



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. 881 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, RODERICK MACDONALD for a term to expire 06-30-2016.**

Hearing: Monday, April 20, 2015, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the nomination of Dr. Roderick Macdonald to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Dr. Macdonald is seeking an appointment for his first term on the SRC.

Dr. Macdonald is a retiree from the US Department of Labor where he served as a Management Analyst for 27 years. He is being nominated for the SRC position representing disability advocacy groups. It should be noted that Dr. Macdonald has a long history of advocacy with the American Association of the Deaf-Blind.

Dr. Macdonald holds an honorary doctorate degree from Western Maryland College, Dr. Macdonald and a Master's Degree in Education, Supervision and Higher Education from the California State University at Northridge.

He will bring to the SRC a wealth of knowledge as well as his own personal experience as a person with a significant disability that will provide the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) the kind of guidance from a person facing the day-to-day barriers faced by DVR participants.

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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HSH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [CANtheCANT@gmail.com](mailto:CANtheCANT@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM881 on Apr 20, 2015 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2015 3:54:08 PM

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**GM881**

Submitted on: 4/17/2015

Testimony for HSH on Apr 20, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Colleen Cidade	Aloha State Association of the Deaf	Support	No

Comments:

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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**Cc:** [CANtheCANT@gmail.com](mailto:CANtheCANT@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM881 on Apr 20, 2015 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, April 17, 2015 3:54:35 PM

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**GM881**

Submitted on: 4/17/2015

Testimony for HSH on Apr 20, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaimi Seminara	Hawaii Deaf Surfriders Association	Support	No

Comments:

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*James J. Gargan*  
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April 18, 2015

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Chair of the Human Services and Housing Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street #226  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Oakland,

I am honored to write you in support of Dr. Roderick J. Macdonald with his application to be appointed on the Division of Vocational Statewide Rehabilitation (DVR), Statewide Rehabilitation Council. As a Hawaii businessman and a father of four, two children with a disability and two other children who are West Point grads it has been my pleasure to have gotten to know Dr. Macdonald for the past nine year. I cannot think of a more qualified person to serve as an advisor to the State of Hawaii's program to people with disabilities.

I have 29 years of volunteer experience with Easter Seals working on behalf of people with disabilities both on a local and national level. I have worked with numerous advocates and other volunteers to improve programs for individuals with a disability.

I am sure that others will attest Rod's many accomplishments, some of which you can glean from his resume attached. Dr. Macdonald has keen sense of duty and responsibility. He does not look for a "Free Ride". He has the ability to see and evaluate an issue from a multitude of points of view and remain fair and balanced.

Without hesitation I support Dr. Roderick J. Macdonald in his application to be on the DVR Statewide Rehabilitation Council. If I can be of any further assistance feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

James J. Gargan  
President

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HSH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [CANtheCANT@gmail.com](mailto:CANtheCANT@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM881 on Apr 20, 2015 13:15PM\*  
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**GM881**

Submitted on: 4/17/2015

Testimony for HSH on Apr 20, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christine Holmes	Gallaudet University Alumni Association - Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**Cc:** [CANtheCANT@gmail.com](mailto:CANtheCANT@gmail.com)  
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**GM881**

Submitted on: 4/17/2015

Testimony for HSH on Apr 20, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darlene Ewan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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April 17, 2015

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Governor's Message 881

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, RODERICK MACDONALD for a term to expire 06-30-2016.

My name is Karl Mikasa and I am born and raised in Oahu. I'm also deaf and my parents are deaf. In regards to this testimony, I support the candidacy of Roderick Macdonald to serve on the State Rehabilitation Council. Mr. Macdonald is a great representative of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind communities due to his active participation on the support of the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind communities.

I've known Mr. Macdonald for perhaps, at least five years and I've had the privilege to know him and to consider him as a friend. As someone whom I highly respect, I view him an invaluable individual in our community... He is a person who knows what challenges we, deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind face on daily basis and especially what our rights are. What resources we are entitled to.

He is viewed as one of the leaders in the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind communities. I've seen and have been aware of his tirelessness efforts in fighting for our rights and to educate those who are not aware of or are perhaps ignorant of those people with disabilities. Mr. Macdonald comes with a long list of accomplishments under his belt.

If Mr. Macdonald is selected to serve on SRC, you will have an invaluable resource and an advocate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Mikasa  
Phone: 808-447-3121  
Email: karlmikasa@gmail.com

**From:** [Kay Naquin](#)  
**To:** [HSH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Rod Macdonald Nomination to  
**Date:** Sunday, April 19, 2015 4:07:01 PM

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To: Senate Human Services and Housing Committee

I am writing in support of Rod Macdonald's nomination to the Hawaii State Rehabilitation Council. I have known Mr. MacDonald over 10 years and worked with him on several committees working with the deaf and deaf/blind communities. I've also participated in workshops that he has organized. I've always appreciated his thoughtfulness and attentiveness to detail.

Rod MacDonald brings a wealth of experience and information that would be of value to the Hawaii State Rehabilitation Council. He is knowledgeable with a variety of disabilities including blind, deaf, and deaf/blind. He is familiar with what is happening in the deaf/blind community worldwide. He is able to work with a variety of people and is extremely well-spoken.

Mr. Macdonald has been an inspiration to me in the quality of work he produces. He gives a minimum of 125% to any task that he tackles. He is willing to look for solutions and answers. The Hawaii State Rehabilitation Council would benefit from his can do attitude and his experience. Please give him the opportunity to help Hawaii on the Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kay Naquin