



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 13, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **GM 591 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAUREEN BATES, for a term to expire 06-30-2023**

Hearing: Thursday, March 19, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

As the Director of the Department of Human Services, I am writing in strong support for Governor's Message 591 – nomination of Maureen Bates to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Bates joined the Department of Human Services on January 10, 2018 as the administrator of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. She brings to the State many years of experience in the field of services to disabled individuals and has lived experiences advocating for improved services for disabled individuals that began with her own siblings. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the Department of Human Services to improve our service delivery system and will bring to the Council access to information and services from other divisions of the department.

Ms. Bates holds a Master's degree in Philosophy and Education and received a certificate in psychiatric vocational rehabilitation from Boston University. She keeps herself updated by taking continuing education courses on related vocational rehabilitation and professional development. She is a certified rehabilitation counselor and licensed mental health counselor.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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May 12, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection
and Health
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 591 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Maureen Bates

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 591** to confirm the nomination of Maureen Bates for a term to expire June 30, 2023.

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 60 percent of the membership of the Council be comprised of individuals with DD, their parents, or family members. Additionally, the following agencies are required to be on the Council: Department of Health; the agencies that administer funds provided under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; the Older Americans Act of 1965; Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act; the Protection and Advocacy Agency; the Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; agencies and private non-profit organizations concerned with services to individuals with DD. The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership.

Ms. Bates is the Administrator of the Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Her appointment on the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement to have a representative of the State entity that administers funds under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
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Her experience and position as Administrator for DVR would assist the Council in addressing its State Plan Employment Goal, "Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have increased access to and opportunities for the education, training, and support services that they need to succeed in the labor market." and help us to achieve competitive employment for individuals with DD.

The Council is pleased with the nomination of Ms. Bates and welcomes the opportunity to work with her. Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 591** to confirm Maureen Bates to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daintry Bartoldus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daintry" being more prominent than the last name "Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

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May 11, 2020

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Re: GM 591, Nomination of Maureen Bates to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Testimony in Support

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Committee of Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health. I am happy to write this testimony on behalf of myself and my partner Rene Berthiaume in support of Maureen to Hawaii's Council on Developmental Disabilities. I am a former member of the State Rehabilitation Council having served years. During my tenure with the council I had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Bates. I can think of no one better to service Council on Developmental Disabilities

In July 2014, President Obama sign into law the Work Innovation Opportunity Act. As passed WIOA mandates that various programs and agencies that serve vulnerable populations, including the Job Corps, YouthBuild, Special Education, DVR, Mental Health, and the Developmentally Disable.

What WIOA does for Hawaii - is increases the focus on serving the most vulnerable workers, including individuals with special needs, the disable, and out of school youth. More importantly, it fosters the development of career pathway strategies that will enable the participants an opportunity to overcome vocational and economic barriers; dead end minimum wage jobs.

Having Maureen Bates as member of the DD council can only have positive impact on the DD clients that will be transiting to DVR for job training.

Most cordially,

George S. Massengale, JD
Attachments:

Maureen Bates
GM591
State Council on Developmental Disabilities

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?

I wish to continue to be a member because the State Council on Developmental Disabilities Board is comprised of self-advocates and stakeholders aligned with empowering adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be active and respected citizens advocating for parity in Hawaii's workforce, as well as needed advocacy for independent living resources in our community. This Board's work is still necessary to ensure fair and equal access under federal laws in order to effect self-determination and independence for our citizenry. As DHS, DVR's Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator, I would support the Council's work as a statutory member (state entities that administer funds provided under federal law relating to individuals with disabilities, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.)).

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities?

My understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities is to prepare for and attend meetings associated with the Board member's assigned responsibilities, presentations on information associated with assigned/accepted responsibilities, and to add value to the membership through building knowledge, resources, partnerships, and effecting changes that fulfill the mission of the Council. The responsibilities that I understand are part of the member responsibilities I anticipate supporting include ensuring our State administers our federal funding under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by WIOA. I particularly want to support the Board to increase rates of gainful and competitive employment for Hawaii's residents with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

- (3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a State Council on Developmental Disabilities member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

As the Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator, I am committed to strengthening workforce parity in Hawaii for individuals with disabilities to be gainfully employed on par with their non-disabled peers in their preferred career paths. I have maintained national certification as a Rehabilitation Counselor since 2001 to continue to learn about best practices and community needs to support and protect consumers. I have gained experience working statewide for over 21 years in mental health services, homeless services, and employment services for individuals with disabilities, and have gained an understanding of how State, federal, and local regulations can better serve our community needs. I am interested and adept at learning about changes to regulations, as well as advocating on behalf of needed changes identified by consumers. I am committed to listening to consumer's and their family's advocacy to resolve barriers to independence and self-determination. I am also

Maureen Bates
GM591
State Council on Developmental Disabilities

committed to ensuring informed choices be made by consumers and their advocates and being transparent as well as accessible to consumers.

I will continue to provide updates on DVR's fiscal status with regards to use of federal and state funding under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and as amended by WIOA. I have been an advocate most of my adult life as I grew up in a family with a sibling with intellectual disabilities and another sibling with mental health diagnosis and learned to be supportive of them, while reinforcing their networks of support. Working since 1992 in the field of social services with adults with disabilities, I have gained insights into how to better effect changes and offer supports for self-determination of consumers. I am committed to practicing ethical standards for service delivery, learning about best practices, and analyzing community needs to support informed choices and fiscal responsibility as reflected in my continued certification as a Rehabilitation Counselor since 2001.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to reinforce the work of the Board, continue to strengthen fiscal soundness for sustained DVR services, managing DVR's Order of Selection that limits access to needed supports for our consumers who want and need assistance in gaining competitive employment, and reinforce healthy partnerships to maximize federal dollars statewide for employability of and access to independent living resources for our consumers and citizens.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

I prefer collaboration and teamwork, I am trustworthy, and I look for creative strategies to attain identified goals. I will use these qualities to better understand community needs and challenges with providing needed resources/supports. I will gather information to also understand regulations and opportunities to improve upon fiscal management entrusted to DVR through federal and state funding. I will be transparent and also share my knowledge to gain insight into consumers' preferences and barriers for self-determination. I will build and reinforce partnerships to ensure needed resources are accessible.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a State Council on Developmental Disabilities member.

I worked as a volunteer on the State's Rehabilitation Council for DVR from 2000-2003 when I was employed with Goodwill Industries of Hawaii and understand how to collaborate with Board members to fulfill my responsibilities. My career in social services in Hawaii since 1998 has built upon my experience and commitment to working with children and adults with disabilities, stakeholders and employers to reinforce full participation of all our citizenry in our community.

Maureen Bates

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State Council on Developmental Disabilities

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

If or when any conflicts of interest arise, I would consult with my supervisor, DHS Director, assigned deputy attorney general, and the ethics commission for prospective (future) conduct in support of the Board, including the need to refrain from voting when applicable.