



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
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April 15, 2015

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 638

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board

Gubernatorial Nominee Ann Chinen Ito,
For a term to expire June 30, 2016

This testimony is in support of the nomination of Ms. Ann Chinen Ito to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. The Board is a seventeen-member board, of which a majority are people with disabilities, their families, or caregivers.

Ms. Ito is a "holdover" member from her previous term and is eligible for another year of service. Ms. Ito currently serves as Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Communication Access and is a member of the Board's Executive Committee.

Ms. Ito is a person who represents individuals who are blind or who have low vision and she will be representing that segment of the community as a consumer. However, in addition, Ms. Ito is the Director of the KOKUA Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The KOKUA Program is the University's program to provide services to students with disabilities on the Manoa campus. She has been active on the community advisory committees such as Ho'opono Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Aloha Council for the Blind. Ms. Ito brings to the Board a tremendous amount of professional expertise to complement her personal perspective.

We believe that Ms. Ito will continue to be an asset to the Board and recommend your confirmation of her nomination for another year.

Respectfully submitted, .

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM638 on Apr 15, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Monday, April 13, 2015 3:44:13 PM

GM638

Submitted on: 4/13/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 15, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: I strongly support the approval of Ann Ito for the Disability and Communication Access Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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April 6, 2015

Senator Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senate Committee on Health
State of Hawai'i

Re: Confirmation Hearing: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 1:15 p.m.
Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB)
Ann Chinen Ito

Dear Chairperson Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

My name is Ann Chinen Ito and I would like to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) as I am deeply committed to promoting the well being of persons with disabilities and it would be an enormous privilege to serve on a long established board staffed by a team of exceptionally qualified, ethical and dedicated professionals. I understand that DCAB membership requires informed and responsible participation of which I believe I am capable and prepared to offer.

My requested term would be for my final eligible year, July 2015 thru June, 2016.

Having served college students with disabilities and the larger higher education community for several decades and having otherwise volunteered extensively with local, state and national agencies serving persons with disabilities, I would bring my best energy, knowledge-based judgement, genuine respect for human difference and a passion for social justice to DCAB service. I would also bring to the table a highly cultivated and still evolving empathy for and wonder about persons with disabilities out of my own disabilities and those of many beloved others. Given my nature and preference, mine has not been to stand out, but simply to serve as best as I am able and in whatever the needed capacity; such is what I would bring to DCAB service. While my concerns are broad, I do have particular interest and expertise in areas involving communication access, access to higher education, sensory disabilities and faith communities.

In terms of potential conflicts of interest, I am not aware of any that would compromise my DCAB work.

Thank you for considering my appointment for service on the Disability and Communication Access Board within the Department of Health.

Respectfully,



Ann Chinen Ito