

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



Holo'ola Noio

OCS WELCOMES MILA KAAHANUI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



(Mila Kaahanui)

Governor Neil Abercrombie appointed Mila Kaahanui to serve as executive director of Office of Community Services. Ms. Kaahanui is a former Program Administrator for Immigrant and Refugee Services at OCS, and was also Director of Municipal Reference and Records Center for the City and County of Honolulu. She is a social worker and leader for Filipino Civil Rights, and a past recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Award.

MCMANAMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

“The Department of Human Services is the prime example of the challenge we are facing in Hawai‘i,” Governor Abercrombie said. “Given the weak economy of the past few years, government and charitable resources are at their lowest just at the time when the



(Pat McManaman)

need for human services is highest. Furthermore, DHS resources have been depleted, plans for the department have been unclear, and morale among its public employees is understandably low.”

Governor Neil Abercrombie appointed Pat McManaman the new Director of Department of Human Services, the agency that handles adult protective care, general assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the low-income health care program known as QUEST, and other social services efforts.

“Pat McManaman is a true public servant with the intelligence, compassion, and character to lead DHS in these challenging times. She understands that government cannot do this alone, and she has the credibility and skill to bring everyone together and forge solutions that will meet the needs of our families.”

Since November 2008, Ms. McManaman has been deputy executive director the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission. She also served as the Chief Executive Officer for Na Loio - Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center for 12 years.

McManaman, a longtime social services advocated, began practicing law in Hawai‘i in 1979; served as a per diem judge in the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai‘i for 17 years; and has also held public interest legal positions with the Office of the Public Defender, Office of Consumer Protection, and the Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i.

Abercrombie also appointed Pankaj Bhanot to deputy director of DHS. Bhanot is currently Department of Human Services’ division administrator for Benefit, Employment and Support Services, and previously worked as the family development director for the nonprofit Kauai Economic Opportunity Inc. Mr. Bhanot was born and raised in India, came to the United States in 1990, and has called Hawaii home since 1992.