

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Board?
I have experience in the Americans with Disabilities Act program access, employment discrimination, and personal experience as a person with disabilities. My friends and colleagues believe that those may be useful in the Commission's activities.

2. What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?
I foresee that my background may provide additional perspective and depth to the breadth of skills and backgrounds already working for and on the Commission as staff and advisors

3. In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?
I have served as temporary member of the Board of Health and was appointed to the State Coordinating Council on Deafness (later absorbed into the Commission), the State Language Access Advisory Council (and was its Vice-Chair) and the County Committee on the Status of Women. I served as a member of the Health Care Acquired Infection Committee (consumer) and the Reproductive Rights Committee (since disbanded). I believe that I have a broad perspective involving many disciplines and issues.

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.
I have worked with the Commission since the 1970s, have used its resources, have consulted with its staff, and have benefited professionally and personally from it. I have investigated discrimination cases, fashioned responses, worked with enforcers, done evaluations, labored on solutions, worked within and with other departments, trained state and county personnel. I have a statewide perspective

5. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
I hope to work with the Commission and its staff on accomplishing its goals and programs in concert with public input as well as the Governor's and Legislature's directions. We all have to work together to improve access and quality of life.

6. Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.
I hope to work by using hindsight, insight and foresight. We need to learn from the past, examine the present and imagine how we can achieve the future.

7. Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a member.
Listening is a critical concept and skill in investigation, assistance and enforcement. When it is faulty or absent, tasks take longer and are often incomplete. We do have our best solutions without it.

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?
No. If any arises, I would bring it to the Commission and its staff.

GO6/26/20



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

July 1, 2020

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

Governor's Message 826 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Gerald Ohta, for a Term to Expire June 30, 2024

This testimony is in support of Mr. Gerald Ohta 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. Ohta would be a welcomed asset to the Board as he has served as the Department of Health's EEO/AAO Officer, ADA Coordinator, and brings a wealth of knowledge on disability issues as it relates to program and services accessibility, communication access, accessible parking, employment discrimination, and other areas that impact persons with disabilities. Mr. Ohta has previously served as an ex-officio on the Commission on Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Ohta is an individual who uses a mobility device and would serve on the Board as an individual with a disability.

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

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

GM-826

Submitted on: 6/26/2020 7:50:25 PM

Testimony for CPH on 7/1/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Romala Radcliffe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

June 24, 2020

TO: Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

FROM: Serafin Colmenares Jr.

RE: **Testimony in Support of GM 826**
Confirmation of Gerald Ohta as Member of the Disabilities and Communications
Access Board

Dear Senator Baker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Gerald Ohta as member of the Disabilities and Communications Access Board (DCAB).

My name is Serafin Colmenares Jr., currently acting administrator of the State Health Planning & Development Agency but writing as a private person.

I have known Gerald Ohta for more than 15 years. He was a member of the Language Access Advisory Council, serving as its vice-chair for eight years, and was very supportive of the programs and projects of the Office of Language Access of which I was executive director from 2007 to 2015. He has been a champion of affirmative action and the rights of immigrants, minority groups and other underserved populations throughout his distinguished public life and has served the State of Hawaii productively until his recent retirement.

Given his background and experience, I am confident that Gerald Ohta will be a welcome resource and an asset to the DCAB. I urge the committee to approve his appointment.

Mahalo and aloha.

Mary Kate Murray

From: Ann Ito <aito@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 5:25 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: Support of Gerald Ohta's appointment to the Disability & Communication Access Board

Testimony in strong support of Gerald Ohta, nominee for service on the Disability and Communication Access Board
June 24, 2020

The Honorable Roslyn Baker, Senator

ChairPerson

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Dear Senator Baker:

I strongly support the nomination of Gerald Ohta for service on the Disability and Communication Access board (DCAB.)

Mr. Ohta is uniquely and eminently qualified to once again serve officially on this Board in particular. Over his four decades of responsible and respected leadership in the Hawaii State Department of Health (under which DCAB is administered), Mr. Ohta has on several previous occasions served as a DCAB member and has otherwise always been available to the Board and its staff for invaluable consultation and technical assistance. He brings his vast and evolved knowledge and insights regarding disability, health and the law at a time, during this COVID19 pandemic, when his expertise, commitment and integrity are urgently needed by both the Board and the State.

