

February 21, 2024

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator San Buenaventura:

Re: Nomination to the Disability & Communication Access Board

In accordance with your request, dated February 20, 2024, I am providing the following written responses:

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Disability & Communication Access Board?

To perform voluntary public service, for the betterment of our community, as a contributing resident of the State of Hawaii, which I have resided my entire life.

- (2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Disability & Communication Access Board?

To serve as an advocate for persons with disabilities specifically in the area of facility access.

- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Disability & Communication Access Board, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Disability & Communication Access Board.

As a practicing consulting civil engineer for the last 43 years, I have been tasked with incorporating accessibility components into the various public and private sector projects that I have been involved with, and am familiar and knowledgeable with the applicable codes and regulations. This provides me with a valuable understanding and appreciation of accessibility requirements.

I communicate and collaborate very closely with clients, other design professionals, contractors, and government entities, to complete projects in a timely and successful manner.

I feel that my background will allow me to provide valuable feedback, and work collaboratively with other board members.

- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to bring a knowledgeable, fair and balanced perspective to the Board in fulfilling my duties as a Board member.

- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Disability & Communication Access Board?

I believe the three qualities that describe me are (1) Detail Oriented (2) Hard- working and (3) Quality Conscious.

As a registered licensed civil engineer in the State of Hawaii, we are bound to comply with various rules and regulations, in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare. Compliance requires a detailed, and comprehensive review, and knowledge of the numerous rules and regulations that govern our profession. The continuous acquisition of detailed knowledge, and exposure to various codes and regulations, provides me with the insight to view issues on both a (1) broad-based conceptual basis and (2) a very detailed involvement on projects, especially on the most critical aspects of design and quality control.

I am very hands-on, and detailed-oriented, and take an active role in the planning, coordination, design, and construction on projects.

I am committed and dedicated to completing projects and responsibilities that I am tasked with, both professionally and personally, and strive to complete them to a high level of quality, and to the best of my ability.

Quality is an essential aspect of my focus and emphasis, as a Professional Engineer, and is achieved thru hard work, commitment, and attention to details. I believe that these personal qualities will allow me to be a contributing member of the Board.

- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Disability & Communication Access Board?

I recently completed a 3-year term (term expired on 6/30/23) on the Disability & Communication Access Board.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Disability & Communication Access Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I am still actively working as a design professional engineer on projects which require occasional submittal to DCAB for review and approval. Most of these submittals and approvals related to the civil engineering aspects of the project, are routine in nature. Approval thru DCAB is achieved by addressing DCAB review comments.

I do not foresee any conflict of interest, as the approval process of projects that I, or our firm, would be involved with DCAB, would continue to be done in the same customary manner. I would recuse myself, in the event of any perceived conflict of interest.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Nojima



## 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 545 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Michael Nojima, for a Term to Expire June 30, 2027

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Michael Nojima to our Board for a second 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.

Mr. Nojima is a civil engineer who is knowledgeable about the design and construction requirements for making State and county buildings, facilities, and sites readily accessible for persons with disabilities, which is the subject matter of Chapter 11-216, Hawaii Administrative Rules, "Disability and Communication Access Board Rules of Practice and Procedures."

Mr. Nojima serves on the Board's Standing Committee on Facility Access, which is responsible for establishing accessibility guidelines for the design of buildings, facilities and sites by and on behalf of the State and counties, rendering interpretive opinions on any design guideline the Board is authorized to administer, and approving site specific alternate designs in accordance with §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Chapter 11-216, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

Thank you for your positive consideration of Mr. Nojima to serve on the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW  
Executive Director