

GM577

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONALD AWA, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Report Title: Disability and Communication Access Board

Current Referral: CPH

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

As a registered architect, I believe that offering a design professional's perspective on projects involving accessibility provides balance among Board members.

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

As an advocate, within my profession, for persons with disabilities my expectation is to offer fair and reasonable assessments and opinions, consistent with ADA accessibility design guidelines, of projects brought before the Board.

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

As a professional architect my opinions may offer opportunities to achieve a balance of accessible design with cost effective solutions.

- (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 have been in the architectural design profession for 47 years, with the last 32 years as the principal of Awa & Associates, LLC, Architects. Among our many projects have included accessibility design for the physically disabled.

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

To participate in the review and evaluation of accessibility friendly projects that will result in immediate as well as long term benefits to the general public.

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

I believe myself to be empathetic to the needs of others, fair in accessing issues and committed to arriving to a justifiable solution to problems. I perceive these qualities to be essential to a board member.

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

I had previously served on the Disabilities and Communication Access Board (DCAB) as follows:

**Architectural Access Committee (AAC) (predecessor to DCAB):
July 1997 to June 2001 Governor Benjamin Cayetano**

**DCAB:
Reappointed to June 2002 Governor Benjamin Cayetano**

**DCAB:
July 2003 to June 2007 Governor Linda Lingle
July 2007 to June 2011 Governor Linda Lingle**

- (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 see any conflicts of interest. Should any projects that I am involved with come before the Board, I would excuse myself from any decision making.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

March 7, 2018

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

Governor's Message 577 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ronald Awa for a Term to Expire June 30, 2022

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the nomination of Mr. Ronald Awa to the Board. Mr. Awa served on the Architectural Access Committee before its functions were merged into the current DCAB organizational structure.

Mr. Awa is a licensed architect with Awa and Associates and would be serving on the Board in the capacity of a professional, particularly in the area of facility access.

Mr. Awa is one of the most knowledgeable design professionals in Hawaii in the field of accessible design for persons with disabilities, specifically with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). He has been on the creative side of many projects for both the private and public sectors with respect to accessible buildings, facilities, and sites.

We thank you for your positive consideration of Mr. Awa to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



Gary Yee, AIA
1885 Paula Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816
garyyeeia@yahoo.com
(808) 551 2155

March 6, 2018

Health Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania Street,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Attn: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Subject: Reappointment of Mr. Ronald Awa, AIA to the Disability Communication Access Board

Dear Senator Baker,

This is a letter of support for Mr. Ronald Awa, AIA for your consideration on the reappointment of Mr. Awa to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

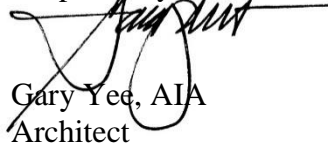
I have known and worked with Mr. Awa for over 40 years and know him to be of the highest integrity and focus on “getting it right”. In the past, I have often called on him to help me interpret the codes, especially on issues of handicap and disability.

As an individual, we have worked together on many public services projects, and have even traveled to Cambodia on a teaching mission at an orphanage in Phnom Penh.

I highly recommend Mr. Awa, and hope that you will continue to value and utilize his services for the benefit of our community. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary Yee, AIA
Architect

garyyeeia@yahoo.com
(808) 551 2155



PACIFIC ARCHITECTS

March 5, 2018

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health (CPH)
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Attention: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Subject: Reappointment of Mr. Ronald K. Awa, AIA to the Disability
Communication Access Board (DCAB)

Dear Senator Baker,

I would like to express my support of Mr. Ron Awa and sincerely urge your consideration in reappointing him to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB).

I have known Ron for over 46 years and have always found him to be diligent and caring to the needs of others. I believe that his experience and insight will be a strong influence in providing direction to this essential state board.

I believe that Ron's 40+ years as a licensed professional architect and his successful independent practice is testimony to his capabilities in our field. He is well versed and knowledgeable in regard to the needs of the physically disabled and impaired.

Please contact me should you require additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,
Pacific Architects, Inc.

Dwight K. Mitsunaga, FAIA, ArchD, NCARB

From: [Linn Henniger](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in favor of Mr. Ron K. Awa (DCAB)
Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 11:59:47 AM
Attachments: [Ron Awa DCAB Ltr 03062018.pdf](#)

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Please find attached testimony letter in support of reappointing Mr. Ronald K. Awa to the DCAB.
Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,,

Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

G. Linn Henniger, AIA ACI
Principal Architect

Henniger & Henniger Inc.

212 Merchant Street, Suite 203
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phn. No. (808) 734-2227

Architecture
Planning
Interior Architecture
Construction Consultants

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email and any attachments may contain confidential information that is solely for the recipient identified above and may not be further distributed by any means without permission of the sender. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you are not permitted to read its content and that any disclosure, copying, printing, distribution or use of any of the information is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender by return email and delete the message and its attachments without saving in any manner.