My compelling support of Mr. Ohta arises from my decadeslong professional association with him as a fellow DCAB member and as a colleague serving the disability community in higher education.

Thank you for reviewing my letter of support. Your confirmation of Mr. Ohta's appointment for service on the Disability and communication Access Board would provide the Board, its staff and Hawaii with the highest caliber of volunteer public service.

Respectfully,

Ann Ito

June 25, 2020

Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health
Hawaii State Senate
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Chair Rosalyn Baker and Committee Members,

RE: Support of Mr. Gerald Ohta nomination to the Disability& Communication Access Board

My name is Dominic Inocelda a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker who was formally employed at the Susannah Wesley Community Center for more than thirty years. I would like to submit testimony in favor of Mr. Gerald Ohta's nomination to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I have known Mr. Ohta throughout most of my career as he was an Affirmative Action Officer with the Department of Health, State of Hawaii. His long tenure in this position has given Mr. Ohta a wealth of experience and knowledge that makes him well qualified for the position. His knowledge of the laws and policies relating to disability access and rights is well established and has a long history.

His interest and expertise have supported work we have done together as advisory council members in the Office of Language Access Advisory Council for about six years. In the community, Mr. Ohta provided information assistance and consultation as a member of the Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services. I have been a coworker with Mr. Ohta on many community projects that has promoted immigrant and refugee development and adjustment into Hawaii's community.

Mr. Ohta has developed many connections to community persons and resources and I feel that those connections would make Mr. Ohta a very valuable asset in the Disability & Communication and Access Board.

In my experience with Mr. Ohta, I have found him to be someone who can work with others. He takes leadership as needed and is willing to be a leader based on the needs of the group. He is well organized and able to communicate very effectively. His extensive connections with community and public servants would add greatly to the effectiveness of the Disability and Communication Access Board.

For the reasons provided above, **I am in full support of Mr. Gerald Ohta as he is nominated to the Board.** I am certain that Mr. Ohta takes this nomination very seriously and with honor and pleasure. Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of Mr. Gerald Ohta.

Sincerely,

Dominic Inocelda.

P.O. Box 4777
Kaneohe, HI 96744

July 1, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health (CPH)
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message 826 Nomination of Gerald Ohta to the State Disability and
Communication Access Board

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Senate Committee on CPH,

This testimony supports the nomination of Gerald Ohta to serve on the State Disability and
Communication Access Board (DCAB) as a representative of people with disabilities.

I am testifying as a private citizen who has known and worked with Mr. Ohta for the past thirty-
one years. I worked with him as an ADA Coordinator for the State Department of Health (DOH)
prior to my retirement from the DCAB staff in November 2019. He was very knowledgeable as
an ADA Coordinator having worked with the DOH for over forty years. He knows about
provision of services to people with disabilities, as well as employment issues such as the
provision of reasonable accommodations for state employees with disabilities.

As a person with a disability, Mr. Ohta is aware of the individual needs of people with
disabilities from both a personal and professional perspective. His work as an ADA Coordinator
for DOH prior to his retirement, he also adds to his knowledge about how the Americans with
Disabilities Act provides rights for and impacts the lives of state employees with disabilities. I
attended several trainings he conducted for DOH, and know he is also an exceptional trainer.
He has good interpersonal skills, works well with people, and uses his sense of humor to convey
information. He will be a positive addition to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbra L. Jackson
DEBBRA L. JACKSON

GM-826

Submitted on: 6/26/2020 1:19:35 PM

Testimony for CPH on 7/1/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Department of Health	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mr. Ohta is an inspired choice for DCAB's board following 40+ years of public service to the State of Hawaii, most of them in pursuit of social justice and health equity for those often at the margins. He has an innate optimism in the power and responsibility of government to be a force for good in society, challenging those of us in more comfortable circumstances to act with more compassion to those who aren't. I strongly support his appointment.