



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. 877 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, GWEN KELIIHOOMALU 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 Ms. Gwen Keliihoomalu to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Ms. Keliihoomalu is seeking an appointment for her first term on the SRC representing business, industry and labor.

Ms. Keliihoomalu is a self-employed Vocational Consultant in East Hawaii and formerly served on the council under the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor criteria for membership. Thus she is continuing her commitment and dedication on the SRC, but under a different criteria.

Ms. Keliihoomalu has over 25 years of experience in the field of vocational rehabilitation. She is also a nationally certified rehabilitation counselor, a licensed Mental Health Counselor, a Registered Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, and is considered qualified as an Expert Witness by the Social Security Administration and as a Certified Marriage and Child Counselor.

Ms. Keliihoomalu is also an active member of the National Rehabilitation Association, National Rehabilitation Counselor Association, Rehabilitation Association of Hawaii and the American Counseling Association. As a previous member of the SRC, Ms. Keliihoomalu also

participated in training at the national level with other stakeholders and SRC members from the other 49 States and Territories.

Ms. Keliioomalu has always taken an active role as a former SRC member and we foresee that she will continue to do so if her current nomination is confirmed.

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