

GM636

TESTIMONY



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 27, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 636 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee Kirby Shaw, for a term to expire June 30, 2017

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Kirby Shaw to serve as a Board member of DCAB. Mr. Shaw would fill a vacancy created due to the death of a former member.

Mr. Shaw will come to the Board with many attributes. He has a Masters Degree in Political Science/Public Administration and a Juris Doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law. He currently is a solo practitioner.

Mr. Shaw worked for twenty years in State government with DCAB and its predecessor agencies, the Commission on the Handicapped and Commission on Persons with Disabilities before pursuing his law degree. During this tenure as staff, he rose to the position of Coordinator of the Program and Policy Development Unit responsible for analyzing various laws and services the impact persons with disabilities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, fair housing, parking, and the Air Carrier Access Act.

Mr. Shaw is also a person with a disability and will bring his personal experience to complement his high professional skills as a Board member.

We recommend your confirmation of his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

Mark T. Obatake
94-1062 Kahimoe Place
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

January 30, 2013

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honored Chair Green, Vice-Chair Baker, and Committee Members:

It is a privilege to affirm Kirby Shaw as an outstanding candidate for a member of the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB). It has been an exceptional journey to have witnessed the courage and maturation of Mr. Shaw over the years. From a young man who experienced catastrophic trauma from a spinal accident to a practicing attorney in the State of Hawaii, he has been an example of personal adaptation and goal achieving excellence. Mr. Shaw has all the necessary skills and passion to be a thoughtful policy maker and a strong asset for the disability community. His personal experience gives him keen insight.

Mr. Shaw's past position as a staff member with the DCAB illustrates his capacity to excel. His duties included analyzing policies, identifying community needs, interacting with constituents, training professionals, and drafting concise reports. Not only does he have the wherewithal to accomplish his goals, he has the intrinsic ability to relate to people with respect and to build multi-disciplinary networks of collaborative relationships. Mr. Shaw is able to work with different people, showing us that he can listen and promote cooperation.

The Americans With Disabilities Act is a monumental civil rights legislation. However, attitudes cannot be altered with mere laws. It takes the perseverance of people living everyday lives to foster the necessary changes, to make the spirit of the law a reality. It is the due diligence of the DCAB to assure the application of policy. Mr. Shaw embodies both the spirit and practical nature of equal access and opportunity.

The challenges ahead are welcomed. The background, education and experience of Mr. Shaw provide the tools to ensure success in the approaching endeavors. I ask for you to support his nomination to the Disability and Communication Access Board. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Obatake

February 00, 2013

Dear Senators:

I write in support of Mr. Kirby Shaw in his nomination to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB). I have known Mr. Shaw since the late 1970's; he has always presented himself in a positive and thoughtful light.

Both Mr. Shaw and I have experienced physical disability since our late teens, thus the matters of access and accessibility are always present. Mr. Shaw was employed by DCAB for many years, then left the organization 7 years ago to pursue a law degree -- and then opened his own practice. Therefore, Mr. Shaw comes to the board room table with a historic perspective and a new current view, from a legal perspective.

I believe DCAB will be a wiser and more prudent organization with Mr. Shaw as a contributing member.

Aloha,

Wally Soares, Assistive Technology Specialist