

GM-573

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Testimony for CPH on 4/11/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Murakami-Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Anthony Akamine to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. I have served with Mr. Akamine on the Special Parents and Information Network Advisory Committee for many years. He is an outstanding advocate and have been an excellent resource on voter registration access for the individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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April 11, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Governor's Message 573 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Anthony Akamine
for a Term to Expire June 30, 2022

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

Mr. Akamine would be serving on the Board in the capacity of a consumer/person with a
disability representing the population of individuals who are blind or who have low
vision. He also brings the perspective of a caregiver for an adult family member who is
disabled.

Mr. Akamine is currently employed as an Elections Specialist with the State Office of
Elections. In his capacity he is responsible for providing guidance and conducting
public education and awareness efforts to ensure that the voting process is accessible
to people with disabilities. Mr. Akamine is active with the local chapter of the American
Council for the Blind, and also serves as a member on the Special Parent Information
Network, a joint program of DCAB with the Department of Education to provide parents
of children with disabilities access to information on services and rights to a free,
appropriate public education. He also served as an Intern with our office when it was
the Commission on Persons with Disabilities and later, as a Board member.

We thank you for your positive consideration of Mr. Akamine to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

March 6th 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,
AND HEALTH.

Governor's Message 573-Submitting to Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Anthony Akamine.

I support the nomination of Mr. Akamine to the Disability and Communication Access Board. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Akamine for over 10 years. We are both a part of the core team for a resource ministry called John 17:21 whose focus is to resource the faith community & teach them how they could be more accessible, welcoming, and inclusive to people with disabilities. The year of 2006 the ministry had a camp for those with various disabilities & their family members. He was a part of a dance group that came to teach and encourage those with disabilities. Shortly after the camp, he became a core team member of the John 17:21 Ministry.

Mr. Akamine's dedication to embrace all different types of people in different environments is most valuable. When he came to the John 17:21 camp, he took the initiative to personally engage with each individual that he encountered. If they were not able to do the dance moves, he would demonstrate it to them again and would continue to work patiently with them. Since the camp, he has continued to embrace the spirit of ambassadorship through his willingness to speak with different groups and share stories about his blindness and ideas that the faith community can implement so that those with disabilities are more included. He was instrumental in bringing diversity to the worship service by identifying various musicians in the community who are blind and connecting them to John 17:21. In addition, he is also an active member of various community organizations such as: member of the Hawaii Association Parents of Visually Impaired Children, & a community representative for the Special Parent Information Network.

Leadership skills such as effective communicator, ability to inspire people, and a natural relationship builder are just a few of the leadership skills that Anthony possesses. Every person he meets is an opportunity to build upon a person's character and speak encouragement to them. Because of his vast involvement in several community organizations, it is easily seen that he uses his leadership skills to talk with, engage, and build up people of various ages, abilities, and personalities.

Sincerely,

Terri-lynn Higashi

Core Team Member of John 17:21

March 3, 2018

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,
AND HEALTH

Governor's Message 573 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Anthony Akamine

The Hawaii Association of the Blind (HAB) supports the nomination of Mr. Akamine to the Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB).

Mr. Akamine has been a member of the Hawaii Association of the blind (HAB) for the past 3 years. On top of attending all monthly meetings, he has been a verbal and action-oriented participant. Because of his outward personality, every year he volunteers to play Santa Claus in order to bring joy to the members of HAB & the community during their annual Christmas gathering. In addition to this, he travels to Maui to share the Christmas spirit with Keiki & Parents of visually impaired (KAPVI) a sister organization of HAB, by again dressing up as Santa during their annual Christmas celebration.

Mr. Akamine displays excellent social skills and is able to work with different folks of varying ages and personalities. Because of this, he is able to lend assistance with different committees toward completing assigned tasks. His experience with working in groups has proven beneficial when working with our younger and less experienced members. With his guidance, he teaches them how to work collectively to turn out a successful project; Mr. Akamine also shows a strong interest in the legislative and governmental proceedings relating to the blind. Currently he provides representation for HAB on the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) which deals with the planning of roadways and pathways concerning the general public of Oahu, thereby assuring that blind folks are included in the planning process of any changes or rerouting up roads or pathways within our state.

Illustrated by his thoughtfulness and general caring of those around him, Mr. Akamine exhibits a general sense of caring and gives much of himself when assisting people in whenever and wherever possible. As a blind individual himself, Mr. Akamine understands only too well the challenges associated with a visual disability. Therefore he does his best to encourage newly-blind adults or comfort parents of blind children that the world they now find themselves is not as frightening or hopeless as it seems.

His belief is that with strong support, overcoming ones disability is achievable. Mr. Akamine has more than proven to be a role model to anyone and everyone he meets.

As President of the Hawaii Association of the Blind, I support Mr. Anthony Akamine's confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Art Cabanilla- President Hawaii Association of the Blind.