

GM 501

LYNN K. MURAKAMI-AKATSUKA

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYNN K. MURAKAMI-AKATSUKA, for a term to expire 6-30-2010.

Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Health

April 15, 2009

Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka

Disability and Communication Access Board

Chair Ige, members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to present a brief background about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I was born and raised in Hawai`i. I attended the University of Hawai`i at Manoa, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Human Development. I attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for post-graduate work in Public Health Education and received my Masters of Public Health degree in Community Health Education at the University of Hawai`i's School of Public Health.

During the past 32 years of my professional career, I have served as a Public Health Educator in the State Department of Health and other non-profit agencies and since 2002 as a Planner for the Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD). I have had the pleasure to serve as the Professional Co-Chair of the West Honolulu Community Children's Council as our DDD representative since 2004. The Community Children's Council is under the State Department of Education whose focus is to address systems improvement in the delivery of services and support to special needs children and families statewide.

I also previously served on the State Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation & Services for the Blind's Imua Project as an Advisory Committee member from 2002-2003. This project focused on the successful transitioning for youth with disabilities at several high schools on Oahu and the Big Island.

Recently my Division's work on disaster preparation planning for our individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities has given me the opportunity to work with the staff of the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) in their statewide planning for disaster preparation for special needs individuals. I have been very impressed with their coordination and facilitation of all stakeholders to provide input into the planning process and to keep our group on task to implement the objectives that we have all agreed upon annually. I would be very honored to serve on this Board and contribute to the efforts of DCAB's strategic plan and advocacy of our disabled community's needs.

On a personal note, I have been blessed to have a sister with an intellectual disability from birth who is currently in her mid-40's. She resides with my elderly mother who is hard of hearing. My other sister and I provide supports, such as transportation, going with her to doctor visits, interpretation of correspondence, and to help her with her daily life activities. She has taught me a lot about how I treat her peers with an intellectual and physical

disabilities and to advocate for her and others in being respected and advocating for their needs. I also have a physical disability and have been a recipient of the services that DCAB provides through their administration of the American Disabilities Act laws.

A position on the Disability and Communication Access Board to serve as a family member of a person with a disability would provide me further opportunity to gather information and provide input from the community groups that I serve on, on the issues and services that DCAB provides to special needs individuals statewide. I offer my time, experience, and advocacy skills in assuring that the voices of those we help are heard in DCAB's plans.

I ask for your support of my nomination to the Disability and Communication Access Board. Thank you.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

April 15, 2009

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 501 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Disability and Communication Access Board; Gubernatorial Nominee
Lynn K. Murakami-Akatsuka

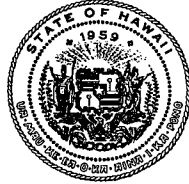
This testimony is in support of the nomination of Ms. Lynn K. Murakami-Akatsuka to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. The Board is a seventeen (17) member board, of which a majority are people with disabilities, their families, or caregivers.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka is being appointed in the capacity of a family member of a sibling with an intellectual disability. Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka is knowledgeable of many health issues with a long career in the health field. She presently is with the Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division. The Board has also worked with her as a member of the Interagency Working Group on Emergency Preparedness, which updates and amends existing goals and objectives in the "Interagency Action Plan for the Emergency Preparedness of People with Disabilities and Special Needs."

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

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**GM 501, NOMINEE LYNN MURAKAMI-AKATSUKA TO THE
DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06/30/2010**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health**

APRIL 15, 2009

1 **Department's Position:** Gubernatorial nomination of Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka for consideration and
2 confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) for a term to expire
3 06/30/2010.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department strongly supports the Gubernatorial nomination of Lynn
6 Murakami-Akatsuka to the DCAB. Lynn has been a Planner for the Case Management & Information
7 Services Branch, Developmental Disability Division (DDD), since 2002 and has served as the
8 Professional Co-Chair of the West Honolulu Community Children's Council as a DDD representative
9 since 2004. She has served as a Public Health Educator in the Department of Health and other non-
10 profit agencies. Lynn's community and professional activities have always advocated for the concerns
11 and identification of barriers in addressing the needs of special needs students and adults. She also has a
12 physical disability and has been a recipient of the services that DCAB provides through their
13 administration of the American Disabilities Act laws. Lynn's community and professional experiences
14 make her an excellent candidate for membership to the DCAB.
15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 501.



