will bring a unique voice to the State Women's Commission with her engagement in poetry, music and art. Elena's poetry has been printed in several local and national publications and she has also performed her poetry in diverse venues. Her poetry is based in her experiences growing up in a multi-cultural environment in Hilo and reflects a great depth and knowledge of the needs and dreams of young island women.

In closing, I want to reiterate my strong support for consideration and confirmation of **Elena M.H. Cabatu** to the State Commission on the Status of Women. I firmly believe she will make a terrific contribution to State Commission and promote the betterment and well-being of the women of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on her behalf.

Sincerely,

Sarah Craven
Chief, Washington Office
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(202) 326-8713
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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

October 25, 2007, 4:00PM

Conference Room #016

Hawaii State Capitol

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING

THE CONFIRMATION OF ELENA M. H. CABATU

Consideration and confirmation to State Commission on the Status of Women for
a term to expire 06-30-10

Name of person testifying

Miles H. Takaaze

Hawaii Health Systems Corporation

I am Miles Takaaze, vice president and public affairs director, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of the confirmation of Elena Cabatu.

Ms. Cabatu serves as an exceptional community-relations director for the HHSC East Hawaii region. At the same time, she is committed to improving community advocacy.

I envision that Elena Cabatu will bring her knowledge and expertise to bear in this important time when our communities will need to further address social issues in an effective manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to recommend and support. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 733.4154.

401 Ninth Street, NW Suite 450
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Communications Consortium  Media Center

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

October 25, 2007, 4:00PM
Conference Room #016
Hawaii State Capitol

**TESTIMONY SUPPORTING
THE CONFIRMATION OF ELENA M. H. CABATU**
Consideration and confirmation to State Commission on the Status of
Women for a term to expire 06-30-10

Micheline M. Kennedy
Vice President
Communications Consortium Media Center

Dear Ms. Suzanne Chun Oakland and Mr. Les Ihara:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of **Elena M. H. Cabatu**. I am a Vice President at the Communications Consortium Media Center (CCMC) as well as the project manager for our Global Population, Health and Development project. The goals of this project are to promote policy changes; mobilize resources; and empower women and their families globally through the use of strategic media initiatives.

I am testifying in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee **Elena M. H. Cabatu** for consideration and confirmation to the Regional System/Corporate Board of Directors of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

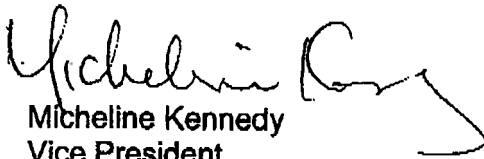
Ms. Cabatu has worked with me over the past seven years in my capacity as project manager for the Global Population, Health and Development 2015 project. Through her work Elena has shown a strong commitment and passion for the equality for women and girls around the world. In addition, she has mentored young women in Washington, D.C. as they began their careers through networking and informational sessions that she designed and implemented herself.

After leaving Washington, DC, Ms. Cabatu has continued to support the program through monitoring and analyzing media coverage related to women and girls especially through the work of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Ms. Cabatu is a strong writer and is extremely knowledgeable on value of policy and educational initiatives to promote women's rights, ensure women's health and girls access to education that will not only improve the lives of women but also their the lives of their children and their communities.

I believe that Ms. Cabatu will use the expertise she gained through her work at CCMC as well as her own passion to advocate on behalf of improving the status of women in her native home of Hawaii. I strongly recommend that you support the confirmation of the Elena M.H. Cabatu to the State Commission on the Status of Women.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify in support of **Elena M.H. Cabatu**.


Micheline Kennedy
Vice President

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

October 25, 2007, 4:00PM
Conference Room #016
Hawaii State Capitol

**TESTIMONY SUPPORTING
THE CONFIRMATION OF ELENA M. H. CABATU**
Consideration and confirmation to State Commission on the Status of Women for
a term to expire 06-30-10

Stephanie Salazar
News and Public Affairs Director
KHBC 1060AM and KHWI FM Radio, Hilo Hawaii

- Aloha -

I have been the news and public affairs director for KHBC Radio 1060 AM for these past four years, working with Hawaii Island's most trusted and longest on air personality Mel 'Mynah Bird' Medeiros. Before that I was news director of the former Big Island Radio group (KAPA FM, KISS FM, K-Hawaii-FM, KIPA AM) and K-BIG (92.7 FM) radio station on Hawaii Island. I have been a stringer for the Honolulu Star Bulletin and the Honolulu Advertiser.

