



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
April 8, 2022; 1:00 pm

By

Jerris Hedges, MD, Dean and
Lee Buenconsejo-Lum, MD, FAAFP
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & DIO, UH JABSOM
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM 671 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIOLET HORVATH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) **supports** the nomination of VIOLET HORVATH to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Since 2014, Dr. Horvath has been the Director of JABSOM's Pacific Disabilities Center (PDC). The PDC is involved in projects on a wide variety of topics, including rehabilitation capacity-building, self-employment outcomes, farm workers with disabilities, rehabilitation technology, transitioning for youth with disabilities, emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities and special health needs, projects with industry, traumatic brain injury implementation project, and much more. The PDC leads projects that improve the lives of persons with disabilities by integrating culturally-based, community-engaged, and technologically innovative solutions throughout the Pacific. Under Dr. Horvath's leadership, the PDC has been transformed into an entity that makes a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Dr. Horvath has been instrumental in various initiatives to help the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Some of them include:

- Five-year Strategic and Business Plans for the Comprehensive Service Center for Persons who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deafblind;
- The creation of *Kuhi Ka Lima, Hele Ka Maka* (Translation: "Where the hands move there let the eyes follow"), a quarterly publication focusing on the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community in Hawai'i;
- Providing technical assistance and education on various state legislation;

- Co-sponsoring community workshops – alongside the Disability and Communication Access Board – on “Effective Communication”; and
- Piloting an entrepreneurship training for aspiring business owners who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Having been the past Vice-Chairperson of the Disability and Communication Access Board (Board), Dr. Horvath has acquired a working knowledge of the Board’s mission and role in serving as a public advocate for persons with disabilities. Her experience with programs for persons with disabilities, as well as her leadership and advocacy would make her an asset and champion for the benefit of the people of Hawai`i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Dr. Horvarth’s nomination to the Disability and Communication Access Board.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 8, 2022

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Governor's Message 671 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Violet Horvath for a Term to Expire June 30, 2026

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the nomination of Dr. Violet Horvath to the Board. This will be a reappointment of Dr. Horvath to serve on DCAB.

Dr. Horvath has an extensive background in human services and disability services, with a rich educational background (Master of Fine Arts, Master of Social Work and Ph.D.). She is currently the Director of the Pacific Disabilities Center of the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii. In this position, she has been responsible for a multitude of research and analysis projects that impact the disability population.

We appreciate Dr. Horvath's academic and research expertise, and her practical experience working with program development for people with disabilities.

Dr. Horvath is the Vice Chairperson of the Board, and serves on the Board's Executive Committee, Legislative Committee, and Standing Committee on Parking. She is also the Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Parking.

We thank you for your positive consideration of reappointing Dr. Horvath to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

GM-671

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 1:46:42 PM

Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Klemme	Testifying for Facilitator of the Kona Brain Injury Support Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of the nomination of Dr. Violet Horvath for her second term and as board member to the State of Hawaii Disability and Communication and Access Board.

I am the facilitator of the Kona Brain Injury Support Group monthly meetings and we have been meeting since 1994.

Dr. Horvath is an outstanding speaker to our brain injury support group and she has done presentations on multiple occasions over the years. Her presentations are targeted to individuals (and their family members) who have suffered a traumatic brain injury. She has provided extremely informative topics to help those suffering from the sequelae of their injuries. Her presentations help our members to understand the physical, emotional and cognitive complications of their injuries. Her presentations are extremely empowering to our members. Those educational topics range from a review of brain (injuries), to how to increase self-awareness and how to advocate for one's self. Her presentations are not only verbal but she provides educational slides and hand outs. Her verbal and written communication skills are outstanding. She is an excellent speaker and the members often ask for her to return to our support group again and again. She has been a resource to our brain injury support group by providing ongoing educational links to further compliment the educational material, between meetings. She has been available to support our members with individual questions and concerns.

It is with this first hand experience in working with Dr. Horvath that I support her nomination for a second term.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Dr. Horvath's nomination. Karen Klemme (Retired RN)

April 6, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President & Members of the State
Thirty-First State Legislature
Hawai`i State Capitol, Rm 409
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

My name is Paula T. Morelli and I am testifying in support **Violet Horvath, Ph.D. for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board.**

Violet is a committed advocate working on behalf of all people with disabilities and special needs.

Sincerely,

Paula Toki Morelli, Ph.D.