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII

1177 Alakea Street · B-100 · Honolulu · HI · 96813

TEL: (808) 586-5363 · TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 · FAX: (808) 586-5366

April 8, 2009

Senate Health Committee

Re: Governor's Message (GM) number 501

Dear Senate Health Committee members:

It is with pleasure and confidence that I write this letter of support of Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka's appointment to the Disability and Communication and Access Board (DCAB).

The Community Children's Council Office (CCCO) is a program within the Hawaii State Department of Education that works directly with community and families having children with special needs. To effectively engage the families and communities across Hawaii we have 17 local Community Children's Councils (CCCs) that meet on a regular basis. These CCCs engage, train and outreach to families with children having special needs. Lynn is a vital and strong component to our success. As a volunteer Co-chair of our West Honolulu CCC, Lynn provides collaborative problem solving and establishes partnerships that bring professionals and families together. Her outstanding commitment and time she gives has given our many outreach activities and events a community reputation of being meaningful and enjoyable.

Lynn shares freely her knowledge and experience. Her insight and life experience will benefit DCAB and our State.

It would be a pleasure to discuss in further detail Lynn's outstanding community involvement with you at any time. Please feel free to call (808) 586-5369.

Please consider this letter of support in your consideration. Thank you

Very truly yours,

Steven Vannatta, Supervisor
Community Children's Council Office

92-1076 Palahia St. #M-101
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707
April 10, 2009

Office of Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Health Committee
State Capitol, Room 215
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 501 Nomination to the Disability and Communication Access Board

Senate Health Committee – April 15, 2009, 2:45 PM Hearing

Dear Senator Ige and Senate Health Committee Members:

I am submitting this letter of support of Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka's appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I have had the privilege to serve with Lynn Murakami -Akatsuka on the West Honolulu Community Children's Council (WHCCC) for 5 years. In that time I have seen a number of positive changes in our Council. These changes were in no small part due to Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka's dedication and authentic caring of the population we represent.

Due to Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka's leadership, I've watched our Council become a goal oriented body, producing Parent Resource Binders, making connections with partners by creating a "Friends of the CCC" network, and produce community Projects such as our annual Community Events/Resource Fairs. She was instrumental in bringing to the table the participation of Developmental Disabilities Division on a state wide level. She brings people together by recognizing opportunities for connections between agencies. In meetings she is able to keep a large group focused on goals rather than individual interests. She

has the innate ability to recognize individual strengths and delegates responsibilities accordingly with a style that is positive and encouraging.

My experience working with Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka has been one of the most positive experiences of my life. She has taught me that leadership can be kind, encouraging and inspiring; and can also create excitement. I've watched agency serving people become people serving agencies. I've also watched consumers who have felt powerless, find their voice to affect change in our community. And she does it all with her positive inspirational style.

It has been my honor and privilege to work with Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka, and I find myself a better agent for the families I serve because of her.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka would be an asset to the Disability and Communication Access Board. I am confident she will be as hard working and committed as she is for the Community Children's Council.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 741-4774.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonni Adaniya', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jonni Adaniya
Parent Co-Chair
West Honolulu Community Children's Council

2124 Ala Mahamoe
Honolulu, HI 96819

April 13, 2009

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 215
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 501 Nomination to the Disability and Communication Access Board
For Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka

To the Honorable Senator David Y. Ige:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of recommendation for Ms. Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka in support of her nomination to serve as a family member on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I have known Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka for over twenty years, both professionally and personally. Professionally, she has been a health educator and planner for the Department of Health. Most recently, from 2002, she has been the planner for the Case Management and Information Services Branch (CMISB) with the Developmental Disabilities Division; I was also her supervisor from 2002 until my retirement in 2007.

