

**TESTIMONY**

**GM671**

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

TESTIMONY OF  
LAWRENCE A. SCADDEN  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

March 7, 2012

GM671

Submitting for consideration and confirmation for membership on the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Lawrence A. Scadden, for a term to expire June 30, 2014.

Senator Green and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony and to appear before you.

I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I truly consider this an honor and a privilege to be considered for membership on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

My entire adult life has been devoted to improving the lives of people with disabilities through increased independent access to appropriate technology, education, employment opportunities, supportive public policies, and positive public attitudes. Having been blind since the age of five, I know the importance of these factors, and I know from experience the negative impact of physical and attitudinal barriers. But I also know from personal experience the power of education, employment opportunities, and accessible technology which together can significantly reduce the effects of a physical, sensory or intellectual disability.

Fortunately I had an outstanding education, obtaining a doctorate in philosophy with an emphasis on psychology, neurophysiology, and bioengineering. My career in research, industry and government, provided me the opportunity to contribute to improving the lives of people with disabilities through the application of newly developed technology and through the development and promotion of public policies relating to accessibility.

I spent 23 years working in Washington, DC, often directly involved in the development of programs and policies that continue to affect the operation of public and private entities both in the public and private sectors. In 1989, for example, while employed by the Electronic Industries Foundation, I was asked to represent the electronics industry on a task force working within the House of Representatives to develop the language for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There I had the unique opportunity to represent both corporate and disability advocacy interests simultaneously.

In 1998 and 1999, I chaired a national task force comprised of representatives from industry, government, and disability advocacy organizations charged by the U.S. Access Board to develop standards for Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act that governs the procurement and lease of electronic and information technology by the federal government to ensure its usability by employees who have disabilities. Today all governmental entities must continue to abide by the provisions of ADA and the Rehabilitation Act.

Since I retired from the National Science Foundation, my wife and I have lived in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island since 2002. My time has been devoted primarily to volunteer activities related to disabilities, homeless programs, and promotion of the performing arts on the Big Island. I spent six years on the Hawaii County Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities, and for four of these years I served as committee chair.

I welcome the opportunity to apply my experience and expertise to people with disabilities in Hawaii through membership on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

DCAB has a number of important responsibilities, and my knowledge and experience will permit me to make positive contributions in at least four of these areas.

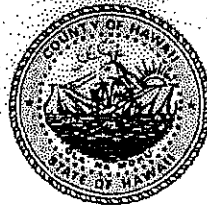
First, DCAB is responsible for serving as "a public advocate of persons with disabilities by providing advice and recommendations on matters relating to access for persons with disabilities, with emphasis on legislative matters, administrative rules, policies, and procedures of the state and county governments." Second, DCAB is to "review and assess the problems and needs relating to access for persons with disabilities in the State in order to provide recommendations in the improvement of

laws and services." Third, DCAB is to "serve as the designated state agency to coordinate the efforts of the State to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act for access to services, employment, telecommunications, and facility and site design." And, fourth, DCAB is to "provide technical assistance and guidance to state and county entities in order to meet the requirements of state, federal, and county laws providing for access for persons with disabilities through public education programs and other voluntary compliance efforts." In addition, DCAB often has the opportunity to respond to Notices of Proposed Rule Making published by federal entities such as the Department of Justice, the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Access Board. I look forward to assisting in all of these arenas as my extensive experience with the implementation of ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Telecommunication Act will give me ample opportunities to affect DCAB plans and activities.

Your committee staff asked me to name three qualities that best describe me and that would make me stand out. I believe I possess integrity, intelligence as applied to problem solving, and the ability to synthesize ideas. I share both intelligence and integrity with other DCAB members and the staff, so I question whether these qualities will make me "stand out." My ability to synthesize ideas has long assisted me in group discussions especially when differing opinions are expressed, and that quality should continue to be of value in this venue.

