



# HILOPA'A <sup>LATE</sup>

Family to Family Health Information Center

Date: October 28, 2013

To: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

Fr: Leolinda Parlin, State Coordinator for Family Voices of Hawai'i

Re: GM 25 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State Rehabilitation Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, DAVID FRAY, for a term to expire 6-30-2016

On behalf of Family Voices of Hawai'i, I support GM 25.

As an organization, Family Voices is a national grass roots organization of family of friends of child with special health care needs. In Hawai'i, we operate the federally funded Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center.

Over the last 10 years I have come to know and respect Dr. David Fray as a champion for individuals with intellectual and or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. He personifies the phrase Servant Leader. He is not your stereotypical bureaucrat. He makes himself available to the people he serves. Dr. Fray has been known to meet with self advocates and families at night and on the weekends to hear their concerns; address needs; and or sometimes just to "talk story". In this field, he has what it takes, Passion, Purpose and Persistence.

As parents and friends of children with special health care needs, we are always mindful of the special role that consumers have in their relationship with professional partners. Dr. Fray has always insured that there is a place at the table for self advocates and family members.

He is also incredibly driven, more than anyone else I know, to see individuals with I/DD obtain competitive employment throught out our state. While he has supported and sought to develop employment services through the Department of Health over the years, it is now absolutely critical that Dr. Fray be the Champion for I/DD on the State Rehabilitation Council to engage fellow members to do their part as the advisory to the lead agency of vocational rehabilitation, to move Hawai'i from the bottom of the country to the top in employment for this population.

He truly honors the concept of family professional partnership. I consider Dr. Fray a friend and an asset to our state and to the State Rehabilitation Council.

Thank you for time and consideration in supporting GM 25.