I am honored to submit testimony to your committee in support of Elena M. H. Cabatu as the Hawaii County representative to the State Commission on the Status of Women. She will bring professionalism, focus, drive and experience to this important commission, whose mission is to ensure equality for women and girls in Hawaii. Ms. Cabatu is living proof of the results such a commission would like to ensure for all girls and women in the state.

KHBC radio has a strong listener base of adult working and retired people on Hawaii Island. They appreciate keeping abreast of topics of their concern, of which health care is at the top of the list. My duties at KHBC radio include scheduling interviews for our morning drive time (6-10am), public service announcements and of course, looking for news and confirming stories.

Whenever I have requested information about the Hilo Medical Center (where Ms. Cabatu is the Community Relations and Program Manager) or the Medical Center Foundation or the new Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home in Hilo, she has willingly provided prompt and accurate information. We have worked together coordinating interviews with medical personnel, administrative staff, and whenever I have referred one of our listeners to her for follow up, they are impressed with her helpfulness.

I have worked with many PAO, or public affairs officers, for state agencies in my 30 years of news work, and find Ms. Cabatu a refreshing, 'hands-on' advocate for her employer. She has not hesitated to do a variety of tasks to promote her employer's mission and accommodate our requests. For example, this week she happily delivered cookbooks that we asked to help sell to raise money for the Hilo Medical Center Foundation. She does not shy from opportunities to fulfill her duties, in fact this week she stepped up to do an impromptu, live, on-air interview to promote the foundation's upcoming wine and cheese fundraiser. We are also working together to record and air a series of 60-second recorded health tips to cover a wide variety of topics, with Dr. Stefan Harmneling, Hilo Medical Center Hospitalist and AIDS specialist. It was Ms.

Cabatu, by the way, who suggested Dr. Harmneling for a live on air interview that we conducted in the last quarter on KHBC.

Ms. Cabatu stands out as one of the most professional, helpful and enthusiastic people I have worked with in my years in news writing, public affairs and radio work.

She eagerly recorded public service announcements on health issues, provided updates on the status of public events at the hospital and responded quickly in providing speakers on a topic of interest to our listeners.

Ms. Cabatu is an upbeat person who has a positive, optimistic viewpoint which I feel enables her to fulfill her duties. She will bring her education, experience and productive qualities to this Commission on the Status of Women, which will enhance the commission's work product and help the people of Hawaii. She embodies the spirit of helpfulness and aloha in Hawaii.

Once again, let me say that I am honored to submit this testimony in support of Elena Cabatu's confirmation to the Commission on the Status of Women. She is a professional, clear and sparkling example of public service in Hawaii at its best.

- Thank you for this opportunity to testify. And feel free to contact me at my mobile number, 808 640-0384, if you have questions.

- Stephanie Salazar
 - News and Public Affairs Director, KHBC 1060AM and KHWI 92.7 FM
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- Tel: 808 640-0384, Fax: 808 959-5700
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COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

October 25, 2007, 4:00PM

Conference Room 016

Hawaii State Capitol

**Testimony for Consideration and Confirmation
to the Commission on the STATUS of WOMEN
Gubernatorial Nominee ELENA M. H. CABATU
for a Term to Expire 06-30-10**

Medical Director

Gail Rhoades, CPHQ,
RN, MBA
Director of Quality
Management

Jane Furtado, CPCS,
CPMSM
Medical Staff
Coordinator

Leilani Dupre
Credentials Secretary

June M. Ikeda
CME Coordinator

Kuulei Kumai
QM/Medical Staff
Assistant

Bonnie Leslie
Research Statistician
QM/Medical Staff
Services

Honorable Chairperson Senator Chun Oakland and members of the Committee on Human Services and Public Housing:

I am Lynda Dolan, M.D., Chief of Staff at the Hilo Medical Center. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony supporting the confirmation of Elena M. H. Cabatu to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Ms. Cabatu, who is currently the Community Relations Manager for the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, has been a great addition to the Hilo Medical Center since she started over a year ago. I am confident she would do the same for the Commission and the advancement of women in Hawaii.

I think she represents the future for women in Hawaii. Her expertise in Communications and women's rights is refreshing and I welcome her home wholeheartedly after 10 years of living in Washington, DC. I believe Ms. Cabatu's participation in the Commission on the Status of Women will bolster the women's movement.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of Ms. Cabatu. Should you have any questions, please call me at 808-933-9187.

