

GM 682

Testimony -

CHARLOTTE

TOWNSEND

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLOTTE TOWNSEND, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service

Current Referral: HRE



**Hawai'i Commission for National
and Community Service**
University of Hawai'i
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Stacy Higa
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April 10, 2014

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair-Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate District 11
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Chairman Taniguchi and the Senate Higher Education Committee,

I am pleased to support the appointment and confirmation of Ms. Charlotte Townsend to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service for a second term.

This Commission enacted by Federal Statute, is responsible for administering and receiving federal funds to support AmeriCorps Programs in the State of Hawaii. There are currently 9 programs in the Hawaii portfolio, with approximately 350 to 400 members serving throughout the state bringing in over \$3,800,000.00 a year in Federal Funds. The current focus areas of our programs concentrate on land conservation, legal help for the needy, sustainable agriculture, early childhood care, and helping people with disabilities find employment.

The composition of the Commission by Federal statute requires a minimum of 15 members, an equal representation of political parties with NO one party having a majority, and representation of various professional occupations.

Ms. Townsend will represent Human Services. I have had the privilege to work with her the past two years on the Commission, and he has been a very valuable leader in supporting community service and volunteerism in Hawaii. His appointment will also allow the Commission to maintain the equal balance between political parties that is needed to remain compliant with the Federal Statutes.

Please allow Ms. Townsend the opportunity to continue to serve on the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service by confirming him to another term.

Respectfully,

Stacy K. Higa
Executive Director
Hawaii Commission for National & Community Service

1525 Magazine Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Phone: 585-7452

April 15, 2014

TO: The Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahale, Vice-Chair

Re: GM682: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service, CHARLOTTE TOWNSEND

My name is Sheryl Nelson. I strongly support the appointment of Charlotte Townsend to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service located at the University of Hawaii.

I have had the honor and privilege to know Charlotte for over twenty-five years. We had worked on many projects together over the years. Through our work collaborations, we have also become friends. Charlotte's knowledge of issues regarding people with disabilities and how a person's disability affects daily living, employment, recreational opportunities and more, along with her personal and professional experiences, makes her sensitive and caring. She will bring a perspective that will add a diverse look at people in our communities statewide which will be a benefit to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

Charlotte will be an exciting member of the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to support an outstanding community member who makes a difference.

Sheryl Nelson
Executive Director
State Independent Living Council

Leolinda L. K. Parlin

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Date: April 15, 2014

To: THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Fr: Leolinda Parlin
Consultant, and Grant Administrator

Re: GM682 – SUPPORT: Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service (HCNCS), Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLOTTE TOWNSEND

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of GM682, the confirmation of Charlotte Townsend to the Commission of the HCNCS.

I have come to know Charlotte Townsend both professionally and personally over the last decade. I consider her one of the foremost experts on disability policy in our state as well as a highly effective leader in our community. Charlotte's vision for individuals with disabilities transcends traditional paradigms and has the potential to move us into the 22nd century where inclusion and reciprocity are not just buzzwords, but actual living tenets of our society.

Charlotte would bring to the Commission, first hand real world experience to guide in the development, implementation and monitoring of AmeriCorps projects. Her perspective is inspiring as she seeks to transform the expectations of individuals with disabilities from "can not" to "Can Do." Through the development of community service, volunteerism and or employment opportunities, Charlotte seeks to reduce the learned helplessness that at times seems pervasive amongst the cross section of underserved and marginalized with and without disabilities.

I humbly ask this committee to confirm Charlotte Townsend to the Commission for National and Community Service.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

April 15, 2014

The Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Regarding: GM682 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLOTTE TOWNSEND

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony before you today. I would also like to thank Governor Abercrombie for this nomination.

My name is Charlotte Townsend and I am a nominee for the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service. I was born and raised in Hawaii and have been an active participant in many community service organizations and projects during my working career. I believe my background, experience and years of volunteerism makes me a viable candidate for this appointment.

I am a graduate of St. Andrew's Priory in Honolulu and Whittier College in California. I attended graduate school at UCLA and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I have been employed at the Department of Health, Disability and Communication Access Board, since 1990 serving as the prior Assistant Director and the current Program and Policy Development Coordinator. In my job I am responsible for the dissemination of information on community resources for persons with disabilities as well as being a trainer and lecturer on civil rights legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Air Carriers Access Act and the Federal Fair Housing statutes.

I have also worked for many private non-profit agencies in California and Hawaii as a teacher, vocational rehabilitation counselor, program director and administrator. I am very knowledgeable about community programs for persons with disabilities and native Hawaiian organizations and services. I have been called upon to serve on many Executive Boards utilizing my background in special education and vocational education. I was a Governor appointee to the Commission on the Handicapped in 1981 where I served three terms representing myself as a consumer with polio. I have served on the Executive Board of Directors for many non-profit human services organizations as well as community and condominium associations.

In 2011, I was appointed to the HCNCS Board and will complete my first term in June 2014. I am honored to have been asked to serve an additional term. I believe that community service enriches our lives and offers opportunities to give back to others. I am a passionate advocate for the full participation of persons with disabilities in all facets of the community and I will continue to bring this voice to the projects of the HCNCS.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Sincerely,

CHARLOTTE TOWNSEND