

GM576

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIOLET HORVATH, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

Report Title: Disability and Communication Access Board

Current Referral: CPH

(1) Why do you want to be a member of the Board?

Boards have the potential to make significant positive impacts. I believe this is especially true in Hawaii. I also believe in universal design, where everything is accessible to everyone and everyone benefits. For example, all sidewalks should have cutouts. This not only benefits persons who use wheelchairs and scooters, but those with mobility issues, people pushing strollers, those rolling suitcases, backpacks, or shopping carts, and so on. The raised dots at the cutouts warn those with vision loss that they are entering a crosswalk and also provide traction for when the cutout is wet. Ramps can be used by everyone. They should not be an afterthought that is placed in the back or side of a building; they should be the primary means for entering a building. I would like to provide guidance that would help lead to significant positive impacts not only for persons with disabilities, but for everyone.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Board?

The roles of Board members vary. At any given time they may be advocates, consumers, researchers, educators, brokers, facilitators, organizers, and more, depending on the tasks at hand. Board members are responsible for learning about and understanding the issues faced by persons with all kinds of disabilities. They are responsible for trying to see all perspectives (not just their own) and weigh options carefully in order to provide the best guidance.

(3) In what ways do you feel that you can help protect the consumer?

I humbly believe the mix of my skills and personal experiences can help guide others. I have had to advocate for myself and others in a variety of situations. I've lived in Hawaii for nearly 16 years and have visited all of the major islands multiple times. While I still have much to learn, I have a good idea of the issues faced by persons with disabilities across the state.

(4) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Board member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

I had the great fortune to get an extensive higher education. I have a Bachelor of Arts in theater, a Master of Fine Arts in theater, a Bachelor of Science in psychology, a Master of Social Work degree, and a Ph.D. in Social Welfare. (I really took the phrase "Arts and Sciences" to heart.) I've lived in five states, have visited 31 states and the District of Columbia, and 13 countries. I am a social worker, researcher, educator, manager, advocate, and more. I've been in the workforce almost continually for the past 43 years, starting out as a maid in a 13-room motel and working my way up to being Director of a center. Around 2004 I was diagnosed with a disability that limits my mobility. I work at a place that helps to better the lives of persons with disabilities through research and evaluation, education, and community development. More than half of the current staff have one kind of disability or another. I have a wide range of interests and experiences and I feel I would bring a variety of perspectives to the Board.

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

Generally speaking, positive movement forward for those with disabilities, those without, for residents, and for visitors. I understand some of the issues those with disabilities deal with, but before answering with specifics, I need to understand other parameters that may affect what the Board does and how it does it. I need to know what realistically the Board can do and then proceed accordingly from there. All that being said, I would especially like to help employers get over not hiring well-qualified persons with disabilities simply because they have disabilities. Yes, this is illegal, but we all know it happens. Often times this comes out of fear of the unknown. I can lead in this area by example.

(6) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Board.

1. Stubborn, persistent – I don't give up easily, but I know when to back off, too. If you want to get things done, sometimes you've got to be persistent.
2. Able to see and understand perspectives that differ from mine, and objectively determine if the opposing views hold merit. If they do, I am able to change my views accordingly. I try not to let my ego get in the way or get stuck into thinking my way is the only way. There may be something I have not accounted for.
3. Able to get along with and work with just about everyone, even if I don't particularly care for someone (which doesn't happen too often), or if they don't care for me. I focus on our common goals, rather than personality or other differences.

(7) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Board member.

Since 2003, I have been a member of a local, community-based board. In addition, I have worked on numerous research projects, conferences, community events, committees, and have had a wide range of experiences that should prove beneficial.

(8) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome conflicts of interest?

Yes. I am Director of Pacific Disabilities Center at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Once in while, DCAB contracts with us to provide some work for them. In order to avoid conflicts, if the Board is voting on anything that has to do with the Pacific Disabilities Center – monetary or otherwise – I would recuse myself and leave the room. If Pacific Disabilities Center was awarded a contract from DCAB, no portion of my salary would be included in the budget. This situation and the solutions listed above have been vetted and approved by the Hawaii State Ethics Commission. To my knowledge at this time, no other conflicts of interest should arise.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129 • TTY (808) 586-8162

March 7, 2018

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

Governor's Message 576 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the
Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Violet Horvath for
a Term to Expire June 30, 2022

