

- (1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I want to serve on the Board to bring awareness to issues & concerns that persons with Intellectual Disabilities face. I want to be able to contribute to the decisions that are made for persons with IDD.

- (2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

I understand that my role on the DD Council is to be a role model for others and be a self-advocate. My responsibility as a DD Council member is to help others get involved within the DD Council, such as serving on the different sub-committees, as well as representing persons with developmental disabilities. As a Global Messenger for Special Olympics I am an athlete leader and mentor. I would use the skills I have developed to support other persons with developmental disabilities in finding their voice, so they can tell about their struggles and needs.

- (3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I feel I can advocate for persons with developmental disabilities through PSA announcements. I have done this for anti-bullying, for Covid 19 safety awareness, and most recently for voting from home for this year's elections. Here is a link to this video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tq5oaZiZutP_9XAwfCIHOVGCi6D4vBZX/view?usp=drive_web

- (4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board 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 an adult with an Intellectual Disability I believe I understand the struggles & barriers that persons with IDD are faced with.

As a Global Messenger with Special Olympics Hawai'i & a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger for Special Olympics International I have the opportunity to speak about the struggles that persons with IDD face & work toward the solutions to these issues both locally & globally. My personal platform is the issue of Health Disparities for persons w/IDD & the lack of experience many medical professionals have in working with adults with IDD. I was able to meet with Hawai'i Delegates Senator Brian Schatz & Representative Ed Case for Capitol

Hill Day, January 2019, to discuss the importance of these health disparities among athlete/advocates specifically here in Hawai'i.

I am also an Athlete Leader within Special Olympics Hawai'i. In this role I work directly with athletes, as well as staff, to help athletes and advocates find their voice to be able to share their story. We all have a story & our stories need to be heard.

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

I hope to give a voice to the concerns that affect people with Intellectual Disabilities as we work toward a more inclusive world.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

I am hard working, dependable, a public communicator, & I have a positive attitude. I will do my tasks & work together with others to achieve the goals.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

I have served for 3 years on the Developmental Disabilities Council. I believe my service, as well as my selection as a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger for Special Olympics International will help me be a benefit to the Board. I am the previous president of the Hawai'i Self-Advocacy Advisory Council & a trainer for Feeling Safe, Being Safe Emergency Preparedness Training.

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I cannot see any conflicts of interest during my service. If, however, something did arise, I would seek the council of the Executive Administrator of the DDC for advice on how to move forward.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARD STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
July 1, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Thirtieth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Chang, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 853 – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Renee Manfredi

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 853** to confirm the nomination of Renee Manfredi for a second term to expire June 30, 2024.

The Council's Federal mandate (P.L.106-402 - DD Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000) is clear in determining the composition of this body to ensure that all the stakeholders are represented and engaged in the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of services and supports for individuals with DD.

The law specifically requires that not less than 60 percent of the membership of the Council be comprised of individuals with DD, parents, immediate relatives or guardians. Additionally, each Council shall include representatives of relevant State entities, including State entities that administer funds provided under Federal laws related to individuals with disabilities, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.); Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.); Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.); and Titles V and XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et seq. and 1396 et seq.); Centers for Excellence in DD Education, Research, and Service; State Protection and Advocacy system; and representatives, at all times, of local and non-governmental agencies, and private nonprofit groups concerned with services for individuals with DD in the State.

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
The Honorable Stanley Change
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The Governor's nominee meets all the Federal requirements for Council membership. Ms. Manfredi's appointment to the Council would fulfill the Federal requirement for representatives of individuals with DD. She is involved in numerous community activities such as Toastmasters and Special Olympics. As a trainer for Feeling Safe Being Safe, she provides information to people with DD on how to be prepared for an emergency or a disaster.

Ms. Manfredi represents individuals with DD on the No Wrong Door (NWD) Advisory Committee which is working with the Executive Office on Aging in a statewide initiative to make it easier to access long term services and supports (LTSS) for individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions. She is an active participant of the Advisory Committee that includes State and local agencies that oversee LTSS working to make sure that individuals with LTSS needs and their family members receive the right information regardless of which agency they contact first.

