October 25, 2010

To: Graduate Coordinator

MSW Program, University of Hawai’i

Patricia O’Brien has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of her application for admission to the Master of Social Work Program at the University of Hawai’i; I am delighted to do so. I have known Patricia for two years and in the time that I have known her I have been extremely impressed with her academic ability and her maturity. She was a student of mine in two required courses in the Sociology Department at San Diego State University. The two courses were Introduction to Social Problems and Contemporary Social Theory.

I believe that Patricia is in the top 15% academically of students that I have taught at SDSU. All of her papers have been well written, her exams scores were always good, she made positive contributions to the class discussions and she took advantage of office hours to discuss issues that were raised in the class. I noticed that she demonstrated a sincere interest in areas relevant to a career in social work, poverty, inequality, gender and race. And she interacted well with other students in the class and also interacts well with faculty and staff. As I said, I have known Patricia for two years and during that time she has proven to be highly intelligent, and also to be a very mature person for her age. I believe that she would be able to handle graduate work at any level and will be successful in the social work profession. I highly recommend her without qualification. If I can be of further assistance I can be reached by email at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu) or at my office phone 594-5906.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Semm

Department of Sociology

San Diego State University