**From:**christopher cooper <ccooper@potomacsquaregroup.com>
**Date:**Friday, June 30, 2017 at 3:59 PM
**To:**REDACTED@honolulumagazine.com
**Subject:**christine gralow

Dear REDACTED,

My name is Chris Cooper; I am a consultant to Rep. Tulsi Gabbard.

I am writing about someone who claims to represent your publication. Yesterday, a former chief of staff for Tulsi was contacted by a woman named Christine Gralow, Ms. Gralow said she was a reporter for your publication and requested an interview.

Tulsi’s office is knows Ms. Gralow as a constituent and has interacted with her from time to time. I am wondering if Ms. Gralow is on your staff or if she has been commissioned by you to write something about Tulsi.

If so, I’m a bit concerned: laying aside Ms. Gralow’s almost complete lack of journalistic experience, I worry about her commitment to basic journalistic objectivity.

Like you, I am an old-school journalist, having worked as a reporter for more than 20 years, including 11 years at The Wall Street Journal, where i served as a foreign correspondent and a national political reporter. That wasn’t terribly long ago, and even in this modern age, I believe the basic journalistic standard dictates that reporters refrain from activist politics — especially if those politics involve the subject of their stories.

From my survey of Ms. Gralow and her online musings, it’s clear to me that she falls woefully short of meeting the basic standards of journalistic objectivity. Ms. Gralow has repeatedly appeared in public — as well is on political websites and social media channels — as a harsh and uncompromising critic of Tulsi, both as a political figure and a person. In one instance, Ms. Gabbard signed a public petition demanding that Congressional leadership remove Tulsi as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and offered lavish comment as to why she did so.

Demanding that Tulsi be removed from the Committee is Ms. Gralow’s right. However, i believe it hopelessly compromises her as a political reporter for a legitimate news organization.

I can assure you that Tulsi is happy to engage with legitimate members of the press, which she has demonstrated repeatedly. Similarly, I can assure you that if i have anything to say about it, Tulsi will not cooperate with Ms. Gralow. Ms Gralow is a political activist. She is not a reporter.

If Ms. Gralow is misrepresenting herself, please accept my apologies. But if Honolulu Magazine intends to publish a piece about Tulsi under Ms. Gralow’s byline, i trust the piece will include a prominent and full editor’s note describing Ms. Gralow’s activist political history and her lengthy record of activism.

I am happy to  discuss this further at your convenience.

All best regards,

Chris

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Christopher Cooper

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