



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
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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 684 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Ricky Shimokawa

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 684** to confirm the nomination of Ricky Shimokawa 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.

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Mr. Shimokawa's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for a representative of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. He is currently an Educational Specialist with the Department of Education (DOE) with responsibility to conduct investigations regarding parent complaints about their child receiving appropriate services. His current position and previous varied experiences as a Vice Principal, Civil Rights Compliance Specialist, Special Education Teacher, Athletic Director, Head Football Coach, and substitute teacher would provide the Council with insight on how best to proceed to achieve quality education outcomes and school transitions that are meaningful and individualized consistent with the principles of self-determination.

The Council looks forward to Mr. Shimokawa's contributions to increase coordination and collaboration between the Council and DOE. His participation on the Council's Education Committee would assist the Council to address its State Plan Education Goal 1, "Students with intellectual and developmental disabilities have quality education outcomes, including vocational and life skills training," and carry out activities relating to increased access to information on supports needed to prepare students for the transition from high school to adult life.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 684 to confirm the appointment of Ricky Shimokawa to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.**

Sincerely,



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



Rosie Rowe  
Chair