Since January, she is serving as the president of the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC). Within this short time, Ms. Manfredi has represented SAAC well at the Council's annual Day at the Capitol events in March, in visiting various sites to hold SAAC events, and attended other community events in providing a voice of self-advocates.

Ms. Manfredi's appointment to the Council would assist us to achieve our 2017-2021 State Plan goal addressing self-advocacy and self-determination that states, "Self-advocates have the supports needed to build a statewide self-advocacy network that helps individuals have the life they want through leadership, education, and full participation in the community." We look forward to Ms. Manfredi's appointment to the Council and the numerous contributions she will make representing individuals with DD.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support for **GM 853** to confirm Renee Manfredi to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,



Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



Special Parent Information Network

1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 586-8126 (V/TDD) Fax: 586-8129

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June 25, 2020

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 853
Renee Manfredi

Dear Senator Baker,

This letter is in strong support of your consideration and confirmation of Ms. Renee Manfredi to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for a second term. I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with her for the last two years as a member of SPIN's Advisory Committee. As you know, SPIN is a program within the Disability and Communication Access Board that is co-sponsored by the Hawaii Department of Education. Our purpose is to connect parents of children and young adults with disabilities with information, referral and support.

Ms. Manfredi is a wonderful asset to the community, and in particular, to the disability community. First and foremost, she is an exceptional advocate, having a clear set of principles around including and accommodating people with disabilities so that their unique gifts can be shared with others. Her communication is thoughtful and clear, and while it looks effortless, she has taken the time to polish her oratory skills through countless Toastmasters meetings.

Despite her modesty and humility, her innate talents have been recognized on the state, national and international level. After competing as an outstanding Special Olympic athlete for ten years and participating in the 2018 Special Olympics USA games, she was appointed to be one of ten Sargent Shriver International Global Messengers.

In Hawaii she has proven her leadership abilities as the past President of the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council, a member of Special Olympics Board and an outstanding Council member on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. As a SPIN Advisory Committee member Ms. Manfredi is an invaluable planner, offering insights that often astound and impress her fellow committee members, many of whom represent agencies serving children with disabilities and their families. As she sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," evoking tears from many of the parents in the audience at our last SPIN Conference set to the theme of the Wizard of Oz, we realized Renee Manfredi has it all--courage, a brain and a giant heart!

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this exceptional candidate.

Respectfully,

Susan S. Rocco

Susan Rocco, SPIN Coordinator

* Offering a world of support to families of children with disabilities *

A Partnership Between the Disability & Communication Access Board and the Department of Education



June 25, 2020

Aloha State Council on Developmental Disabilities Nomination Committee,

I'm honored to be submitting this letter of support for Renee Manfredi's nomination for the Developmental Disabilities Council. I have known Renee for 8 years through my position as Director of Development for Special Olympics Hawaii. Renee's positive disposition and ability to talk to people have always stood out to me however, her growth as an advocate and public speaker, in both informal and highly formal settings, continues to impress me beyond words.

It is always a pleasure to work alongside Renee at events, which raise awareness and funds. She proudly represents Special Olympics Hawaii, her fellow Special Olympics athletes and individual with developmental disabilities. Renee is friendly, articulate and knowledgeable and is able to engage and educate people wherever we go. She is also the athlete representative for Special Olympics Hawaii's Board of Directors and successfully represents the voice of our athletes.

With her skills, determination and drive, I know Renee will be an outstanding member of the DD Council. She would be an effective advocate to help the council move forward with its vision and mission as she has already proven herself as a hard worker and excellent communicator for Special Olympics Hawaii. In addition, Renee would excel in the area of emphasis of Public Awareness, Training and Education. Our organization has benefitted from the many videos, speeches and public appearances Renee has done for us over the years in the local, national and yes, even international arenas.

As a Sargent Shriver International Global Messenger for Special Olympics, Renee has experience speaking to a wide variety of audiences from fellow athletes to global leaders. She is willing to share her life experiences to help lead the campaign for a more inclusive society for people with developmental disabilities. I believe Renee has found her calling as an advocate, and would be an excellent member of Hawaii's DD Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my admiration for Renee. I, along with Special Olympics Hawaii, are honored to be a part of this remarkable woman's life.

