

# GM560

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, COLIN WHITED, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Disability and Communication Access Board

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 1, 2016

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

#### Governor's Message 560

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access  
Board

Gubernatorial Nominee Colin Whited,  
For a term to expire June 30, 2019

The Disability and Communication Access Board is in support of the nomination of Mr. Colin Whited to our Board. The Board is a seventeen-member board, of which a majority are people with disabilities, their families, or caregivers. Mr. Whited will represent the deaf/hard of hearing community on our Board.

Mr. Whited has already been a part of the Board as an interim appointment since November 23, 2015. Since then he has become an active member of both our Standing Committee on Communication Access and Legislative Committee.

Mr. Whited is a Specialist with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii focusing on planning and projects to enhance the deaf/hard of hearing community. Along with his personal experience as a consumer and his fluency in American Sign Language, Mr. Whited is a welcome addition to the Board.

We welcome his participation and input, and recommend your confirmation of his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director



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SYSTEM

March 1, 2016

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Room 230  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Senator Baker,

I am pleased to recommend Mr. Colin Whited as a Board Member for the Disability and Access Communication Board. Mr. Whited is the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Project Specialist at the Pacific Disabilities Center (PDC). At PDC we work on a variety of projects that help better the lives of persons with disabilities, including research and evaluation, training, community development, public education, and more.

Mr. Whited's professional and personal experiences make him very well qualified to be a Board Member. He will bring a great deal of energy and knowledge to the Board. I have no hesitations in recommending him for this position.

Please let me know if you have any questions. You can reach me by phone at my direct number (808-692-1374) or email me at [vhorvath@hawaii.edu](mailto:vhorvath@hawaii.edu). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Violet E. Horvath".

Violet E. Horvath  
Director

March 1, 2016

PRESENTATION BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 9:30 A.M.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 560**

Dear Chair Baker:

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB).

My name is Colin Whited and I am a resident of Hawai'i's 10<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District. My intrigue in the field of disability and communication access begins with my personal background. For starters, I am Deaf. I grew up in a Deaf household, where my parents and only sibling – a younger sister – are also Deaf. In fact, I have had Deaf people in my family dating back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. I grew up attending a bilingual-bicultural residential school for the and subsequently enrolled at Gallaudet University, the only higher education institution in which all programs are specifically designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students. So, as you may see, I am no stranger when it comes to being in environments that are accessible to persons with communication disabilities.

Upon graduating from Gallaudet with a Bachelors in Government and minors in Business Administration and History, I was hired by the Pacific Disabilities Center of the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine, where I am currently employed as its Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Project Specialist. I have been involved with several organizations at the local level, including the Aloha State Association of the Deaf, the Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind School Community Council, and the Georgia E. Morikawa Center. In addition, I have been a part of DCAB as an interim appointment since November 23, 2015, where I have had the pleasure of serving on the Standing Committee on Communication Access and the Legislative Committee.

I have a particular interest in the complexity of disability access laws, as there is no “one size fits all” equation for ensuring access. Many view such complexities as hindrances. I believe them to be opportunities to mold society into a better place for all. That having been said, it would be an honor to continue representing the deaf and hard of hearing community on DCAB. I ask for you to support my nomination. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colin Whited