



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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

April 5, 2021

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 763

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Disability and Communication Access Board
Gubernatorial Nominee Nikki Kepoo
For a term to expire June 30, 2025

The Disability and Communication Access Board supports the re-nomination of Ms. Nikki Kepoo to the Disability and Communication Access Board for a second full-term to expire on June 30, 2025.

The Disability and Communication Access Board is a statewide Governor-appointed Board with a majority of its members being persons with disabilities or family members. The Board's mission is to advocate and promote full inclusion, independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society.

Ms. Kepoo is a parent of a child who is deaf and she has been an advocate for the Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) initiative for language acquisition for young children. Ms. Kepoo was instrumental in providing guidance in updating the Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, "Communication Access Services for Persons who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind." She provides valuable insight as a parent of a child with special needs.

Ms. Kepoo has been an active participant on the Board. She is currently the Vice Chairperson of the Board and serves on the Board's Executive Committee, and Standing Committee on Communication Access.

We ask that the Senate confirm Ms. Kepoo to a position on the Board. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

P.O. Box 4777
Kaneohe, HI 96744

April 5, 2021

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole
Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 231
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message 763 Nomination of Nikki Kepoo to the Disability and
Communication Access Board

Dear Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Senate Committee on Health,

I support the nomination of Nikki Kepoo to serve another term on the Disability and
Communication Access Board (DCAB) representing a parent of a child with a disability.

I am testifying as a business owner, disability advocate, and retiree of the Disability and
Communication Access Board (DCAB). I have known Ms. Kepoo for approximately four (4)
years. She is a strong advocate for her son and for the Deaf community. She speaks out for
what she believes is the best for him at the Department of Education, and submits testimony
on bills related to improvements to deaf education at the Legislature.

Before retiring from my job at DCAB, I noticed she made positive contributions at DCAB board
meetings as well as at committee meetings. She makes a concerted effort to listen to what
individuals with and without disabilities are saying and contributes to their efforts. It was a
honor and pleasure to work with her at DCAB.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of her re-nomination to the Disability and
Communication Access Board.

Respectfully submitted,

DEBBRA L. JACKSON
Owner
Alii Interpreting Services, LLC