

Background picture of bamboo with a green border  
Graphic of state seal

**Disability and Communication Access Board Parking Program with Disabilities**

**Annual Accomplishments**

**July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017**

## **Overview**

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) administers the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities in the State of Hawaii. The program's primary function is to ensure the issuance of "person with a disability parking permits" pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 291, Part III, and Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 219. Throughout this document, "person with a disability parking permit" means a long term placard, a temporary placard, or special license plates.

To fulfill this function, DCAB, through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with each County, established a mechanism to pay the Counties for the issuance of first time and replacement parking permits. Under the MOAs, DCAB reimburses the Counties for each first time long term placard issued. The Counties may charge and retain fees for issuing temporary placards, replacement placards, and special license plates. DCAB issues long term renewal placards by mail. A fee cannot be charged for a long term placard because it would be an illegal surcharge under the Americans with Disabilities Act, per the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. DCAB parking program staff ensure that all permittee records, database, and lists are current and consistent.

DCAB's Standing Committee on Parking provides guidance to the program staff in developing and meeting its goals and objectives. The Committee members are:

Pauline Aughe, Chairperson  
Summer Kozai, Member  
Bryant Yabui, Member

This Report highlights the key activities for fiscal year 2016-2017 (FY 16-17).

Graphic of a long term disability parking placard, blue in color

Graphic of a special license plate for motorcycles

Graphic of a special license plate for vehicles

Graphic of a temporary disability parking placard, red in color

## **Reimbursement to and Amount Collected by the Counties**

DCAB reimburses the Counties for each first time long term placard and each replacement of a mutilated placard issued. The Counties also retain the transaction fees for temporary and replacement placards, and each set of special license plates issued. In FY 16-17, reimbursements to the Counties totaled \$119,376 and the transaction fees retained by the Counties totaled \$57,498. Therefore, the total of reimbursements and transaction fees paid to the Counties in FY 16-17 was \$176,874. A breakdown of the amounts paid to the Counties is shown in the chart below.

Graphic of a bar graph titled “Reimbursement o and Amount Collected by the Counties”. This bar graph shows the amount of money reimbursed to the counties by the State and the amount of revenue that were collected in transaction fees. The State reimbursed \$81,156 to the City and County of Honolulu. The City and County of Honolulu collected \$38,436 in transaction fees. The State reimbursed \$19,392 to the County of Hawaii. The County of Hawaii collected \$9,084 in transaction fees. The State reimbursed \$13,428 to the County of Maui. The County of Maui collected \$7,266 in transaction fees. The State reimbursed \$5,400 to the County of Kauai. The County of Kauai collected \$2,712 in transaction fees. The total monies reimbursed to all Counties by the State was \$119,376. The total monies collected by counties in transaction fees was \$57,498.

## **Parking Database Enhancements and Quality Assurance**

The Hawaii Information Consortium, LLC (HIC) continues to host the parking database that provides real-time access to permittee records for DCAB, the County issuing agencies, and law enforcement officers.

DCAB seeks to maintain the integrity of the program and the accuracy of the parking database by removing invalid placards from circulation. In FY 16-17, 544 placards of deceased individuals were returned. In addition, 6,719 placards were returned when permittees renewed their long term placards and 1,724 placards were returned voluntarily for other reasons. A total of 8,987 inactive placards were retrieved, then destroyed and noted in the database.

A new field was added to the parking database to allow the entry of permittee e-mail addresses. Permittee e-mail addresses are submitted on the parking permit applications. Submitting an e-mail address is optional on the part of permittees. The e-mail addresses will allow DCAB to notify permittees of future changes to the parking program.

## Issuance of Permits

In FY 16-17, a total of 26,643 permits were issued, of which 24,953 (94%) were placards and 1,685 (6%) were special license plates. Due to the portability of a placard, it appears that the majority of individuals opt for a placard. Because placards represent the vast majority of permits issued, the pie charts to the right highlight the details of the 24,953 placards issued.

