



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
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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 680 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Gubernatorial Nominee Albert Perez

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 680** to confirm the nomination of Albert Perez 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.

Mr. Perez is the Administrator of the Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). His appointment on the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement to have a representative of the State entity that administers funds

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under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. He was first appointed to the Council on April 17, 2014. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Perez was active in attending Council meetings and participating on the Employment Committee, Tri-Agency Map to Employment for Students with DD Transitioning from High School Work Group, and Employment Memorandum of Agreement Work Group. Through the Employment Committee and Work Groups, he initiated collaborative approaches with the Department of Education and Department of Health, DD Division to pull together resources to increase employment opportunities and outcomes for persons with DD.

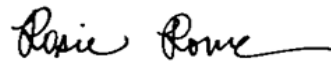
His experience and position as Administrator for DVR would assist the Council in facilitating partnerships with other State and private agencies to promote “employment first” as an expectation to advance the full inclusion of people with DD in the workplace and community. Furthermore, his participation on the Council would help to address its State Plan Employment Goal, “People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will have supports to obtain and sustain their chosen life goal to prepare students at all educational levels for the transition from high school to adult life including employment, self-employment, and/or post-secondary education and training,” and help us to achieve competitive employment for individuals with DD.

The Council is pleased with the nomination of Mr. Perez and welcomes his reappointment. Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 680 to confirm the reappointment of Albert Perez to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.**

Sincerely,



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



Rosie Rowe  
Chair