

GM 645

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, SUMMER KOZAI, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

Report Title: Disability and Communication Access Board

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: CPH

Introducer(s):



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
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March 31, 2017

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

Governor's Message 645 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Summer Kozai for a Term to Expire June 30, 2021

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) support the re-nomination of Ms. Summer Kozai to the Board. Ms. Kozai has been a Board member for only one year as she filled the vacancy of a prior member who resigned. This would be Ms. Kozai's first full four-year term.

DCAB is mandated to have a majority of members be consumers, persons with disabilities or their family members. Ms. Kozai fulfills this mandate as she is a person with a mobility disability. In addition, Ms. Kozai is a handler of her service dog, Trooper.

Ms. Kozai has been active in her first year as a member of the Standing Committee on Parking as a user of parking stalls reserved for permittees with a placard. She has also been able to provide input on the issues relating to service animals.

In addition to her personal experience, Ms. Kozai brings strong analytical skills to the table as an auditor for the federal government and her dual Masters Degrees in Business Administration and Accounting. We value her past and continued input.

We ask that the Senate confirm Ms. Kozai to a position in the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 3:22 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: lkakatsu@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM645 on Mar 31, 2017 09:00AM

GM645

Submitted on: 3/21/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 31, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the passage of GM 645 for Summer Kozai to be selected to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

March 27, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Summer Kozai for a position on the Disability and Communications Access Board. I have known Summer since 2007 both as a friend and fellow auditor at the Defense Contract Audit Agency. Summer is an incredible friend and great coworker. She is a positive, kind, clever and responsible person, who always takes pride in her work. I am also impressed with her ability to grasp new concepts and think critically. As a great communicator, Summer can translate and/or deconstruct complex accounting principles and federal acquisition issues so that people with no prior accounting background or knowledge of the acquisition regulations can easily understand them.

Summer is a great inspiration to all of us. She faces adversity daily, yet manages to always maintain a positive attitude and outlook. I am sure Summer will prove to be an invaluable asset on the Disability and Communications Access Board.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

/S/ Srisuntra Methasongkij
Srisuntra Methasongkij, CPA
Auditor
DCAA, Fort Vancouver Sub Office
Ju.methasongkij@dcaa.mil
(808) 222-7670

March 23, 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Summer Kozai. I have known Summer since 2011 in my capacity as Supervisory Auditor at Defense Contract Audit Agency. She is a valuable, hardworking, and dependable member of our audit team with strong work ethics. Based on her work, I would rank her one of the best auditors we have ever had.

Summer is always eager to take any audit assignments despite their complexity, and her performance has been consistently outstanding. She has completed audits with significant findings of contractor noncompliance which resulted in savings to the Department of Defense. Several of her completed audits were recognized with performance awards and/or on-spot awards.

Summer is highly intelligent and has proficient analytical and communication skills. Furthermore, she is a great team player, role model and inspiration to everyone, and is always willing to help anyone at the office to complete their assignments. I am very confident in saying that her continuation as a member of the Disability and Communications Access Board for the FY's 2017 through 2021 term would be a great benefit to the board.

If I can be of any further assistance, or provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Evelyn Box

Supervisory Auditor
DCAA Balboa Branch Office
Evelyn.Box@dcaa.mil
(808) 284-8791

From: [Kim, Ray, Mr, DCAA](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: GM645 DCAB - Letter of Recommendation Summer Kozai
Date: Saturday, March 25, 2017 2:55:12 PM

Hi Senator Roz Baker,

I am writing on behalf of Ms. Summer Kozai to continue to be on the Disability and Access Communication Board for the 2017-2021 term. Summer is truly an amazing person!

I have known Summer Kozai ever since she started working for the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) in 2007. We started as co-workers, but I became her supervisor when she was hospitalized in 2009 and when she returned to Hawaii in 2013. I can't say it enough - what a remarkable woman! Even as she was going through her surgeries and rehabs, she was still intent on returning to duty to continue her DCAA career. Her dedication was evident by her insistence on getting a DCAA laptop while rehabbing in Oregon in 2011 so that she can start catching up with all the changes within our Agency while she was on leave. While other people would have been satisfied claiming disability, Summer was working hard to get herself physically and mentally ready for the challenges ahead of her. In 2013, when she returned to Hawaii and started working again, Summer anticipated the obstacles that she would have to overcome and was always ready for the challenge. Her performance and productivity was amazing once you consider that she worked less and had more physical limitations than others.

Summer is a true ambassador for the disabled community. She has demonstrated time and time again that she can perform as well as individuals without disabilities. Her attitude and her wonderful perspective on life is infectious. She is charismatic to the point that after 10 minutes talking to her, you will start to enjoy her intelligence, her wit, her honesty, her spirit, and her heart while forgetting about her physical limitations.

Although I am now in Seattle, WA, Summer and I still remain in contact and enjoy catching up on our stories about work and our families. She continues to shine in the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) and inspire us to show that workers with disabilities can be great assets to any organization. In fact, while she was in training in La Palma, California, the other week, she was asked to open the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) with a speech. The ESC is made up of the most senior officials of DCAA. I heard from one of the senior officials that her speech about being grateful to still work went very, very well. In fact, I heard that she was able to touch everyone's hearts to the extent that there was not a dry eye in the ESC!

If you choose Summer Kozai to continue to be on the Disability and Access Communication Board, she will continue to be an asset and an inspiration to others.

v/r,

Raynard Kim
Phone: (425) 793-3850

GM645

Summer Kozai: Disability and Communication Access Board

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

I would like the opportunity to contribute to my community and be a voice for positive change.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

I anticipate that the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board will include evaluating and commenting on current and future issues which disabled individuals and businesses bring to attention.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I feel that I can help protect the consumer by considering the multi-faceted challenges that individuals of all levels of injury and disability face on a daily basis. I think the best way to help is to try our best to understand the consumer experience then find ways to improve it.

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I believe that I am qualified because I understand the challenges of being an active member of the community and workforce as a mobility impaired person with a service animal. While I'm not an expert on existing laws, rules, and regulations related to disability and access, I am responsible for a wide spectrum of Federal Department of Defense contracts which require me to quickly adapt to new situations. I'm confident that I will be able to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a Board member because of my background as an auditor who understands the importance of unbiased review of the facts.

(5) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service

I would like to see a tangible improvement in access for mobility challenged persons and increased understanding of the role of service animals in the community.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

- Fair – I understand that there are two sides to every issue and value both perspectives. Being cognizant of both the consumer and provider is essential for the best outcome.
- Compassionate – I believe there is the opportunity to show compassion in all situations. It has helped me recover DoD funding through audits while maintaining amicable relationships with my contractors.
- Intelligent – Intelligence helps to identify root issues which have the greatest impact. I believe that my ability to quickly identify potential problems or improvements will encourage efficiency.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

Upper management for my agency advised that I should be visiting contractors at their site. I had to explain to them that many of Hawaii's businesses are small and not in compliance with ADA regulations (mostly because they are grandfathered). It was shocking to them that so many businesses were inaccessible to me. I think that it's difficult for those not directly affected disability to consider that there is a portion of the community that has so much difficulty in day-to-day activities. I was able to explain my challenges so that additional resources were made available to me.

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interest that could arise during my service on the Board. If encountered, I would overcome any conflicts of interest by first alerting the Board of the potential for conflict and then remove myself from any influence over the issue.