

# GM663

Measure Title:	Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, GERALD ISOBE, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.
Report Title:	Disability and Communication Access Board
Current Referral:	CPH



## 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

April 5, 2019

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

Governor's Message 663 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the  
Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
Gerald Isobe for a Term to Expire June 30, 2023

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the nomination of Mr. Gerald Isobe to our Board for a four-year term. Mr. Isobe has a wealth of experience on nonprofit boards and with the Hawaii State Coordinating Council on Deafness which was a predecessor agency to DCAB.

In the capacity of a consumer/person with a disability representing the population of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, Mr. Isobe has been instrumental in bringing forward new technological advances with speech to text app for effective communication.

Mr. Isobe will bring valuable resources and knowledge to lead DCAB into the next generation of technology and commerce. We are honored to have him serve on our Board and Standing Committee on Communication Access to advocate and bring awareness of the diverse communication access tools and methods to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act definition of effective communication.

We urge his confirmation to our Board.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francine Wai".

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

## GM663

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Chang and the members of the Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health Committee. My name is Richard Haru and I am writing to you in very strong support of Gerald Isobe for his appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB). I have known Gerald for over 50 years and aside from my friendship with him, I have developed the utmost respect for him as an outstanding and amazing individual! While others may view Gerald's profound deafness as a disability, I have found it rather difficult to do so as I have seen his numerous accomplishments and his persistence in being successful in the "hearing world".

From a very young age, Gerald was determined to not allow his lack of hearing to define him as he was always striving to bridge the gap between the hearing and hearing impaired. He strived in doing this so that their lives would be as normal as everyone else. I believe that my friendship with Gerald has truly motivated me to be the best that I can be and not allow obstacles to be a reason to prevent me from accomplishing my goals. I can unequivocally state that he has that effect on many others. While Gerald has been successful in his professional career working for the Federal Government, he has continued to bridge that afore mentioned gap through the years and most recently, along with his son Brandon, developed an app to make communication between a hearing and a non-hearing person much easier. This is indicative of the goal that Gerald had and still has of not letting the hearing impairment impede an individual from accomplishing all that they want to.

Gerald without a doubt would be a tremendous asset to DCAB as he is a visionary in regards to providing opportunities to those afflicted with a disability.

I humbly request your full support in approving Gerald Isobe's appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Haru

April 1, 2019

To whom it may concern,

It is with great honor and pride I support the nomination of Mr. Gerald Isobe to the Disability and Communication Access Board. I have known Mr. Isobe for over 35 years and known him to always face challenges with strength and dignity. Many years ago he told me that he lives his life as a role model for the deaf community. He continuously accepts challenges and demonstrates that persons with disabilities have no limitations.

What impresses me most about Mr. Isobe is his attitude about life. Having been born deaf he leads by example. He accepts his disability and expects to be treated the same as everyone. In 1971, he became the first deaf person to graduate from public school, McKinley High School. The school honored him in 1999 by placing him in the Hall of Honor.

At the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) he became the first deaf person to graduate from that school. Although, not playing high school golf, he tried out for the RIT golf team as a walk on. Mr. Isobe made the team, attained NCAA All-American status and was eventually inducted into RIT's Hall of Fame as a golfer.

In 1987, he was named one of the United States Jaycee's "Ten Outstanding Young American". Recently, Mr. Isobe and his son Brandon developed the MyEar app. The apps translate voice into text on your iPhone. Released in the Apple Store in November 2018 the MyEar app will help the deaf and hearing impaired to communicate with others.

I play golf with Mr. Isobe on most Sundays and know him as a fair and strong competitor. He is very respectful and inclusive when dealing with others. As an educator he has taught me to see life through a different set of lens and to appreciate the many things I have taken for granted throughout my life. Those with disabilities face challenges that we could not imagine unless placed into those situations. Just watching Mr. Isobe live his life helps one to understand that we are all not created equal and there are those who need to be supported. As a respected member of the community Mr. Isobe will be a valuable, contributing addition to your Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cary Miyashiro, Community Outreach Representative  
HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union

-----Original Message-----

From: Yasu Yorita [<mailto:hachibachi1250@icloud.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 4:01 PM

To: Sen. Roz Baker <[senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov)>

Subject: GM 663 - Gerald Isobe

**LATE**

Dear Senator Baker,

Thank you for giving Gerald Isobe the opportunity to serve the DCAB!

As a long time high school friend and presently a weekly golfing buddy, I am confident that with his impeccable integrity, compassionate character, along with his creative nature, will compliment and serve the committee well!

Please feel free to contact me if I can further support Gerald's selection to the DCAB.

Sincerely,

Yasu Yorita

[yyorita@gmail.com](mailto:yyorita@gmail.com)

808-389-6750

Sent from my iPhone