



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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February 18, 2022

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 519 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Charlotte Townsend for a Term to Expire June 30, 2025

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the nomination of Ms. Charlotte Townsend to the Board. This will be a first-time appointment of Ms. Townsend to serve on DCAB.

Ms. Townsend fills a position of a person with a mobility disability as a wheelchair user. She was the Oahu Transit Services, Inc., Vice President, Paratransit Services, The Handi-Van and retired in 2020.

Ms. Townsend has an extensive and exhaustive list of experience working with and for people with disabilities, including the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, Abilities Unlimited, and Autistic Vocational Education Center. She has served on various local and national boards for people with disabilities.

Ms. Townsend also has expertise in analysis and interpretation of federal laws that impact people with disabilities that is an asset to DCAB.

We thank you for your positive consideration of Ms. Townsend to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kirstine Pagano*  
for KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director

**GM-519**

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 7:56:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Committee Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

I strongly support the appointment of Charlotte Townsend to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I have known Ms. Townsend for twenty-one years when I first volunteered at the Disability and Communication Board's various committees from 2000 - 2010 and then served on the DCAB Board from 2010 through 2017. She was the Program and Policy Development Coordinator at DCAB. She provided guidance and researched numerous issues regarding people with disabilities and the barriers they face affecting their daily living, employment, recreational opportunities and more.

Charlotte's knowledge, personal and professional experiences, skills, and advocacy perspective helped me as a Board member to vote on these issues with sound judgement based on her thorough research vetting and analysis.

In addition, she served as the Paratransit Vice President in charge of the Handi-Van Service from 2015 - 2021. Her management experience and hands-on involvement in improving this vital service that impacts the lives of individuals with disabilities, reflects her commitment and caring to whatever and who ever she gets involved with.

Therefore, I strongly support the appointment of Charlotte Townsend to the Disability and Communication Access Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 519 passage.

P.O. Box 4777  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 18, 2022

Senate Committee on Health  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message 519– Nomination of Charlotte Townsend to the Disability and Communication Access Board

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

My name is Debbie Jackson and I support of Governor's Message 519 nominating Charlotte Townsend to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB). I have known and worked with Ms. Townsend for over 40 years.

As a person with a disability and professional who has worked with people with disabilities all of her career, Ms. Townsend is certainly more that qualified for a position on DCAB. When I first met her, she was a board member of the Commission on the Handicapped which later became the Commission on Persons with Disabilities and finally the Disability and Communication Access Board. She was an integral part of all the changes that occurred at DCAB and has an historic perspective of DCAB that other board members do not possess. She also worked on staff at DCAB in various positions making her familiar with the purpose, goals and objectives of the board.

Please support her nomination to DCAB.

Thank you for considering my testimony support of Ms. Townsend to DCAB.

Sincerely,

Debbra L. Jackson

**GM-519**

Submitted on: 2/17/2022 11:27:12 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerald Ohta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the nomination of Charlotte Townsend to the Disability and Communication Access Board. She has the insight and experience to positively contribute. Her mana'o will be valuable.