Sincerely,

Tracey A. Bender

Director of Development

O: 808-695-3524

E: traceyb@sohawaii.org



June 25, 2020

Dear Senator Baker and committee members:

My name is Nip Ho, Senior Vice President of Programs for Special Olympics Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Governor's Message No. 594 Gubernatorial Nominee, Renee Manfredi to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have known Renee for many years and have worked directly with her as an athlete, public speaker, toastmasters, employee and probably the most important as a Special Olympics Hawaii Board of Director. Renee is one of the best self-advocates that I have had the honor of working with. She is an accomplished speaker not only on a one to one basis but, just as powerful with a large audience. Renee has been invaluable to our SOHI movement during this COVID crisis by providing us video testimony and informational video's to our athletes, volunteers, and family members about many different subject matters. They have been so good that our national Special Olympics office and several other state programs have asked to use them for their own programs. You cannot go wrong by having Renee remain as one of your DD Council members.

I ask for your Committee's favorable consideration to re-confirm Renee Manfredi to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

Nip Ho
Senior Vice President of Special Olympics Hawaii
program@sohawaii.org

Special Olympics Hawaii

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Created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation for the benefit of persons with intellectual disabilities

Jennifer Ernst
91-127 B. Ewa Beach Rd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
6/26/2020

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health Committee:

My name is Jennifer Ernst. I am the former Healthy Community Manager for Special Olympics Hawaii. I strongly support the Governor's appointment of Renee Manfredi to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. I have known Renee for seven years. She is a committed Special Olympics athlete and Toastmaster/International Global Messenger. She is also an internationally recognized Health Messenger for Special Olympics, Inc. She has been trained to speak about the health disparities that face individuals with intellectual disabilities. One of her platforms is to educate medical professionals regarding how best to treat an individuals with intellectual disabilities in the medical office. She has spoken to medical professionals and residents at the Kaiser and Kapiolani Grand Rounds trainings. Since the beginning of the COVID season she has taken the lead and produced several health videos that have been viewed across the state and borrowed by others. She is an advocate for individuals with intellectual disabilities wherever she goes. She is well respected in the Special Olympics Inc. community. She takes her positions seriously and always presents herself in a respectable, composed and mature manner. Her ability to speak to athletes and coaches and inspire them is admirable. She is also very flexible and accommodates change easily, but will also offer her suggestions and opinions when needed. She is a true advocate, is dedicated to improving life for herself and her peers and has the courage to share her story. I enjoy Renee and expect that she will be a valuable asset to the Council.

Please consider Renee to be confirmed to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures. The first signature on the left is written in dark ink and appears to be 'J Ernst'. The second signature on the right is written in a lighter, possibly blue or grey ink and is more stylized, resembling a cursive 'J' followed by a large loop.

Jennifer Ernst
Former Healthy Communities
Manager Special Olympics Hawaii

P.O. Box 4777
Kaneohe, HI 96744

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health (CPH)
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message 853 Nomination of Renee Manfredi to the State Coordinating
Council on Developmental Disabilities

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on CPH,

This testimony supports the nomination of Renee Manfredi to serve on the State Council on
Developmental Disabilities (DDC) as a representative of people with disabilities.

I am testifying as a private citizen who has known and worked with Ms. Manfredi for the past
ten years. She is a shining example of what a person with a disability can do when they believe
in themselves and have a strong support system!

Since I have known Ms. Manfredi, she had accomplished some outstanding things. She served
as the Chair of the DDC, represented Hawaii at the national level on several committees, a
volunteer member of the Self Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC), and a participant of Special
Olympics Hawaii. She is an excellent public speaker and does an exceptional job representing
Hawaii's Disability Community wherever she goes!

Ms. Manfredi is a true example of what can be accomplish by believing in herself and going
beyond what others think she can accomplish. She will be an asset as part of the State Council
of Developmental Disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of her nomination to the State Council on
Developmental Disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbra L. Jackson
DEBBRA L. JACKSON