



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 17, 2015

**MEMORANDUM:**

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Rachael S. Wong, Director

SUBJECT: **G.M. 882 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, LANELLE YAMANE 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 Ms. Lanelle Yamane to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC). Ms. Yamane is seeking an appointment for her first term on the SRC.

Ms. Yamane is employed as a private rehabilitation counselor on Hawaii Island and will be filling the role on the SRC representing East Hawaii and as the representative currently employed as a rehabilitation counselor. It should be noted that Ms. Yamane was introduced into the world of vocational rehabilitation as a former counselor for the DHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation before moving to the private sector where she has been employed by PACBLU since 2008.

Ms. Yamane is also the President-Elect to the Hawaii Rehabilitation Counselors Association, and in addition to being a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, she is also a Licensed Mental Health Professional and qualified as an Expert Witness with regards to issues pertaining to Social Security.

DHS is pleased to have her return to provide her wisdom once again as the representative to the SRC and as a private vocational rehabilitation professional servicing Hawai`i County.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



## University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Science – Rehabilitation Counseling Program

1337 Lower Campus Road, PE/A231, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822 Phone: (808) 956-4386 Fax: (808) 956-7976  
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May 2, 2014

RE: Letter of Support for Ms. Lanelle Yamane

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a privilege to write this letter of support for Ms. Lanelle Yamane for nomination to the State Rehabilitation Council. I have known Ms. Yamane on a professional basis for over 10 years. She has extensive vocational rehabilitation experience at both the public (State Vocational Rehabilitation) and private sector. In addition, Ms. Yamane has served as an adjunct faculty for the University of Hawai'i Rehabilitation Counseling program and a site supervisor for our practicum students. More recently, I have also had the privilege of serving with Lanelle on the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Rehabilitation Counseling Association (HRCA). In this capacity, Ms. Yamane has assumed a leadership role and is highly respected by her colleagues.

I would like to share with you Ms. Yamane's qualifications by describing her with the following three phrases: Accomplished Professional, Committed to Service, and Capable Leader.

Accomplished Professional: Ms. Yamane has worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor at the State and private sectors and as a vocational expert for the Social Security Administration. She has served as a site supervisor and mentor for students in the University of Hawaii Rehabilitation Counseling Program's practicum classes. Ms. Yamane is noted for her high standards of ethical behavior and service to clients with disabilities. She is knowledgeable, efficient, and thorough, highly respected in her field, and is frequently relied on for her expertise.

Committed to Service: Ms. Yamane is committed to her profession. As stated earlier, she has served on the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Rehabilitation Counseling Association and has coordinated various conferences and workshops for the organization.

Capable Leader: Lanelle is someone who you would want as your leader. She will work right alongside of you with wisdom, with integrity, and with an unmitigated belief that all persons should be valued. She leads by example, setting the bar high for those who follow.

In closing, it is my hope that you will see Ms. Lanelle Yamane through the eyes of those who have had the pleasure and privilege of working with her. Please feel free to email [kky@hawaii.edu](mailto:kky@hawaii.edu) or call me (808-956-4386) should you be in need of further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Yamamoto".

Kathryn K. Yamamoto, Ph.D., CRC  
Program Director/Assistant Professor

**HAWAII REHABILITATION COUNSELING ASSOCIATION  
P O BOX 4405  
HONOLULU, HI 96812**



To: the State Rehabilitation Council  
From: Alice Thomas CRC, LMHC

I am pleased to support the appointment of Lanelle Yamane, MS, CRC, LMHC, as a member of the State Rehabilitation Council as a representative of private vocational rehabilitation counselors.

I know of Ms Yamane both through her work as a vocational expert for the Federal ODAR office and her contribution, via professional organizations, to the professional Vocational Rehabilitation community. Ms. Yamane is well versed anent job classification systems, has knowledge of benefit systems both federal and state, and has an impressive understanding of the Hawaii labor market and its placement potential for her claimants. Her work manifests both integrity and professionalism. I am confident her contribution to the State Rehabilitation Council will better the services afforded to individuals with disabilities serviced by the State Department of Human Services.

I unconditionally support her appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice Thomas".

Alice Thomas  
President, Hawaii Rehabilitation Counseling Association



# HAWAII REHABILITATION COUNSELING ASSOCIATION

PO Box 4405  
Honolulu, HI 96812

April 16, 2015

Office of Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
State Capitol, Room 226  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Chum Oakland,

**Subject: Nomination to State Rehabilitation Council of Lanelle Yamane**

Lanelle Yamane is focused on return to work for clients and employs exemplary vocational exploration techniques to identify practical vocational goals relevant to client's skills, knowledge, ability, and potential. Counselor also takes into consideration local training/education facilities and programs, and the job market.

Despite turndowns by carriers, the depressed labor market, and the indifference of government officials, this VRC fights for the client's right to return to work at a wage as nearly as is possible to pre injury wage via letters to the ombudsman and/or the DLIR director, refuting requests by the state to modify or revise reasonable plans, and refusing to provide ethically questionable services.

Lanelle cares about clients and is enthusiastic about their ability to return to work.

Lanelle is a certified rehabilitation counselor and is working toward meeting state licensure requirements; a task made difficult by graduation from an out of state school. As licensure requirements were established on local standards the VRC has hit one 'not met' requirement after another. The response has been, without complaint, to find a way to meet and go on. This counselor believes licensure is a professional credential and as a professional it is an obligation to acquire it.

Lanelle has worked both in the public and private sector.

Lanelle is active in the professional organization and is known for volunteering for and completing tasks. Despite the nominees off island residence the VRC sits on the annual conference committee and contributes in any possible way requested.

Lanelle is a team player and is always considerate of others whether they are peers, attorneys or even carriers, at least in public. Definitely this counselor is a good person to have on your team.

Personally and as a member of the Hawaii Rehabilitation Association, I would like to recommend her as a member of the State Rehabilitation Counsel.

Sincerely,

Betty Sestak, MS, CRC, CCM, LMHC  
Legislative Chair, Secretary and Treasurer