Finally, in answer to another Health Committee staff query, I do not have any issues that could present a conflict of interest. Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts to you. I look forward to your confirmation and my term of service on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

William P. Kēnoī  
Mayor



Ronald K. Takahashi  
Director of Human Resources

Sharon Toriano  
Deputy Director of Human Resources

## County of Hawai'i Department of Human Resources

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February 28, 2012

Via E-mail

The Honorable Senator Josh Green M.D.  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Health  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Green:

Re: Measure GM671, Dr. Lawrence Scadden to the Disability and  
Communication Access Board

It was my good fortune to meet Larry, Dr. Lawrence Scadden, in February 2004 when I, the newly appointed ADA Coordinator for the County of Hawai'i, first attended a meeting of the Mayor's Committee on People with Disabilities. How lucky we were to have someone with the breadth and depth of Larry's knowledge and experience with disability issues living on our island and assisting us in the County of Hawai'i.

Larry remained on the Mayor's Committee, serving as a member and chairperson until 2008 when the Committee under former Mayor Harry Kim disbanded. Under Larry's direction, meetings ran smoothly and the Committee, acting in an advisory capacity, made a number of recommendations to the Mayor.

Through the years, as a professional, I have conferred with Larry on a number of issues relevant to compliance with the ADA. I have also come to know Larry personally to the point that I consider him a valued friend.

Larry is first and foremost a modest person who does not boast of his accomplishments or lord them over others. He is a critical thinker, a good listener and a seasoned traveler. He is balanced in the sense that he is a scientist and a student of the humanities. He can negotiate the complexities of cities while living comfortably in the country. Larry is as unique as our wonderful state of

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The Honorable Senator Josh Green  
February 28, 2012  
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Hawai'i is diverse. Larry will serve DCAB with conviction, enthusiasm, and wisdom. Larry will be an asset to the DCAB Board and enhance the indispensable services DCAB provides, without fail, to our local government departments and agencies.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to support Dr. Scadden's appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri Spinola-Campbell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Teri Spinola-Campbell, Ph.D.  
ADA Coordinator/Equal Opportunity Officer

February 24, 2011

Senator Josh Green, M.D.  
Chairman – Senate Health Committee  
Room 222  
Hawaii State Capital

Re: GM671

Dear Senator Green,

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the nomination and proposed appointment of Mr. Lawrence Scadden to the Hawaii Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB).

I have known Mr. Scadden both personally and professionally for approximately 7 years. Most recently, we served together on the Board of Directors of the ARC of Kona, an organization dedicated to providing critical services to those in our community with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

During those years of service together, Mr. Scadden has shown himself to be intelligent, creative and compassionate, while at all times being the consummate “team player.” Mr. Scadden's resume speaks for itself. I cannot think of a single individual known to me anywhere more suited to this position.

Sincerely

William R. Cliff  
Captain Cook, HI

Bill Number: GM671

TESTIMONY FOR THE APPOINTMENT CONFIRMATION OF  
DR. LAWRENCE SCADDEN  
FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

To Members of the Senate Health Committee,

I have known Dr. Lawrence Scadden professionally and personally for eight years. During these years Dr. Scadden even if retired, continues to be passionate and dedicated to improving and enhancing the lives of persons with disabilities, especially through his input to proposed regulations and policies affecting assistive, electronic, information and communication technology standards related to technology and devices used by persons with disabilities.

In 2004 I served with Dr. Scadden on the State of Hawaii, Office of Elections, evaluation committee for the selection of the State's first accessible voting machine. Dr. Scadden's professional technical expertise of being involved in design standards for accessible equipment and his personal experience of being a person who is blind who uses assistive technology was instrumental in the selection of the State's first accessible voting machine for voters with disabilities. The selected accessible voting machine enabled voters who are blind to cast their ballot independently and in private – for the first time ever in the State of Hawaii.

I am confident that Dr. Lawrence Scadden's appointment and confirmation to serve as a board member on the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) will benefit persons with disabilities, our community, and the State of Hawaii. Dr. Scadden remains just as dedicated and committed now as he was during his entire career to working to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. Through Dr. Scadden's pioneering research and development, and his continued expertise and insight, people with disabilities today now have, and will continue to have greater access to the world of the internet and communication technology with the assistance of accessible technology and devices.

