

GM575

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

Report Title: Disability and Communication Access Board

Current Referral: CPH



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 29, 2018

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

Governor's Message 575 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Amy Tsuji-Jones for a Term to Expire June 30, 2019

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the nomination of Ms. Amy Tsuji-Jones to the Board. This will be a first-time appointment of Ms. Tsuji-Jones to serve on DCAB.

Ms. Tsuji-Jones would be serving on the Board in the capacity of a consumer/person with a disability representing the population of individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Ms. Tsuji-Jones is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL).

Ms. Tsuji-Jones brings a wealth of knowledge to the Board, not only as an ASL user, but also as an ASL Instructor at Kapiolani Community College, ASL Tutor and Trainer, and teacher of the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind. Given Board's role in testing and credentialing ASL interpreters as well as developing rules and guidelines for the utilization of ASL interpreters by state and county agencies, Ms. Tsuji-Jones will be a valuable asset.

We thank you for your positive consideration of Ms. Tsuji-Jones to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

Christine Holmes
crissyakana@gmail.com

March 28, 2018

Aloha Senator Rosalyn Baker,

I am writing this letter recommendation of Ami Tsuji-Jones who has accepted to serve as a member for Disability and Communication Access Board.

I have known Ami for about 20 years. We worked closely together in our ASL program at Kapi`olani Community College for a couple of years. She is an expert in teaching ASL and Deaf Studies courses and she's very supportive of the students and their academic goals. She has a vast knowledge of teaching tools and I have learned and improved in my own teaching because of watching her.

Besides teaching, she has been involved with the Deaf community for years and she is one of the top Deaf advocates in the community. She represents and educates Deaf people here and in the mainland through Deaf conferences, meetings and trainings. She's very organized and well-prepared with all her presentations. She's very interactive with her audience responds very well to questions asked of her. She's amazing and has many talents. I find it very impressive.

In conclusion, I believe without a doubt, that Ami is amazing and will perform great things as a member of the Disability and Communication Access Board. You will not regret having her on the board.

Sincerely,

Christine Holmes

Christine Holmes



March 28, 2018

Dear Senator Rosalyn Baker,

It is with great pleasure that I provide a professional reference for Ami Tsuji-Jones, whose is interested in filling a position on the Disability and Communication Access Board's (DCAB) Board of Directors. I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Ami for almost twenty years and I believe that she is the perfect candidate to be a successful board member.

I first met Ami when I was volunteering at the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind (HSDB). I was immediately drawn to her welcoming personality and found myself in awe of her teaching abilities and the way she interacted with the students. As the years went on, I had the privilege of working with her on various projects. When I became the Parent and Community Network Coordinator for HSDB, I often turned to Ami for advice and requested that she be part of planning committees for various events such as the Family Learning Vacation. Ami was always committed, pleasant, punctual, and had the follow through that was needed when serving on a planning committee. I've also had the honor of teaching workshops with her for Reading to Deaf Children and Ami especially impressed me with her ability to work with hearing parents of deaf children. Interacting with parents can often require tact and patience as parents deal with coming to terms with their child's deafness, and Ami was always respectful while doing her part in educating and advocating for their deaf child's rights.

Over the years, Ami has served on numerous boards and committees and has proven time and again that she is an advocate for the Deaf community. She has also received training to be an Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS) support provider and Deaf Self-Advocacy Trainer (DSAT) because she believes in advocating for the rights of the Deaf.

Ami is well respected in the community and she possesses the professionalism, sincerity, and integrity to be a successful member of the DCAB board. It is without hesitation that I recommend Ami Tsuji-Jones to serve as a member of the DCAB board.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Kia
Project Coordinator