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DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 7, 2012

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 671 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee Lawrence Scadden, Ph.D., for a term to expire June 30, 2014

This testimony is in support of the nomination of Dr. Lawrence Scadden 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.

Dr. Scadden served as an interim appointee for a year. We therefore ask that he be appointed to a regular term this session.

Dr. Scadden represents a consumer group of individuals who are blind or have low vision. He would also be the representative from the Island of Hawaii.

As a research scientist and an administrator, Dr. Scadden is one of the nation's foremost resource persons in the area of technology for persons with disabilities. His background at the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Center, the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, the Electronic Industries Foundation, and the National Science Foundation give him a breadth of knowledge that few people in Hawaii possess.

As we continue to evolve as a society with increased use of technology as a means of communication and personal organization, issues such as access to the Internet, captioning of video streaming events, and video communication become even more important. Dr. Scadden has been extremely valuable as a prior member of the Standing Committee on Communication Access on these topics.

We believe that Dr. Scadden will be an asset to the Board and we recommend your confirmation of his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director