



GOV. MSG. NO. 517

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

March 17, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **Disability and Communication Access Board**:

Ann Chinen Ito

Term to Expire: 6/30/2010

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

LINDA LINGLE

3757 Kumukoa Place  
Honolulu, HI 96822

March 28, 2008

Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

Re: Testimony from Ann Chinen Ito and Disability and Communication Access Board

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Senate Committee on Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself for your consideration as a new appointee for service on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

My name is Ann Chinen Ito, born and raised in Honolulu, a proud product and proponent of our public school system and a grateful graduate of the University of Hawai'i with a baccalaureate in speech and speech correction and a master's degree in social work.

My involvement with and dedication to the disability community has been both personal and professional. I myself live with multiple disabilities and have/had family members with various physical and mental disabilities. As director (and previously counselor) of the KOKUA Program on the Mānoa campus of the University of Hawai'i, I have for more than 35 years served thousands of students with disabilities in their often challenging pursuit of equal access to the higher education experience. In my work and community service, I have been dedicated to identifying and removing barriers with and for people with disabilities in lower and higher education, library services, mobility and transportation, vocational rehabilitation and employment, health care, communication, culture and the arts, legislation, etc. Out of my faith orientation, I consider it my life purpose to ensure that all persons with disabilities are accorded respect and dignity as worthy human beings and welcomed by and into the larger community.

As a reasoning, responsible and respectful individual, I would bring to DCAB service a grounding in both the letter and spirit of the multitude of civil rights and related laws protecting and empowering persons with disabilities along with an excitement and passion about future possibilities for this ever increasing segment of our population. Those of us with disabilities may be different because of our physical and mental impairments but our differences do not make us less.

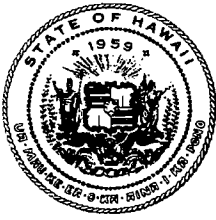
Throughout the nation, DCAB has been one of the most highly regarded state offices of advocacy, technical assistance and public education regarding persons with disabilities in terms of their rights and responsibilities. It would be a privilege for me to return to DCAB service. I respectfully request your confirmation of my appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Please accept my profound apology at my inability to attend your Senate confirmation hearing due to a scheduling conflict related to legally mandated work commitments.

Sincerely,



Ann C. Ito



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 31, 2008

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

#### Governor's Message 517 - Appointment of Ann C. Ito to the Disability and Communication Access Board

This testimony is in support of the nomination of Ms. Ann C. Ito to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. The Board is a seventeen (17) member board, of which a majority are people with disabilities, their families, or caregivers.

Ms. Ito is a person with a visual loss 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. Ms. Ito brings to the Board a tremendous amount of professional expertise to complement her personal perspective.

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

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA**

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Students

March 27, 2008

The Honorable David Ige  
Chair, Senate Health Committee  
State of Hawai'i  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 311  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Ige:

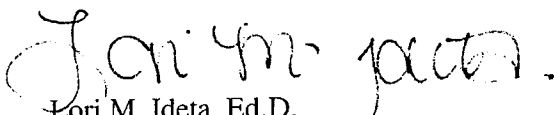
I understand that Ms. Ann Ito, Director of the KOKUA Program of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, has been nominated to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. It is with complete zeal that I write this letter of support for Director Ito and her nomination.

I have had the pleasure of working with Director Ito for the past 15 years. Director Ito serves as the coordinator of Kahi o Ka Ulu 'Ana (KOKUA), the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa disability access office. Over the years, I have witnessed Director Ito serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities; a counselor for students adjusting to the "college experience;" a keen crafter of policy, rules, regulations, and procedures that benefit the entire University community and the community at large; an administrator who works diligently to ensure fair representation of individuals with disabilities, and an educator who teaches from her own humble experiences. As is apparent, Director Ito wears numerous "hats" on a daily basis. She does so with effectiveness and grace. All of Director Ito's accomplishments and characteristics are juxtaposed with the reality that she is a woman who lives with a disability. Thus, it is Director Ito's lived experiences - her ability to walk her talk - that makes her most effective in her daily interactions. Director Ito is a true treasure to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and we are privileged to be able to call her a colleague.

I understand that Director Ito has served on the Disability and Communication Access Board in the past and that her membership proved extremely beneficial and effective. Thus, it is without reservation that I support the nomination of Director Ann Ito to continue service on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss my interactions with Director Ito, it would be my pleasure to speak with you. Please, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Lori M. Ideta, Ed.D.  
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Students

Senate Committee on Health

1:15 pm agenda, March 31, 2008

GM 517

TESTIMONY SUPPORTING GM 517 NOMINATION OF ANN CHINEN ITO to the Disability and Communication Access Board for a term to expire 6-30-201

SUBMITTED BY: Amefil Agbayani, Director SEED, UH Manoa

I support in the strongest possible way, the nomination of Ann Ito to the Disability and Communication Access Board. Ann is the Director of KOKUA, the UH Manoa program responsible for access services for students with disabilities. KOKUA is part of the Office of Student Equity Excellence and Diversity (SEED). As Director of SEED, I have known Ann for many years. I can attest to her deep commitment to serving students, with compassion and good judgment. She is a tireless advocate, counselor, and friend. She works hard to learn about changing needs of the people on campus with disabilities and to incorporate new methods of meeting these needs. Ann is widely respected for her knowledge, integrity, and generosity of spirit. She will contribute greatly to addressing the challenges faced by DCAB

## testimony

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**From:** Darrell [teruyadt@worldnet.att.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2008 7:35 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** GM 517 Hearing Monday 03/31/08 1:15 PM

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Health Committee

Hearing Monday, March 31, 2008 1:15 p.m.

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANN CHINEN ITO, for a term to expire 6-30-2010.

Please let me start out by saying that Mrs. Ito is one of the finest individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Despite being visually handicapped Mrs. Ito is a loving wife and mother and maintains a very heavy schedule as director of the KOKUA Program. The KOKUA Program, which I had the opportunity to serve with in the early to mid 70's, provides support services to physically handicapped students in the University of Hawaii system.

Mrs. Ito has always leant a compassionate ear to the clientele of the program and has continued to maintained a schedule which would be overwhelming to most individuals. Seemingly indefatigable, Mrs. Ito has also proven to be an effective advocate and font of knowledge for access issues of physically challenged individuals. Ann's grasp of issues and concerns within the UH system and community at large, continues to impress me.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the appointment of Mrs. Ann Chinen Ito for this position.

Darrell Teruya, DDS