



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 681 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Jeffrey Okamoto, MD

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 681** to confirm the nomination of Jeffrey Okamoto, MD, for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

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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Dr. Okamoto was first appointed to the Council on November 30, 2011. His reappointment to the Council would continue to fulfill the Federal requirement for a representative of relevant State entities. He currently serves as the representative for the Department of Health (DOH) as a relevant State entity. DOH serves as the Council's Designated State Agency (DSA) for the Federal grant with support, fiscal, and records, access and financial reports responsibilities on behalf of the Council. As the DOH representative, he would be the liaison to provide information to and from, and coordination with other Divisions within DOH, such as the Adult Mental Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, and DD Divisions. These Divisions also provide services to individuals who are dually diagnosed (DD and mental illness).

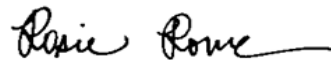
As the Medical Director for the DD Division, Dr. Okamoto would provide the Council with direct and ongoing information about the Division's status with its budget and programs. Additionally, his varied background and experience in general and developmental-behavioral pediatrics, staff as a Kennedy Public Policy Fellow with Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland), and positions in the community on the Federal and State level would contribute to the Council's activities in addressing the areas of community supports, early childhood, education, employment, and health, as identified in its 2012-2016 State Plan.

We are pleased with Dr. Okamoto's nomination to continue to serve on the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to convey our **strong support for GM 681 to confirm the reappointment of Dr. Okamoto to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.**

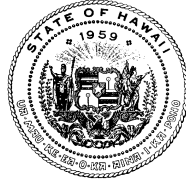
Sincerely,



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



Rosie Rowe
Chair



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
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Testimony in SUPPORT of G.M. 681
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
State Council on Developmental Disabilities,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JEFFREY OKAMOTO, M.D.

SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 4-17-15

Room Number: 414

1 My name is Mary Brogan, Administrator of the Developmental Disabilities Division,
2 Department of Health.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the nomination and
4 confirmation of Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. He is
5 eminently qualified to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

6 Dr. Okamoto is the Medical Director of the Developmental Disabilities Division and
7 heads the Clinic & Eligibility Determination Staff.

8 He also serves as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Hawaii, John
9 A. Burns School of Medicine.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

FAMILY VOICES OF HAWAI‘I

1319 PUNAHOU ST. STE 749 HONOLULU, HI 96826



Date: April 8, 2015

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Fr: Leolinda Parlin, State Coordinator and President of Family Voices of Hawai'i

Re: GM 681 – Support for confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JEFFREY K. OKAMOTO

On behalf of Family Voices of Hawai'i, I support GM 681. As an organization, Family Voices is a national grass roots organization of family of friends of child with special health care needs. As a state affiliate organization, we aim to achieve family centered care for all children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities by providing family resources, advocacy and support.

Over the last 16 years I have come to know and respect Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto as a champion for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. He is affectionately called "Dr. O" by colleagues, coworkers and self-advocates. That tells you a lot about his character. He has graciously adopted his moniker to be approachable and accessible by all. Dr. O has an incredible ability to relate on a personal level with those whom he interacts. He takes the time to translate and explain very complicated "medical-ese" in a manner that is understood by all. He is genuine and is able to convey his compassion.

As parents and friends of children with special health care needs, we are always mindful of the special role that consumers have in their relationship with professional partners. Dr. O has always ensured a place at the table for self-advocates and family members. He truly honors the concept of family professional partnership. He is collaborative by nature and thrives in a group environment. I consider Dr. O a friend and an asset to the Department of Health.

Thank you for time and consideration in supporting GM 681.

Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 15, 2015

Dear Senator Green and Members of the Health Committee:

My name is Dr. JoAnn Yuen. I am the director of the Center on Disability Studies (CDS), a research center in the College of Education at the University of Hawaii Manoa. I am a current appointee to the DD Council (term to expire 6/30/2018). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Governor's Message #681 to designate Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

I have known Dr. Okamoto for more than 10 years as faculty members of the Center on Disability Studies, and in collaborations with the DOH. Dr. Okamoto is the medical director at the Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD), and is a professor at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. He is board certified in Developmental Behavioral pediatrics, and is an expert in disabilities. In 2010 Dr. Okamoto was selected to serve as a Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation Public Policy Fellow for Senator Tom Harkin. Dr. Okamoto is passionate about his work, and compassionate toward people with developmental and other disabilities. He is a valuable asset to the DD Council.

I ask for your Committee's favorable consideration to confirm Dr. Jeffrey Okamoto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JoAnn Yuen', with a stylized, circular flourish at the end.

JoAnn Yuen, Ed.D.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM681 on Apr 17, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, April 13, 2015 3:52:56 PM

GM681

Submitted on: 4/13/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the appointment of Jeffrey Okamoto, MD to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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