

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. 879 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELE KU for a term to expire 06-30-2018.**

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. Michele Ku to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Ms. Ku is seeking an appointment for her first term on the SRC.

Ms. Ku is the current President and CEO to the Arc of Kona in West Hawaii and is being nominated to fill the role on the SRC representing a community rehabilitation program. Although in her current position for just a year, she has been with the Arc for nearly 10 years.

Ms. Ku is active in the community serving on the Board for the Hamakua-Kohala Health Center, Hawaii Waiver Providers Association and the North Hawaii Community Hospital. Ms. Ku is very much aware of the work of our Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) as the Arc of Kona has been a long time vendor and contractor to the DVR. She was very much involved with those contracts in her previous position as their Program Director.

As a member of the SCR, Ms. Ku will bring to the SRC her knowledge and skills in the provision of services to those individuals with significant disabilities that will help guide DVR.

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

Jean B. Navarro
PO Box 1459 Honoka'a, HI 96727
Cell: 808-938-7512 Email: kalopa51@aol.com

April 20, 2015

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green M.D., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 879: In Support of the Confirmation of MICHELE KU to the State Rehabilitation Council

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green and Committee Members;

Thank you for the opportunity to express support of Governor Ige's nomination of **Michele Ku** to the State Rehabilitation Council.

I have known Michele for fifteen years as a personal friend and later through her work supporting persons with disabilities at the Arc of Kona. I personally recruited Michele to the Arc, watched her develop and supported her in both the Director of Programs for the North and East areas of Hawaii Island and more recently as the new President and CEO of the Arc of Kona. Her commitment is unquestionable.

Michele is a "Servant Leader" and has become highly visible in our communities on Hawai'i Island working to create new partnerships and developing relationships to support our mission while building important collaborations. She has served on boards and committees that bring our populations' needs into better focus especially in the areas of health care and access to that care.

Based on Michele's experience, skills and positive personal character, I believe she would be of great value to the State Rehabilitation Council and the State of Hawai'i.

If you have further questions please feel free to call me on the cell or email above.

Sincerely,

Jean B. Navarro
VP for Programs and Vocational Services
Arc of Kona

April 19, 2015

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green M.D., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 879: In Support of the Confirmation of MICHELE KU to the State Rehabilitation Council

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green and Committee Members;

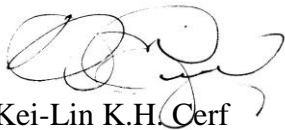
Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Michele Ku to the State Rehabilitation Council.

I have known Michele for over two years as a fellow board member of the Hawaiian Leadership Series: Ulumau and as partner for the Hawaii Island Women's Leadership Forum. Prior, I knew her through her work supporting persons with disabilities at the Arc of Kona both as the Director of Programs and more recently as the President and CEO.

Michele is a strong, effective, visionary leader who has garnered the admiration of many through her selfless service to others. She is gifted in developing relationships and partnerships with others, is a skilled communicator and collaborator, understands diverse perspectives and beliefs, and is an eloquent public speaker. Michele is kind, open, witty, and thoughtful in her dealings with others and easily builds trust and respect for her involvement.

Based on Michele's experience, skills and positive personal character, I believe she would be of great value to the State Rehabilitation Council and the State of Hawaii.

Respectfully,



Kei-Lin K.H. Cerf
Director of Strategic Community Development, West Hawaii
University of Hawaii at Hilo/RCUH

April 18, 2015

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green M.D., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 879: In Support of the Confirmation of MICHELE KU to the State Rehabilitation Council

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green and Committee Members;

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support of Governor Ige's nomination of Michele Ku to the State Rehabilitation Council.

I have known Michele for nearly 10 years through her work supporting persons with disabilities at the Arc of Kona both as the Director of Programs for the North and East areas of Hawaii Island and more recently as the President and CEO of her organization. Prior to joining the Arc of Kona, Michele worked for many years in the field of Human Resources.

Michele is a strong, effective, visionary leader who has garnered the respect and admiration of many through her selfless service to others and consistent demonstration of exemplary leadership skills. Michele is highly visible in our communities on Hawaii Island and has served on numerous Boards and Committees over the years. She is gifted in developing relationships and partnerships with others, is a skilled communicator and collaborator, listens to and understands diverse perspectives and beliefs and is an eloquent public speaker.

Based on Michele's experience, skills and positive personal character, I believe she would be of great value to the State Rehabilitation Council and the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Kim A. Stuart
Community Member