

LisaAnn Tom

February 25, 2024

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator San Buenaventura,

Re: Nomination to the Disability & Communication Access Board

Mahalo for renominating me to the Disability & Communication Access Board (DCAB).

It is with great enthusiasm that I accept to serve as a board member for DCAB. I am interested in being a board member with the DCAB because my expectations and goals truly align with the DCAB's goal and mission especially with advocacy, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and communication access. I would like to utilize the skills gained in my time as a deaf advocate and expand my professional network of connections. In addition, I am truly honored that Francine Wai who was an Executive Director of DCAB have asked me to be part of the DCAB for years because she believed that I have potential to offer and contribute my skills to DCAB. I kept Ms. Wai's promise until I am ready to serve the board.

I understand the responsibilities and commitments that come with being a member of the board and I am committed to fulfilling them to the best of my abilities. I know basic ADA laws and legislation; however, I am willing to learn the hands-on experience of understanding more about ADA titles and legislation process. I am also eager to learn how to expand the policies and guidelines related to what DCAB has provided for people with disabilities.

I believe that I am qualified for the position because I would offer advice and recommendations from a clear perspective based on my knowledge and experience as a deaf person. Some deaf people have similar experiences such as lack of communication, which I can relate to. I would listen and gather information from the deaf community related to diverse feedback on specific deaf-related issues.

I hope to accomplish to offer recommendations on improving specific topics, concerns and creating possible ideas and solutions. Administrative rules or guidelines for the utilization of communication access services (such as ASL interpreters testing) are the examples. I would like to hear more feedback from the deaf community. I have noticed that I have not seen more deaf visitors during the DCAB meeting either virtually or in-person due to a few reasons. The meeting occurs during the weekday and a deaf guest may have to work at that time. I would think that a special session that would occur on

one of the weekends and this session may draw more deaf community members to participate in. I also would like to see a few more board members who are deaf, hard of hearing and/or deafblind. I will share the ideas with the DCAB.

I possess strong work ethnics and I am a team player with reliability and dedication towards the tasks. I believe in authenticity and transparency. I'm interested in one of the Standing Committees: Communication Access and I would like to devote my time in working with this committee.

I would like to share one of my highlights that really inspired me by the community. In 2016, I was on the LEAD-K committee. I learned a lot about bringing the community together to discuss the basic legislation process, sharing sample of letters in supporting the specific bills in both House and Senate and partnering with different organizations and LEAD-K organization. The LEAD-K Hawaii committee including myself ensured that we included text and video for the community to be aware of the bills. The purpose of LEAD-K campaign is a national effort to end language deprivation in children from 0-5 who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind (DHHDB). Hawaii is the third state, following California and Kansas, to have a bill LEAD-K principles enacted into law. This act combines collaborative efforts from the Department of Health, Department of Education, and a working group that consists of Deaf and Hearing stakeholders. DCAB was one of the groups that supported the bill all the way. This bill applies to DCAB's mission that states: "to advocate and promote the full integration, independence, equal access, and quality of life for person with disabilities in society." I was so amazed that the bills have been passed all the way to the end without being rejected by both House and Senate. It really touched my heart.

I may foresee a few possible conflicts of interests that could arise during my service on the Disability & Communication Access Board if they talk about Telecommunication Relay Services and wireless devices information. This is what I'm currently employed so I would listen and not say anything like no comments. I would discuss with the DCAB Chairperson and Executive Director about this matter as appropriate.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to your questions. I look forward to making meaningful contributions as a member of the board.

Sincerely,



LisaAnn Tom



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 28, 2024

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Governor's Message 544 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, LisaAnn Tom for a Term to Expire June 30, 2027

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) strongly supports the nomination of Ms. LisaAnn Tom to our Board for a term to expire on June 30, 2027.

The 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. Tom is serving on the Board in the capacity of a consumer/person with a disability representing the population of individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. She is a deaf advocate who brings a wealth of knowledge on communication access issues.

Ms. Tom serves on the Board's Standing Committee on Communication Access, which is responsible for establishing guidelines for the testing of sign language interpreters, the issuance of the Hawaii State Sign Language Interpreter Credential, a continuing education unit program for sign language interpreters, and administering Chapter 11-218, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

Thank you for your positive consideration of Ms. Tom to serve on the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

GM-544

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 1:42:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Pagano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support LisaAnn Tom to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. As a lifelong advocate, she has the skill, knowledge and passion to ensure communication access for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind. She is an effective team player to improve statewide programs and services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind and will serve our community well. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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GM-544

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 8:09:59 AM
Testimony for HHS on 2/28/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support LisaAnn Tom to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. As a lifelong advocate, she has the skill, knowledge and passion to ensure communication access for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind. She is an effective team player to improve statewide programs and services for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind and will serve our community well. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.