



## 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

May 13, 2020

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

Governor's Message 728 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, gubernatorial nominee, Michael Nojima, for a term to expire June 30, 2023

This testimony is in support of Mr. Michael Nojima to a position on the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB).

DCAB is mandated to have members that include individuals knowledgeable in areas for which the board has rulemaking authority. Mr. Nojima fulfills this mandate because he is a civil engineer who is knowledgeable about the design and construction requirements for making State and county buildings, facilities, and sites readily accessible for persons with disabilities, which is the subject matter of Chapter 11-216, Hawaii Administrative Rules, "Disability and Communication Access Board Rules of Practice and Procedures."

Mr. Nojima is the Senior Vice President of Gray, Hong, Nojima & Associates, Inc., a Hawaii civil engineering company. He will be a member of DCAB's Standing Committee on Facility Access where his expertise as a civil engineer will be greatly welcomed.

We ask that the Senate confirm Mr. Nojima to a position on the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director



May 9, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker  
Chair, Committee on Commerce Consumer Protection and Health  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Letter of Support for Michael Nojima  
Disability and Communication Access Board Appointment

Dear Senator Baker,

It is with the utmost respect and pleasure that I submit this letter of support for the nomination of Michael Nojima, Mike, to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I have known Mike, both on a professional and personal level, for the past 17 years. We began working together professionally designing much needed affordable housing for Hawaii's families. From day one, Mike was detail oriented, methodical and thorough when providing his civil engineering expertise to projects. As each year of working closely together passed, Mike's committed work ethic, balanced thought process and unwavering integrity built a foundation of trust, fairness and respect that continues today.

Personally, Mike has provided valuable mentorship to many young professionals, including budding engineers such as my son. Through his company Gray Hong Nojima & Associates, Mike continues to nurture, guide and share his career knowledge, experienced insight and strong personal ethics because he is committed to growing the next generation, or two, of young engineers that will carry the torch for our State.

Most essential and pertinent to this appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board is Mike's consummate ability to listen mindfully, evaluate fairly and share thoughtfully his professional opinion. At times, it may not be the popular view, however it will certainly be the right one. That is what I have relied on for the past 17 years and highly value as we continue building communities for Hawaii's families.

I respectfully offer my full support of Michael Nojima to the Disability and Communication Access Board. You will be making the right choice for all of Hawaii, now and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "T. Tonaki", is placed below the word "Sincerely,".

Tracy Tonaki  
Senior Vice President  
808.782.4109 / ttonaki@drhorton.com

130 Merchant Street, Suite 112 · Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 · 808.521.5661

[www.drhorton.com/hawaii](http://www.drhorton.com/hawaii)

## LETTER OF SUPPORT

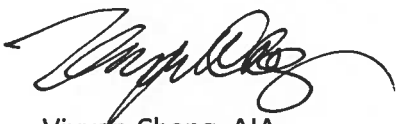
May 8, 2020

Dear Chair Baker,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Mike Nojima on his appointment to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB). I cannot think of anyone more qualified for this position. As an architect/VP at KY International, Inc., an architectural firm here in Honolulu, I have collaborated with Mike in the past five years on numerous planned communities on Oahu and the Big Island. The scope of work on these projects range from conceptual design to completion of construction, with many of these projects requiring conformance with ADA Standards for Accessible Design as well as the Fair Housing Act Design Manual. Several of these projects also have gone through the review and approval process with DCAB. My experience working with Mike is that he is very knowledgeable, extremely hands on, and very detail oriented. Mike is also a problem solver and offers great insight. On every project, he has met all deadlines in a timely manner. Mike is also a great communicator, responds quickly to resolve issues, and is well respected among his peers.

I have great confidence in Mike's performance, work ethics, and dedication, which make this nomination very well deserved. Thank you for your time to read my letter of support. It's been a pleasure to work with Mike and I believe his contribution to DCAB will be immeasurable.

Best regards,



Vivyan Chang, AIA  
Vice President  
KY International, Inc.  
1100 Alakea Street, Suite 1988  
Honolulu, HI 96813

GM728  
Questionnaire for Michael  
Nojima Board position with  
DCAB May 11, 2029

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

To perform voluntary public service, for the betterment of our community, as a contributing resident of the State of Hawaii, which I have resided my entire life.

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

To serve as an advocate for persons with disabilities specifically in the area of facility access.

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

As a registered professional engineer, we perform our roles and responsibilities of our profession, in a manner to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, which would continue in my capacity as a member of the Board.

- (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.

As a practicing consulting civil engineer for the last 39 years, I have been tasked with incorporating accessibility components into the various public and private sector projects that I have been involved with, and am familiar and knowledgeable with the applicable codes and regulations. This provides me with a valuable understanding and appreciation of accessibility requirements.

I communicate and collaborate very closely with clients, other design professionals, contractors, and government entities, to complete projects in a timely and successful manner.

I feel that my background will allow me to provide valuable feedback, and work collaboratively with other board members.

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

I hope to bring a knowledgeable, fair and balanced perspective to the Board in fulfilling my duties as a Board member.

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

I believe the three qualities that describe me are (1) Detail Oriented (2) Hard-working and (3) Quality Conscious.

As a registered licensed civil engineer in the State of Hawaii, we are bound to comply with various rules and regulations, in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare. Compliance requires a detailed, and comprehensive review, and knowledge of the numerous rules and regulations that govern our profession. The continuous acquisition of detailed knowledge, and exposure to various codes and regulations, provides me with the insight to view issues on both a (1) broad-based conceptual basis and (2) a very detailed involvement on projects, especially on the most critical aspects of design and quality control.

I am very hands-on, and detailed-oriented, and take an active role in the planning, coordination, design, and construction on projects.

I am committed and dedicated to completing projects and responsibilities that I am tasked with, both professionally and personally, and strive to complete them to a high level of quality, and to the best of my ability.

Quality is an essential aspect of my focus and emphasis, as a Professional Engineer, and is achieved thru hard work, commitment, and attention to details. I believe that these personal qualities will allow me to be a contributing member of the Board.

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

Thru my consulting engineering work experience, I've had the opportunity to consult with DCAB staff on occasion, to discuss accessibility compliance requirements.

- (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 am still actively working as a design professional engineer on projects which require occasional submittal to DCAB for review and approval. Most of these submittals and approvals related to the civil engineering aspects of the project, are routine in nature. Approval thru DCAB is achieved by addressing DCAB review comments.

I do not foresee any conflict of interest, as the approval process of projects that I, or our firm, would be involved with DCAB, would continue to be done in the same customary manner. I would recuse myself, in the event of any perceived conflict of interest.