



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 17, 2014

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 609

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Disability and Communication Access Board
Governatorial Nominee Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is pleased to support the reappointment of Ms. Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka to our Board.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka has been an important member of the Board, fulfilling the roles of a family member with a disability as well as a professional health care planner with the State of Hawaii.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka's representation as a family member has played a significant role on our Board as she serves as the Board's liaison to its Special Parent Information Network program which is cosponsored with the Department of Education. She has consistently supported the rights of students with disabilities and their families to a free, appropriate public education and strongly advocates for policies that promote the inclusion of families of persons with disabilities.

As a long standing program planner with the Department of Health, Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka has also been very active with DCAB's Legislative Committee as we monitor and testify on legislation that impacts the civil rights and delivery of services to people with disabilities in Hawaii. Her roles in the Health Department as a planner for Hansen's Disease Branch and with the Developmental Disabilities Division has given her a very broad perspective on policy issues.

We strongly support Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka's nomination to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII

1177 Alakea Street • B-100 • Honolulu • HI • 96813

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Friday, March 14, 2014

Re: Governor's Message (GM) number 609

Dear Senate Health Committee members:

It is with pleasure and confidence that I write this letter of support of Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka's re-appointment to the Disabilities Communication and Access Board (DCAB).

The Community Children's Council Office (CCCO) is a program within the Hawaii State Department of Education that works directly with community and families having children with special needs. To effectively engage the families and communities across Hawaii we have 17 local Community Children's Councils (CCCs) that meet on a regular basis.

The CCCs engage, train and reach out to families with children having special needs. Lynn is a vital and strong component to our success. As a volunteer Co-chair of our West Honolulu CCC, Lynn provided collaborative problem solving and establishes partnerships that bring professionals and families together. Lynn shares freely her knowledge and experience. Her insight and life experience will benefit DCAB and our State.

It would be a pleasure to discuss in further detail Lynn's outstanding community involvement with you at any time.

Please feel free to call (808) 586-5369.

Please consider this letter of support in your consideration.

Thank you,

Steven Vannatta
Administrator
Community Children's Council Office

TESTIMONY
OF
LYNN MURAKAMI-AKATSUKA
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH

ON
March 17, 2014

G.M. 609

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to Department of Health's Disability and Communication Access Board, Board Nominee, LYNN MURAKAMI-AKATSUKA, for a term to expire June 30, 2018.

Chair Green and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony before you today. I am sorry that I unable to appear before you today as I am recuperating from a recent hip replacement surgery. I want to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for nominating me. I want to also extend a warmest appreciation to everyone that submitted letters of support on my behalf and everyone here in attendance that took time from their busy schedule to lend me their support.

I have served on the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) as a family member of a person with an intellectual disability from July 1, 2009 to July 30, 2010 previously and currently in a four-year term that begun on July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2014. I am blessed to have a sister with an intellectual disability from birth who is currently in her latter 40's.

She has taught me a lot about how I treat her peers with an intellectual disability and to advocate for her and others (with different disabilities, e.g., visual, physical, and intellectual) in being respected and advocating for their needs. I also have a physical disability and have been

a recipient of DCAB services through their administration of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) law.

As a Board member, I have been accountable for reviewing issues and concerns that are brought to the Board's attention in our scope of responsibilities, and to gather information and input from individuals with intellectual and/or physical disabilities and their families/guardians. I have had to look at the pros and cons of the issues/concerns and to examine the consequences of each option's impact and the Board's recommendations to changes in the federal and state laws on our constituents' lives. During this legislative session, I have been involved in the review of the Board's and community legislative proposals that help to improve the quality of the lives of our disabled individuals.

Also I serve as the Board's liaison on the Special Parents Information Network (SPIN) Advisory Committee during the last 5 years. Previously I served as a Professional Co-chairperson on the Department of Education (DOE) West Honolulu Community Children's Council for 8 years. In the latter role, I facilitated communication between the families of individuals with special needs and their service providers, including the Department of Education and Department of Health programs (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Division and Developmental Disabilities Division) servicing the Honolulu District school complexes on system issues, and sponsoring educational and information/referral opportunities for our constituents.

I previously worked as the Branch Planner for our Department of Health's (DOH) Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD), Case Management & Information Services Branch (CMISB) from 2002 to 2009. Since January 2010 I have been the Planner at the DOH – Hansen's Disease Branch. I previously served as a Public Health Educator for DOH from 1980 to 2002 in various programs.

I would like to continue serving as a Board member for the next 4 year term. DCAB has done so much with a small but dedicated staff under an excellent leader Executive Director Francine Wai. I am honored to serve on this Board in assuring that our constituents and their families' voices are sought and evaluated in our decision making process.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony to this Committee.

March 17, 2014

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 609 - Disability and Communication Access Board Gubernatorial Nominee,
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka

Dear Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Deborah Miyasaka-Gushiken and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 609** to confirm the nomination of Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) for a term to expire June 30, 2018.

DCAB as established pursuant to Chapter 348F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is a seventeen voluntary member board that includes at least nine people with disabilities, or parents or guardians of individuals with disabilities, and individuals knowledgeable in areas for which the board has rulemaking authority.

DCAB administers the statewide program on parking for persons with disabilities; advocates for people with disabilities on areas relating to access; establishes administrative rules for the design of buildings, facilities, and sites, and for communication access services for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind; serves as the designated state agency to coordinate the efforts of the State to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); reviews problems, needs and availability of services and resources for people with disabilities; provides technical assistance; and certifies interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing for the State.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka has sister with an intellectual disability and is nominated to serve a second four-year term on the board as a family member of an individual with a disability. Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka also has a physical disability and has been a recipient of services from DCAB under the ADA.

From 2002 to 2009 I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka when she was a planner with the Department of Health (DOH) Developmental Disabilities (DD) Division Case Management and Information Services (CMIS) Branch while I was employed by the CMIS Branch and in my former position with the State Council on DD. Since 2010 she has worked as a planner with the DOH Hansen's Disease Branch. Her work as a planner involves analysis and planning to address system level issues to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

Her professional experience and training as a public health educator for over twenty years and as a planner will be an asset in the review of problems, needs and availability of services and resources, and issues relating to access for people with disabilities that arise before the board.

She is an active member of the community and has served as a board member or officer for several professional and community organizations.

Ms. Murakami-Akatsuka's appointment will provide a valuable family member perspective as well as the perspectives of a professional-in-the-field and a consumer.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of GM 609** to confirm Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Sincerely,

Deborah Miyasaka-Gushiken

Deborah Miyasaka-Gushiken