As a planner for CMISB, she was involved with multiple community agencies on various levels as staff representative and committee chair. Her committee experiences afforded her exposure to various topics, viewpoints, and ideas. For example, she participated in the Children's Community Councils activities, working with the Department of Education and the Department of Health's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, in advocacy of children's services.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka's primary responsibility as Branch planner was to develop the Branch's Five Year plan with the neighbor Island staff; she accomplished this by compressing learning about the population and services available and needed and with input from stakeholders. She also served as the "lead" for the Branch's activities in disaster planning for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families/caregivers and was most instrumental in developing, with input from state and city civil defense groups and the American Red Cross, disaster plans for individuals with developmental disabilities as well as in obtaining disaster/emergency kits for a high risk population of individuals with developmental disabilities. As the Branch's planner, she was also a member of various Branch committees on quality assurance and

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka
April 13, 2009
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employment. Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka also played a role in the legislative process for the Branch, tracking legislation and writing testimony.

On a personal note, Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka works tirelessly, always bringing her energy, cheerful outlook, and positive attitude to any group situation, needing little guidance and encouragement once an assignment is given and understood. She has good communication and facilitation skills, able to engage and "direct" a variety of persons toward task-oriented ends. She is an excellent community networker who has, in the past, demonstrated an ability to recruit and convince people to participate and to facilitate accomplishment of objectives. She has a sense of humor which serves her well in her relationships with people.

Initially primarily only an advocate for her sister, through the years, Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka has become an advocate for persons with disabilities who balances passion with responsibility, emotion with logic and reason, and focused goal-oriented behavior with an ability to be creative, knowing when to be "personal" and when to compromise.

These are some of the qualities that Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka will bring with her which will be of benefit to the Disability and Communication Access Board. Her experiences with her sister (and others) will also undoubtedly enhance her ability to meaningfully contribute as a DECAB member.

Thank you for allowing me to share in support of Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka's nomination to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Sincerely,



Sharon Tanaka

2101 Nuuanu Avenue, Unit 1703
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
808.536.4460
April 15, 2009

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 501 – Disability and Communication Access Board Gubernatorial Nominee –
Lynn K. Murakami-Akatsuka

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

My name is Deborah Miyasaka-Gushiken and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 501** to confirm the nomination of Lynn K. Murakami-Akatsuka to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) for a term to expire June 30, 2010.

DCAB as established pursuant to Chapter 348F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is a seventeen voluntary member board whose members include at least nine people with disabilities, or parents or guardians of individuals with disabilities, and individuals knowledgeable in areas for which the board has rulemaking authority.

DCAB administers the statewide program on parking for persons with disabilities; advocates for people with disabilities on areas relating to access; establishes administrative rules for the design of buildings, facilities, and sites, and for communication access services for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind; serves as the designated state agency to coordinate the efforts of the State to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for access to services, employment, telecommunications, and facility and site design; reviews problems, needs and availability of services and resources for people with disabilities; provides technical assistance; and certifies interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing for the State.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka has sister with an intellectual disability and is nominated to serve on the board as a family member of an individual with a disability for a one-year term.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka, herself, has a physical disability and has been a recipient of services from DCAB under the ADA.

Since 2002, I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka in her capacity as a planner with the Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division Case Management and Information Services (CMIS) Branch while I was employed by the CMIS Branch and in my current employment with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Her work as a planner has contributed to improving the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities, and has involved analysis of and planning to address system level issues facing individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities relating to the provision of services, supports, and resources. She also worked as public health educator for over twenty years. Her professional experience and training in these areas will contribute greatly in the review of problems, needs and availability of services and resources, and issues relating to access for people with disabilities that may arise before the board.

She is an active member of the community and has served on various professional and community organizations, including serving as a board member and/or officer for several of those organizations.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka's appointment will provide a valuable family member perspective for the board, as well as the perspectives of a professional-in-the-field and a consumer.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of GM 501** to confirm Lynn K. Murakami-Akatsuka to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Miyasaka-Gushiken". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray, dotted background.

Deborah Miyasaka-Gushiken