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DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
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March 7, 2012

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 666 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee Ann Chinen Ito, for a term to expire June 30, 2014

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 (17) member board, of which a majority are people with disabilities, their families, or caregivers.

Ms. Ito is a "holdover" member from her previous term. Ms. Ito currently serves a 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 Hoopono 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.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

March 7, 2012

Testimony in support of GM 666 Ann Ito for the Disability and Communication Access Board

Submitted by: Amy Agbayani, phd
Director, Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED)
UH Manoa

Chariman Green and members of the Senate Health Committee

I am writing in strong support of *Ann Ito*. I have known Ann for over 20 years as a friend and at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. As the Director of the Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity, I am charged with overseeing programs that address diversity and equity for various students including underrepresented students, Native Hawaiian students and students with disabilities. Ann Ito has been the Director of the KOKUA program for many decades. The KOKUA office reports to me for administrative purposes.

Ann Ito has earned the respect and appreciation for competence and integrity. She is regarded by disability service providers at Manoa, other UH campuses and community agencies as a technical expert and leader in the field of disability access issues. Countless individual students and faculty attest to her wonderful and caring assistance. Ann Ito is up to date with communication access issues. She regularly attends national conferences and organizes workshops so that our students are provided quality support services as they pursue their educational goals at Manoa.

I am confident that Ann will continue to be a responsible and hard working member of this board. I respectfully request you approve her nomination for another term. I would like to take this opportunity to publically express my appreciation to Ann for her professional competence and service to our state.