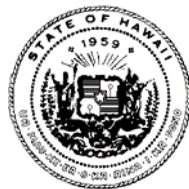


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April 12, 2026

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 570 – RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHRISTINE PARK, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028.**

Hearing: Monday, April 13, 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 Dr. Christine Park 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.

Dr. Park is seeking appointment to the SRC as a representative of a Disability Advocacy Group per section 348-8(a)(6), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), established under section 796d of 29 U.S. Code § 725, et seq.

Dr. Park has many years of experience as a Program Coordinator, Licensed Professional Counselor, business owner, and Instructor of graduate-level counseling programs, including courses in Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Rehabilitation Counselors are advocates for their participants' employment goals—they work alongside individuals to remove barriers, connect them to resources, and support informed choice, while operating within program requirements and fairness to all. In her current role as Program Coordinator/School Counselor at the Waipahu Community School for Adults (a core partner with DVR in administering the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in Hawaii), Dr. Park advocates for many individuals, including those with disabilities, to equip them with the skills necessary for competitive, integrated employment. She also has established partnerships with businesses, advisory and labor boards, and other educational institutions. These working relationships make her an ideal member of the SRC.

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