

**TESTIMONY**

**GM668**

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

TESTIMONY  
OF  
TAMAR H. LANI  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
HEALTH  
ON  
March 5, 2012

Submitting for consideration and confirmation for appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Tamar H. Lani.

Honorable Chair Green and members of the Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for this nomination. It is truly an honor and privilege to be considered for appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

As a member of the Disability and Communication Access Board I will zealously serve as an advocate for the civil rights of all persons with disabilities so that facilities, communication, legislation, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures and

overall access is provided in a manner that best meets their needs.

DCAB issues administrative rules that determine the qualifications of interpreters and provides guidelines on the utilization, screening, and certification of interpreters and sadly there are currently no interpreters, captioners, note takers, or interpreter educators serving on the advisory board. I am a nationally certified sign language interpreter and have worked professionally within the State of Hawaii for the past 15 years; I am the spouse of a deaf consumer; and I am an owner of a small business that prides itself in advocating for enhanced communication access for persons with disabilities statewide. As such, I would provide valuable insight to DCAB into how communication access within the State of Hawaii is working effectively and how it can be improved from a perspective that is not currently represented by present appointees. I am eager to share the wealth of knowledge and experience I have gained over the past 15 years working as a communication access provider of interpreting and computer assisted notetaking

services to improve communication access within the State of Hawaii and to raise the professional bar for communication access service providers for the benefit of consumers.

I recently had the privilege of serving on the Disability and Communication Access Board as an interim board member for one year in 2010 -2011. During that year I was able to effectively get a higher level of involvement from the interpreting community on communication access issues in regards to improving the administrative rules. Also during this term, as a member of the Communication Access Committee of DCAB we hosted a very successful communication access conference that focused on empowering consumers and I am excited at the opportunity to continue working on those and similar initiatives.

For example, a request from the deaf community raised at the communication access conference was greater access to information in American Sign Language. As such, despite the end of my interim appointment, I continued to volunteer my time and expertise to support DCAB in making more information from the DCAB website accessible to deaf persons who do not use

English as their first language--American Sign Language. I am also committed to working to improve the administrative rules for the utilization of communication access services in support of the testimony that was gathered in 2010 from the community.

I am passionate, dedicated, and creative. I'm passionate about communication access. I'm dedicated to making constant improvement in how things are done. And I'm creative in the approach that can be taken to accomplish goals and objectives. An example of my passion, dedication, and creativity being an asset to DCAB is a project I've volunteering on this past year to make disability rights information accessible on the Internet in American Sign Language using vlogs so that persons who are deaf and hard of hearing can better educate themselves on their rights and self-advocate for their rights.

I am confident that my knowledge, expertise, passion, dedication, and creativity will prove valuable to Disability and Communication Access Board. I appreciate this opportunity to be considered for appointment to DCAB to be able to continue to serve not just as an advocate for persons with disabilities and

advisor to the board, but as a liaison to the interpreting and deaf community on issues that concern them so they can be much more involved in self-advocacy.

In closing, I would like to thank the Health Committee for all your hard work as public servants for the State of Hawaii and for providing me with the opportunity of being here today. Thank you for considering my nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamar H. Lani

**LATE**

GM 668

*Francine Mae Lehauanani Aona Kenyon*

*2520 Jasmine Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816*

*March 6, 2012*

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**TESTIMONY TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
GM 668, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINATION OF TAMAR LANI  
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 nominee TAMAR LANI to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Mrs. Lani is very knowledgeable in sign language interpreting field and has been a sign language interpreter for years. She was the manager of Purple Communications, Inc that provides video relay service to deaf and hard of hearing consumers.

Tamar would be an excellent asset to Disability and Communication Access Board so she could provide any issues related to interpreting services that deaf and hard of hearing people greatly need within the general community.

Respectively Submitted By:

*Francine M. L. A. Kenyon*

FRANCINE M. L. A. KENYON  
Deaf Advocate