



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. 883 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, KRISTINE TAKEKAWA for a term to expire 06-30-2017.**

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

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination of Dr. Kristine Takekawa to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Dr. Takekawa is seeking an appointment for her first term on the SRC.

Dr. Takekawa is an educational specialist with the Department of Education (DOE) and is being nominated to fill the role on the SRC representing the State educational agency responsible for students with disabilities. In her current position, Dr. Takekawa services students with hearing and vision loss, including students who are considered deaf-blind.

With the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in 2014 and its emphasis on students and youth with disabilities, Dr. Takekawa will surely be an asset to the SRC. Currently overseeing the DOE's Diagnostic Team, including responsibilities to Hawaii's Educational Interpreters and the professional development of staff in her area of specialty, Dr. Takekawa will provide guidance the SRC needs for the rollout of new services to our youth that WIOA requires of all State VR agencies.

Dr. Takekawa served as the audiologist on the Diagnostic Team at the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind for over 16 years. Thus she brings administrative experience and grassroots institutional knowledge that is often needed when attempting to bring about change.

Dr. Takekawa is a member of the Ho`opono Advisory Board; individuals providing guidance and support to DVR's Services for the Blind Branch. DHS appreciates her willingness to extend herself and collaborate even further in volunteering to serve on the SRC.

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

**From:** [Jan Fried](#)  
**To:** [Tyrell Maae](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for the Nomination of Kristine Takekawa  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2015 9:53:20 AM

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Aloha Tyrell-

Can you please forward my comments in support of Dr. Takekawa's nomination to the State Rehabilitation Council to Senator Chun Oakland? Mahalo.

Senator Chun Oakland-

First I'd like to apologize for sending you my remarks in the body of an email instead of on letterhead. I'm in the midst of traveling and do not have access to my computer, so composing this letter of support on my phone and in an email will have to suffice. Thank you for your understanding.

Selecting Dr. Takekawa to serve on the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) makes good sense for several reasons. She brings the appropriate expertise, a considered perspective and the desired knowledge borne from years working the Deaf Community and with people who are visually impaired or have a disability.

Dr. Takekawa is uniquely prepared to be a council member--first as a respected and experienced audiologist and secondly as someone who has worked extensively on the PreK-12 level with students who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have visual impairments. These experiences have given her insights about students' changing needs as they transition from school to college or the workforce. She is aware of the range of supports that can be put in place to ensure a student's success and willingly explores options that she may not have initially considered. She is a tireless and thoughtful advocate. Isn't someone like Dr. Takekawa exactly what the SRC needs?

I have known Dr. Takekawa for a number of years and have recently worked closely with her to provide increased and on-going professional development opportunities for interpreters who work in educational settings. It is her goal to make sure students who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind have the most qualified service providers possible. If she is unable to directly provide the necessary support or intervention, she quickly seeks someone who can. This is just an example of the passion, care and concern she has for the students with whom she works.

One of Dr. Takekawa's many strengths is her quiet persistence. If there is a problem to be solved or an issue to understand, she will pursue a solution or an answer until she is satisfied. She is diplomatic, judicious and sensitive in her interactions with others. These characteristics make her ideally suited to sit on the SRC. It is my hope that you confirm Governor's nomination of Dr. Takekawa to the Council. You will have no regrets if you do.

Mahalo for considering my letter in support of her nomination,  
Jan Fried

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