

TESTIMONY

GM666

**HTH
Committee Hearing
03-07-2012**

GM666

March 3, 2012

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

Re: Confirmation Hearing: March 7, 2012, 1:30 p.m.
Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB)
Ann Chinen Ito

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

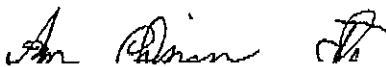
My name is Ann Chinen Ito and I would like to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) as I am deeply committed to promoting the well-being of persons with disabilities and it would be an enormous privilege to serve on a long established board staffed by a team of exceptionally qualified, 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.

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 judgment, 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 yet evolving empathy for persons with disabilities given my own disabilities and those of many beloved others. Given my nature and capacity, mine has not been to stand out, but simply to serve as best as I am able; 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.

Respectfully,


Ann Ito



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
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E-mail: olbcirc@librarieshawaii.org

February 28, 2012

Senator Josh Green
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St., Room 222
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Green:

Ms. Ann Chinen Ito is being recommended to serve on the Board of the Disability Communication Access Board (DCAB).

I have worked with Ms. Ito for over thirty years. During this time, I have always been impressed with her dedication and commitment to serving the disabled community. She is greatly respected among those of us who have been fortunate to work with her.

I support the recommendation that she serve on the DCAB Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Sugimura".

Sue Sugimura
Acting Branch Manager



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII[®]
SYSTEM

Equal Employment Opportunity and
Affirmative Action Office

February 29, 2012

Senator Josh Green
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 222
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Green:

RE: Appointment of Ann Chinen Ito to the Disability and Communication Board

This letter is a recommendation for Ms. Ann Ito to serve on the Hawai'i Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB).

Ms. Ito has contributed 40 years of service and advocacy for persons with disabilities at the University of Hawai'i and throughout the State of Hawai'i. She currently serves as the Director of the UH Mānoa KOKUA program which provides disability access services to students. In 1996, she was honored with the Regents' Willard Wilson Distinguished Service Award for her perseverance and success in building the KOKUA Program from a student volunteer activity to a solid, vital program based on respect for the individual.

While Ms. Ito has personally touched the lives of hundreds of individual UH students and their families, she has also contributed significantly to public policy discussions and implementation of civil rights laws. She has served on number boards and commissions, including the Hawai'i Coordinating Council on Deafness, the DOE Hawai'i Center for the Deaf and Blind, the City and County Committee for Accessible Transportation, the Advisory Board for the Library for the Blind and the Physically Handicapped, and the Ho'opono Services for the Blind Advisory Board (the vocational rehabilitation agency for the blind).

Thank you for this opportunity to share my enthusiastic recommendation for Ms. Ito to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mie Watanabe".

Mie Watanabe
Director, EEO/AA Office

A handwritten mark consisting of a large, stylized bracket or square symbol.

GM6666

U N I V E R S I T Y O F H A W A I I A T M A N O A

College of Education

Department of Kinesiology & Rehabilitation Science

March 4, 2012


Honorable Josh Green, M.D.
Chair, Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol, Room 222
S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am honored to write this letter of support for the nomination of Ann Chinen Ito to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. Mrs. Ito has diligently served as a strong advocate and member of the Program Advisory Committee; in fact, she served long before I became the Director of the Rehabilitation Counseling program over eleven years ago. I can personally attest that she goes beyond her duty as the Director of the KOKUA program at the University of Hawai'i Manoa campus to facilitate equal access by all students with disabilities. She is most knowledgeable in all areas of disability access for which the Disability and Communication Access Board has rule-making authority.

It is without reservation that I offer my strong support for the nomination of Ann Chinen Ito to serve as a member of the Disability and Communication Access Board. She is one of those unique individuals that the disability community in the State of Hawai'i cannot afford to miss having as an advocate. Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at bcartwri@hawaii.edu or by phone at (808) 956-4386.

Sincerely,



Brenda Cartwright, EdD
Professor and Program Director

1337 Lower Campus Road PE/A 231 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Office Phone: (808) 956-7606 Facsimile: (808) 956-7976

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LATE
GM 666

Francine Mae Lehuani Aona Kenyon
2520 Jasmine Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

March 6, 2012

TESTIMONY TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

**GM 666, GUBERNATORIAL COMMITTEE OF ANN CHINEN ITO
TO DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD**

Wednesday, March 07, 2012 at 1:30 pm
Conference Room 229

Chair Senator Josh Green, vice-chair Senator Clarence Nishihara, and Members of Senate Committee on Health:

Aloha,

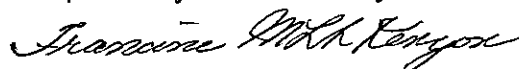
I am in support of Gubernatorial nominate ANN CHINEN ITO to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Ann was the first person whom I had contact with at University of Hawaii KOKUA Program that serves the University students with disabilities in 1989 when I was then a post-graduate student working hopefully to completing my doctoral study but unfortunately not being able to complete due to financial burdens. Nevertheless, Ann continuously encourages me to move forward and was the one who brought me to an attention about the job opening for the position of Hawaii State Coordinating Council on Deafness (HSCCD).

Consequently, Ann served actively on HSCCD board from 1989 to 1992 during my administration as program specialist-coordinator.

Ann is very instrumental with outstanding background about her knowledge on education and disability-related issues. She is a very important asset to serving on Disability and Communication Access Board.

Respectively Submitted By:



FRANCINE M.L.A. KENYON