



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Health  
April 8, 2022; 1:00 pm

By

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And

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GM 671 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Disability and Communication Access Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, VIOLET HORVATH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) **supports** the nomination of VIOLET HORVATH to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board.

Since 2014, Dr. Horvath has been the Director of JABSOM's Pacific Disabilities Center (PDC). The PDC is involved in projects on a wide variety of topics, including rehabilitation capacity-building, self-employment outcomes, farm workers with disabilities, rehabilitation technology, transitioning for youth with disabilities, emergency preparedness for persons with disabilities and special health needs, projects with industry, traumatic brain injury implementation project, and much more. The PDC leads projects that improve the lives of persons with disabilities by integrating culturally-based, community-engaged, and technologically innovative solutions throughout the Pacific. Under Dr. Horvath's leadership, the PDC has been transformed into an entity that makes a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Dr. Horvath has been instrumental in various initiatives to help the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Some of them include:

- Five-year Strategic and Business Plans for the Comprehensive Service Center for Persons who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deafblind;
- The creation of *Kuhi Ka Lima, Hele Ka Maka* (Translation: "Where the hands move there let the eyes follow"), a quarterly publication focusing on the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Community in Hawai'i;
- Providing technical assistance and education on various state legislation;

- Co-sponsoring community workshops – alongside the Disability and Communication Access Board – on “Effective Communication”; and
- Piloting an entrepreneurship training for aspiring business owners who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Having been the past Vice-Chairperson of the Disability and Communication Access Board (Board), Dr. Horvath has acquired a working knowledge of the Board’s mission and role in serving as a public advocate for persons with disabilities. Her experience with programs for persons with disabilities, as well as her leadership and advocacy would make her an asset and champion for the benefit of the people of Hawai`i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Dr. Horvarth’s nomination to the Disability and Communication Access Board.