

GM 323

Peter L. Fritz

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, PETER L. FRITZ, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

PETER L. FRITZ
414 KUWILI STREET, #104
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

**THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**Hearing March 4, 2009
Testimony on G.M. 323**

Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Green, members of the Committee:

Unfortunately, I had to travel to the mainland and I am not able to present my testimony personally. Thank you for considering this written testimony.

I have been an advocate for the legal rights of the disabled and I am looking forward to continuing to apply my professional skills and more than 25 years of experience as an attorney to help fulfill the mission of the Disability and Communications Access Board ("DCAB").

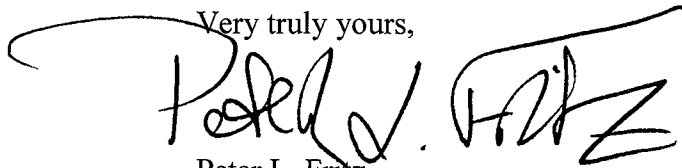
I share the DCAB's mission of ensuring that people with disabilities are valued equally and participate fully. While serving on the board, I will draw upon my analytic skills and experience as an attorney, Administrative Rules Specialist for the Hawaii Department of Taxation, and as personal advocate for persons with disabilities.

On a personal and family level, I am intimately familiar with the contributions that people with disabilities bring to our society. As a former director of the Assistive Technology Resource Center of Hawaii, I know how technology improves the lives people with disabilities.

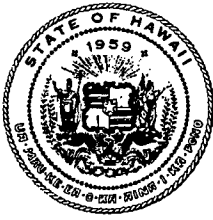
Experiences with my sister, who has cerebral palsy, made me an advocate for barrier free design long before the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a person with a lifelong a hearing disability, I drafted legislation to exempt hearing aids and other assistive technology devices from Hawaii's General Excise Tax (GET).

Thank you for considering my nomination to the DCAB.

Very truly yours,



Peter L. Fritz



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 4, 2009

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 323 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board; Gubernatorial Nominee Peter L. Fritz

This testimony is in support of the re-nomination of Mr. Peter L. Fritz 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.

Mr. Fritz is being appointed in the capacity of a consumer, a person with a hearing loss. He also brings to the Board the unique perspective of also being a family member of a person with a life-long disability. He has been very active in the disability community, as a past member of the Rehabilitation Advisory Council and as past president of the Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii. As an attorney licensed in the State of Hawaii, he has a broad understanding of laws affecting people with disabilities and has taken an active role analyzing laws and providing testimony to the Legislature.

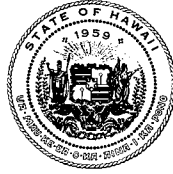
Mr. Fritz was appointed in 2008 to fill a vacancy and has served only one year. He has been very active participating on the full Board and especially on our Legislative Committee.

Mr. Fritz is an asset to the Board and we recommend your confirmation of his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. FLEMING
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Testimony

of

REPRESENTATIVE ISAAC W. CHOY

Before the

Committee on Health

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Conference Room 016

Hawaii State Capitol

In Support of GM323

Dear Chairman Ige, Vice Chair Green and Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Mr. Peter L. Fritz to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I have worked with Mr. Fritz on a variety of projects concerning Hawaii State Taxes and have found that he is a consummate professional with sound research skills and reasoning capabilities. Although we occasionally disagree on philosophical and futuristic strategies, he is a consummate gentleman stressing compromise and progress. It has always been a pleasure to work with Mr. Fritz.

Mr. Fritz will be a great asset to any community board, and again, it is my pleasure to add my name in endorsing him for this position.

Very truly yours,

Isaac W. Choy

**Testimony of Thomas J. Smyth
Before the
Senate Committee on Health
Wednesday, March 4, 2009
2:45 pm Room 016
on
GM 323
Nominating Peter L. Fritz
to the Disability and Communications Access Board**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Peter Fritz to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I have known Mr. Fritz for many years since he was with the Department of Taxation. He is an intelligent, articulate and very knowledgeable person regarding matters that will come before the board. As a former resource person for the Assistive Technology Resource Center, I know how he has advocated for persons with disabilities. As an attorney he is very aware of the sometimes complex legal issues that surround the laws that govern disability access.

It is important that those with detailed technical and legal knowledge serve on this panel, but it is equally important that those who have been caregivers and advocate for their rights be on such an important regulatory board.

I urge your consideration and confirmation of Peter Fritz.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.