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

Dr. Horvath has an extensive background in human services and disability services, not
to mention her strong educational background (Master of Fine Arts, Master of Social
Work and Ph.D.). She is currently the Director of the Pacific Disabilities Center (PDC)
of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In this position, she
has been responsible for a multitude of research and analysis projects that impact the
disability population. In this capacity, she was responsible for the research of licensure
and regulation efforts of American Sign Language interpreters in other states for the
benefit of DCAB. DCAB also interacted with Dr. Horvath when the PDC conducted
research and prepared recommendations to the State on the establishment of a
Comprehensive Deaf Services Center.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

John A. Burns School of Medicine
Office of the Dean

March 5, 2018

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Hawaii State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Senator Baker,

I would like to offer my support for the appointment of Violet E. Horvath as a Board Member of the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I co-founded Pacific Disabilities Center, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, and was the principal investigator for more than 30 years until my recent retirement. Dr. Horvath has been the Director of Pacific Disabilities Center for 4.5 years. She runs the day-to-day operations and oversees all projects that focus on bettering the lives of persons with disabilities.

Her background includes social services, research, and advocacy, among other things. She has lived in Hawaii for nearly 16 years and traveled to and worked with persons with and without disabilities on all the Neighbor Islands. Dr. Horvath has a mobility disability herself. More than half of the current staff at Pacific Disabilities Center have disabilities.

I believe Dr. Horvath will bring different perspectives to the Disability and Communication Access Board. She is able to view issues objectively and understand their positives and negatives.

If you would like to discuss further my recommendation and support of Dr. Horvath, please feel free to contact me at 808-692-0890.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Satoru Izutsu".

Satoru Izutsu, PhD

Emeritus Professor of Public Health and Psychiatry

651 Ilalo Street
Medical Education Building
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

From: [Cheri Tarutani](#)
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Violet Horvath for DCAB Board
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 6:39:44 PM

Aloha Senator Baker,

I would like to offer my strong support for the appointment of Violet Horvath as a board member to the Disability and Communication Access Board.

I am a faculty member at the University of Hawaii School of Social Work and have known Violet for 9 years.

Violet has a background in social work and is educated and trained to work with people with disabilities. In the social work profession, she serves as an advocate for ensuring that their needs are met, resources are provided and they are treated equally without discrimination. As a person with a disability, Violet has a greater understanding because of her lived experience in finding accommodations in the environments she works and lives in.

Additionally, Violet is a researcher and evaluator and has extensive experience in looking at social issues and evaluating programs addressing those issues. This makes her a perfect fit for assessing laws, policies, and procedures relating to the rights of persons with disabilities.

I have personally worked with Violet at the University of Hawaii School of Social Work and believe what primarily makes her a good fit is that she is a team player, a good listener, a thoughtful contributor and culturally sensitive professional.

If you would like to further discuss my recommendation and support of Violet Horvath, please feel free to contact me at [\(808\) 391-6078](tel:8083916078).

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Cheri Tarutani, LCSW
P.O. Box 235361
Honolulu, HI 96823
(808) 391-6078

NOTICE: This information and attachments are intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and/or confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited and may be punishable under state and federal law. If you have received this communication and/or attachments in error, please notify the sender via email immediately and destroy all electronic and paper copies.

February 28, 2018

RE: Letter of Support for
Disability and Communication Access Board--
Violet Horvath

Aloha Senator Baker,

My name is Kai Duponte, and I am writing in support of Dr. Violet Horvath for the above-mentioned board.

I have known Violet since she started working at the University of Hawai'i School of Social Work, in August 2002. She was an Assistant Professor there and Chair of the Bachelor's Program, and then moved into a position with the Distance Learning Program, until she left in September 2011 .

The University can be a very hierarchical place, where degrees matter, and something special about Violet is that she never treated anyone differently because of a lack of a PhD. She was very much a team player, and I often came to her when I needed help with navigating things.

Her skills, among being a team player, include knowledge about resources in the community and technology. She is disabled herself, yet works harder than and gets more done than most people. She is extremely easy to work with. In all the years I have known her, I have never seen her to be rude, flustered or riled up in anger. I believe that Violet has much to contribute to the board.

Please let me know if I can help by providing more information toward supporting this candidate.

Sincerely,

Kai Duponte (electronic signature)

Kai Duponte, MSW, LSW
2694 Kamelani Loop
Makawao, HI 96768