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February 28, 2026

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

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

SUBJECT: **GM 569 – RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CYNTHIA MEW, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028.**

Hearing: Monday, March 2, 2026, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports the nomination and confirmation of Cynthia Mew to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

**PURPOSE:** The SRC was established by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The SRC works in partnership with the DHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to review, analyze, and advise on services that address the employment needs of individuals with disabilities in Hawai'i.

Ms. Mew is seeking appointment to the SRC as a representative of the Hawaii State Department of Education per section 348-8(a)(7), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), established under section 796d of 29 U.S. Code § 725, et seq.

Ms. Mew serves as a State Special Education Resource Teacher with the Department of Education, Office of Student Support Services – Special Education Section, where she supports students with disabilities as they plan for post-school outcomes. She is an active participant in

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the State Rehabilitation Council as the designated DOE representative, contributing to council discussions on collaboration between DOE and DVR in service delivery and transition planning. Her current role and SRC involvement demonstrate a commitment to advancing the educational and employment goals of students with disabilities across the state. Her perspective will help strengthen cross-agency alignment, improve communication, and reinforce our shared commitment to preparing Hawai'i's youth with disabilities for meaningful careers and community participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Ms. Mew's nomination to the State Rehabilitation Council.