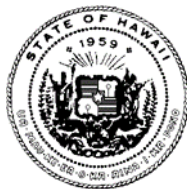


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

April 12, 2026

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director
Lea Dias, Administrator, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

SUBJECT: **GM 552 – RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PINA LEMUSU, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028.**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS), on behalf of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. Pina Lemusu to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD).

PURPOSE: The duties of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities are defined in section 333E-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The Council consists of members that include persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), parents, family members, and representatives from public and private agencies.

Ms. Lemusu is seeking appointment to the SCDD per section 333E-4, HRS, as a representative of the DHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), a state entity that administers funds provided through the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 701 et seq.).

As the Oahu Branch Administrator of DVR, Ms. Lemusu's career has been dedicated to removing barriers and increasing opportunities for individuals with disabilities so that they can

live, work and thrive in the community, with a focus on finding and succeeding in jobs that fit their individual interests, priorities, abilities, capabilities, and informed choice .

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Ms. Lemusu's nomination to the SCDD.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SIERRA WHITESIDE
CHAIRPERSON

DAINTRY BARTOLDUS
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
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TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: GM 552 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Gubernatorial Nominee Pina Lemusu

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS GM 552** to confirm the nomination of Pina Lemusu for a term to expire June 30, 2026.

The Council's federal mandate (P.L. 106-402) requires a balanced and representative body to ensure that all key partners involved in the development, implementation, and use of services for individuals with developmental disabilities are included. Federal law further requires representation from the state entity that administers funds under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Ms. Lemusu, as the O'ahu Branch Administrator for the Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), fulfills this requirement. Her leadership and expertise in vocational rehabilitation will directly support the Council's State Plan goal to increase access to competitive, integrated employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Beyond her role, Ms. Lemusu has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to systems collaboration and improvement in Hawai'i. Over fifteen years ago, she helped convene a tri-agency partnership between the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Education, working alongside the DD Council, Hawai'i Disability Rights Center, Center on Disability Studies, and Children's Community Council. This effort established a coordinated approach to improving transition planning for students exiting special education. Notably, this tri-agency group

continues to meet quarterly today, reflecting the strength, sustainability, and lasting impact of her leadership.

Importantly, Ms. Lemusu has continued to support the Council's work over the years, not out of obligation, but out of a genuine commitment to improving outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Her collaborative approach, institutional knowledge, and dedication to cross-agency coordination are exactly what is needed to advance systems change in Hawai'i.

The Council is pleased with this nomination and welcomes the opportunity to formally include Ms. Lemusu's expertise and leadership at the Council table.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong support for GM 552** to confirm Pina Lemusu to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daintry Bartoldus

Executive Administrator

GM-552

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 8:57:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daintry Bartoldus	Testifying for State Council on Developmental Disabilities	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Written testimony already submitted from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities