



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
April 17, 2015

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 675 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Natalie Kama

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 675** to confirm the nomination of Natalie Kama for a term to expire June 30, 2018.

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 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, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), and Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et seq. and 1396 et seq.); Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; State Protection and Advocacy system; and representatives, at all times, of local and non-governmental agencies, and private nonprofit groups concerned with services for individuals with DD in the State. The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership.

Ms. Kama is a parent of a young woman with a disability and fulfills the Federal requirement of parent representatives serving on the Council. She was first involved with the Council back in 1993 as a participant of the Council-sponsored Partners in

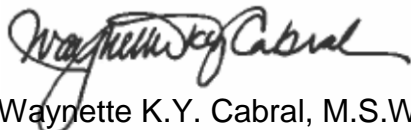
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Policymaking (PIP) Leadership Academy Training. PIP educates participants to be active partners with those who make policy, and provides education and training in current disability issues and best practices, and legislative and systems advocacy. Her positive can do attitude and enthusiasm was an asset in the PIP training in providing other participants with encouragement to be leaders in their community.

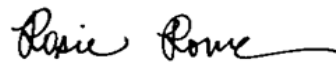
She has also been involved with the Maui Disability Alliance's annual Legislative Forum and participated as a panel member along with her daughter to provide feedback from a parent's perspective regarding Maui's service system for people with disabilities. As a Maui parent representative on the Council, she would serve as a liaison in conveying issues and concerns (such as housing, employment, and transportation) on Maui as they impact people with DD.

The Council welcomes Ms. Kama's nomination to serve on the Council. We appreciate the opportunity to convey our **strong support for GM 675 to confirm the appointment of Natalie Kama to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.**

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair