



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 19, 2015

MEMORANDUM:

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

FROM: Rachael S. Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **G.M. 880 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, RENE BERTHIAUME for a term to expire 06-30-2018.**

Hearing: Monday, April 20, 2015, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination of Mr. Rene Berthiaume to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Mr. Berthiaume is seeking an appointment to the SRC. Please note, Mr. Berthiaume previously served as a member to the SRC.

Mr. Berthiaume is a private consultant having recently retired as the Vice President at Network Enterprises Inc. (NEI), a community rehabilitation program here in Honolulu where he worked for over 30 years. Mr. Berthiaume was involved with NEI contracts with State, County, and Federal Governments. Mr. Berthiaume comes with a wealth of knowledge. He is looking to assume the role of a member representing business, industry and labor.

Mr. Berthiaume has been and continues to be involved in the housing needs of Hawaii's vulnerable citizens previously working in NEI's housing program as well as a former member of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority.

Mr. Berthiaume will bring a wealth of experience to the SRC, and DHS is fortunate that he wishes to continue to take an active role in providing for those with significant disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to this committee.

TO: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

20 Apr 2015

FROM: Ronald P. Han Jr.
Patterson Road
E-Wing, Rm 1-A103
Honolulu, HI 96819

SUBJECT: GM 880 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, RENE BERTHIAUME, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the
Committee on Human Services and Housing,

I would like to express my wholehearted support to Rene Berthiaume for his confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council. I have known Mr. Berthiaume for over three and half years and while he recently served as one of the members of the State Commemorative Planning Committee for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Rene is always present for meetings and provided tremendous insight on enduring issues affecting our more than 36,000 Vietnam Veterans and their families in the State of Hawaii. In fact, he was nominated and was selected as the Sub Committee Chair for the Legislation Committee because of his vast background dealing with the State Legislature. I believe what sets him apart from his peers is his passion for helping others and the positive way he treats all he comes into contact with.

Rene has also been a catalyst for brining many diverse organizations together with a focus on common goals and objectives. He excelled as an Advisory Board member to the State first Veterans Treatment Court. The first four intake Veterans just successfully completed their prerequisites to graduate from this rigorous course with 12 more Veterans prepared to do the same in a year. I am confident he will also excel and do very well supporting and shaping our future as a member of the State Rehabilitation Council.

//Signed//
Ronald P. Han Jr.
Colonel, USAF (Ret)