



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

April 15, 2015

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

#### Governor's Message 642

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board

Gubernatorial Nominee Misella Tomita,  
For a term to expire June 30, 2019

This testimony is in support of the nomination of Ms. Misella Tomita who has been nominated to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board by Governor Ige for a term to expire June 30, 2019. The Board is a seventeen-member board, of which a majority are people with disabilities, their families, or caregivers.

Ms. Tomita has been nominated to represent the deaf and hard of hearing community on our Board. Although Ms. Tomita has not been active with the Board, she has been active with the deaf community and is the daughter of an active deaf father who has been involved with our Board for many years.

Ms. Tomita was raised on Maui but received her education on the mainland with a degree from Gallaudet University and is currently a lecturer in American Sign Language (ASL) at Kapiolani Community College. Given her background in ASL, we believe that she will be a valuable asset in our communication access program to credential ASL interpreters and educate the community about the use of sign language interpreters and other communication access services.

We look forward to Ms. Tomita joining our Board.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director

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**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 7:09:32 AM

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**GM642**

Submitted on: 4/15/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 15, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aloha State Association of the Deaf	Aloha State Association of the Deaf	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**GM642**

Submitted on: 4/15/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 15, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christine Holmes	Gallaudet University Alumni Association - Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM642**

Submitted on: 4/15/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 15, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaimi Seminara	Hawaii Deaf Surfriders Association	Support	No

Comments:

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**GM642**

Submitted on: 4/15/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 15, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Norman Galapin	Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind Alumni Club	Support	No

Comments:

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Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Health

April 15, 2015

Misella Tomita

Disability and Communication Access Board

Chair Green and Members of the Senate Committee on Health,

Thank you for this opportunity to present background information about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I was born and partly raised in Maui, mostly spent my life in Frederick, Maryland with my mother for the educational purpose. I attended Maryland School for the Deaf and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

So, all in my family are Deaf and I am also Deaf. I bring to the Board my perspective in relating to issues that affect persons with disabilities, especially issues affecting the Deaf community and advocating for services within the community, accessible transportation, disabled parking, and access to government facilities and places of public accommodation.

I welcome the challenges ahead. My personality, background, education and experience give me the tools to succeed. I ask for you to support my nomination to the Disability and Communication Access Board. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Misella Tomita

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**GM642**

Submitted on: 4/15/2015

Testimony for HTH on Apr 15, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darlene Ewan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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