

LATE

G.M. 670



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 7, 2012

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 670 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee Michael Okamoto, for a term to expire June 30, 2014

This testimony is in support of the nomination of Mr. Michael Okamoto 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.

Mr. Okamoto served as an interim appointee for one year, and we therefore ask that he be appointed to a regular term this session.

Mr. Okamoto is a principal with Next Design LLC in Hawaii with broad experience in residential, commercial, hospitality, health care, institutional, educational, retail, mixed-use, and government design. As such, he has become intimately familiar with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

As an interim appointee, Mr. Okamoto has been very active with the Board's Standing Committee on Facility Access, especially as we adopted the "new ADAAG" for government projects. Mr. Okamoto's practical knowledge has also assisted us in developing a proactive education and outreach program to the architectural and engineering community. He has also contributed to our efforts to develop a revenue base to support the program.

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

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director