I recommend that the committee confirm Dr. Lawrence Scadden's appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Paik



**Thomas H. Daniel, Ph.D.**  
73-1036 Ahikawa Street  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 USA  
Email: [tomdaniel@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:tomdaniel@hawaii.rr.com)  
Mobile: (808) 989-0171

February 23, 2012

Sen. Josh Green, MD, Chair

Senate Committee on Health

Hawaii State Capitol

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: G.M. 671: Nomination of Lawrence Scadden to the Disabilities and Communications Access Board.

Dear Senator Green and Committee Members:

I strongly support Gov. Abercrombie's nomination of Dr. Larry Scadden to the DCAB.

Dr. Scadden is an internationally-recognized expert on the provision of services to persons with disabilities. Larry progressed from a distinguished career as a researcher in human perception and the development of tools for persons without sight, to several years coordinating the technology access activities of the Electric Industries Foundation. His professional career culminated in establishing and serving as Senior Director of the National Science Foundation's Program for Persons with Disabilities. Since his retirement to Kona in 2002, he continues to serve on various professional committees and is a frequent keynote speaker at major meetings and conventions worldwide.

He also served several exemplary terms on the Hawaii County Mayor's Committee On People With Disabilities, including two terms as chair. Though I did not know of him or his activities at the time, the minutes of the committee meetings indicate that, in addition to his internationally acclaimed advocacy for and development of Assistive Technologies (a nomenclature he initially promoted), he was a proactive and effective advocate for improvement of all aspects of the lives of people with disabilities here in Hawaii.

Dr. Scadden's lifelong devotion to promotion of opportunities for people with disabilities, especially in his favorite fields of mathematics and technology, has led to the creation of "The Lawrence Scadden Teacher of the Year Award in Science Education for Students with Disabilities", presented annually at the National Science Teachers Association Convention by SESD (Science Education for Students with Disabilities) to a K-12 teacher for "recognized excellence in science teaching for students with disabilities."

Testimony for HTH 3/7/2012 1:30:00 PM GM671

Conference room: 229

Testifier position:

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Gilbert R. Taylor

Organization: Individual

E-mail: [giltaylor@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:giltaylor@hawaii.rr.com)

Submitted on: 3/3/2012

Comments:

I have known Larry Scadden for a decade and am very aware of his vast repertoire of knowledge and skills, in particular those that apply to the disabled. During the time that I have known Larry he has repeatedly demonstrated his in-depth knowledge of technology and those aspects thereof which have been, and continue to be, developed to assist disabled people. I have personally witnessed his computer skills, which are superior to the vast majority of people with sight; made possible only by technological developments, many of which he was instrumental in facilitating during his long career.

His dedication and energy in this regard are exemplified by the contributions he made while serving as Deputy Director of the National Institute of Handicap Research and in various private research and development endeavors. He has traveled all over the world to assist in programs to help, through technology, those in need of assistance because of physical and sensory limitations.

Testimony for HTH 3/7/2012 1:30:00 PM GM671

Conference room: 229  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jean Tessmer, ADA  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [design@spaceoptions.com](mailto:design@spaceoptions.com)  
Submitted on: 3/3/2012

Comments:  
March 3, 2012

This is a testimony in support of Dr. Larry Scadden for a term on the state's Disability and Communication Access Board.

I have known Dr. Scadden for over 10 years. He served as the National Science Foundation's senior program director and is an internationally renowned scientist who has specialized in design of technology applications for people with disabilities for over 30 years.

Larry is a wonderful and very approachable especially when it came to me plying him with questions about how to understand why some Braille was readable and others not, or how to depict graphics or prepare power point presentations for blind individuals. On top of that, we were co-presenters on the built environment for the blind and worked together on developing a plotter that could produce house plans and illustrations for the blind. I am confident that Larry with his wealth of knowledge and dedication to the disabled community will serve this board well.

I look forward to your favorable decision to approve Dr. Larry Scadden for this position.

Aloha,  
Jean Tessmer, ADA, RME, ASID  
PO Box 22  
Kula Hawaii 96790