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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 7, 2012

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 668 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, gubernatorial nominee Tamar Lani, for a term to expire June 30, 2015

This testimony is in support of the nomination of Ms. Tamar Lani 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. Lani served as an interim appointee for one year. We therefore ask that she be appointed to a regular term this session.

Ms. Lani is a nationally certified sign language interpreter with fifteen (15) years of professional working experience, as a spouse of a deaf consumer, and a successful business person in the "business of providing communication access" as a sole proprietor and as manager of the video relay service and video relay interpreting service.

As an interim appointee, she was very active with our Standing Committee on Communication Access and helped develop our recently adopted administrative rules, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218. Her background will assist us as we develop a continuing education unit program for American Sign Language interpreters that we credential. Her video relay service and video relay interpreting background will also assist us as we review the many new rules relating to technology and communication access.

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

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director