Submitted October 24, 2007: Lynda M. Dolan MD

FROM: LAWRENCE J. HOLBROOK, 4050B KEANU ST., HONOLULU, HI 96816, PHONE:
808-735-8426, FAX: 808-735-8429
TO: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
RE: COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
OPPOSITION TO
DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007, 4:00PM
PLACE: STATE CAPITOL CONFERENCE RM 016

I testify that no person needs to be considered or confirmed for the Commission on the Status of Women. While I can say naught for or against the current nominee, Elena M.H. Cabatu, I can say, from personal experience, that women in Hawaii are no longer disadvantaged in any way and this commission is superfluous to the needs of Hawaii and its citizens today.

This commission has no currently published data on women in Hawaii and its list of resources appearing on its current web site (at <http://www.hawaii.gov/hscsw/>) is duplicated by most social services organizations that benefit women, men, and families.

Further, women in Hawaii today enjoy a status far superior to their male counterparts and women have exploited, through financial incentives and from activist women's advocates, numerous programs and entitlements that have led to a paradoxical deterioration of families that Hawaii has sought to preserve by empowering women in the first place. Hawaii is the top Single Mom's State in the U.S.A.

Of the Commission's stated goals:

1. They are to aid the State Legislature by making recommendations, developing long-range goals for legislative action, and coordinating research, planning, programming, and action. However, :
 - a. Where a woman, for any reason, may make any allegation and demand a temporary restraining order against a man, Hawaii has adopted inequitable laws that treat men and women differently.
 - b. Where a woman in Family Court may allege domestic violence, without basis in fact, the allegations are deemed to be a preponderance of evidence and have resulted in expulsion and / or elimination of a Father from the lives of his children without regards for the best interests of the children.
 - c. Where a clear and convincing standard of evidence is needed in Family Courts, this organization and its proponents stand on the side of destroying a family when a preponderance of allegations, rather than evidence, exist.
 - d. Where a majority of men work in occupations hazardous to their health and their lives without the benefits or insurance women enjoy in their occupations of "choice," men have become slaves to women who simply want to change partners and increase their financial status.
2. Targets the opportunities, needs, problems, and contributions of women in Hawai'i in the areas of education, civil and criminal rights, labor, employment, childcare, and home-making. However, :
 - a. Where women have cornered the market in education by casting every man in the role of an abuser, the population of female teachers exceeds, by far, the population of willing male teachers and role models.

b. Where the majority of civil and criminal cases involving intimate relations between partners and their families results in culpability and incarceration of males as opposed to--in the most demanding cases-- psychiatric treatment for women, the needs, problems, and contributions of women in Hawaii are overstated to the detriment of their male partners and their families.

c. Where labor and employment issues should be the purview of a commission other than the Department of Human Services, this organization has brought no new information to the ongoing discussion of women's glass ceiling or other work related issues since its inception.

d. Where men have proven their capacity for child-care and homemaking nationally, Hawaii should not make this the sole jurisdiction of women.

3. Acts as a central clearinghouse for information and activities relating to women. However, :

a. An organization that steers women towards the techniques to disrupt and destroy their family as opposed to services that help keep a family together is not an organization that helps women or their children.

b. Where multi-generational problems of parental alienation are repeated through the actions and activities of organizations closely associated with this organization, such women's advocacy and referral should be terminated in lieu of programs that are proven to maintain family structures with an interactive father, mother, and children.

c. Where this organization has failed to adopt and endorse national standards for Parenting Coordinators in high conflict custody cases, this organization has tacitly endorsed an entourage of ill-qualified, and at times, mentally unstable, charlatans who have attempted to fill the need of families that need intervention by qualified professionals.

4. Co-sponsors programs and services that benefit Hawai'i's women. However, :

a. Services that benefit women do not necessarily benefit Hawaii. More often these services come at the expense of the men who provide for these Hawaiian women. Ultimately the children are the one's to suffer. The goal is laudable but flawed.

b. By focusing on women, instead of children, families, or communities, this organization has sought to impose equality for women at the expense of their men and children and the organization has lost touch with their primary mission to improve the quality of life for women in the State of Hawaii.

In summary, the Commission on the Status of Women is an anachronistic organization that harms the well being of men and the families that they support. Therefore, this organization should be disbanded in order to protect the women, men, and children who are faced with the destruction of their families under its misguided direction.

Larry Holbrook
Honolulu, HI
808-735-8426