Chart 1 shows the issuance of long term placards versus temporary placards by percentage. The majority placards issued (91%) are long term (blue color) that are valid for six years. Temporary placards (red color) are valid for up to six months in one month increments, according to the expected length of the applicant's mobility disability. Temporary placards comprise 9% of the placards issued.

Graphic of a pie chart titled Type of Placard. This chart indicates that 22,648 of the placards issued were long term placards and 2,305 of the placards issued were temporary placards.

Chart 2 shows the issuance of the placards by type. First time placards (both long term and temporary) comprise 46% of the placards issued. Replacement placards (both long term and temporary) comprise 12% of the placards issued. Renewals comprise 42% of placards issued.

This is a pie chart titled Types of Issuance. This pie chart shows the amount of first time placards issued, which is 11,458, or 46%, the amount of renewals issued, which is 10,473, or 42%, and the amount of replacement (lost, stolen, mutilated) placards issued which is 3,013, or 12%.

Chart 3 shows the number of placards issued by issuing agency. The percentages generally mirror the population of the Counties (City and County of Honolulu with 41%, Hawaii County with 10%, Maui County with 7%, and Kauai County with 3%). The Counties issued first time (both long term and temporary) placards, temporary renewal placards, and replacement placards (both long term and temporary), while DCAB issued only long term renewal placards by mail, which accounted for 39% of all placards issued.

This is a pie chart titled Placards Issued by Issuing Agency. This pie chart shows the number of placards issued by Counties or issuing agency. The City and County of Honolulu issued 10,354 placards, or 41%. DCAB issued 9,650 placards for renewal or

39%. The County of Hawaii issued 2,461 placards, or 10%. The County of Maui issued 1,761 placards, or 7%. The County of Kauai issued 732 placards, or 3%.

### **Profile of Permittees**

At the conclusion of the fiscal year, June 30, 2017, 107,895 people possessed a valid, non-expired permit. Given a population of 1.43 million people in the State of Hawaii (as of 2016), this equates to approximately 8% of the population with a mobility disability significant enough to qualify for a permit.

Who are the 107,895 people with valid permits? The following two charts show a breakdown of permittees by County of residence and gender.

Graphic of a pie chart titled County of Residence that shows the percentage of people who have a valid permit within the Counties. In the City and County of Honolulu, 76,146 or 70% of people have valid permits. In the County of Hawaii, 15,820 or 15% of people have valid permits. In the County of Maui, 10,917 or 10% of people have valid permits. In the County of Kauai, 4,970 or 5% of people have valid permits. There were 42 people who reported having valid permits out of state.

Graphic of a pie chart titled Gender showing the percentage of people who have valid permits separated by gender. 59,701 or 55% of people who have valid permits are female. 48,194 or 45% of people who have valid permits are male.

The following table shows the number of individuals who were issued a permit per qualifying condition. Each individual's qualifying condition was certified by a Hawaii Licensed Physician or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Note that not all qualifying conditions are readily apparent or noticeable. Cardiac, renal, and oncologic conditions are a few of the qualifying conditions that may not always be visually noticeable. There are 185,141 qualifying conditions listed for the 108,265 individuals holding a valid disability parking permit because some individuals list more than one qualifying condition. The qualifying conditions are listed from highest to lowest based on the numbers of individuals who were certified for a permit based on a given qualifying condition.

Table depicting the qualifying condition, and the number of individuals who have the condition. 43,700 individuals have an orthopedic impairment, 43,168 individuals have an arthritic condition, 24,857 individuals have a neurologic condition, 18,662 individuals use a cane, 9,263 individuals use a walker, 7,406 individuals use a wheelchair, 6,695 individuals have a heart condition, 6,485 individuals have a vascular condition, 6,414

individuals need another person to walk, 6,103 individuals have an oncologic condition, 3,793 individuals have a renal condition, 2,667 individuals have a respiratory disability, 2,636 individuals use a brace, 1,390 individuals use crutches, 1,088 individuals use portable oxygen, 503 individuals have an artificial limb, and 311 individuals use other assistive devices.

## **Legislation**

DCAB submitted testimony on three bills in the 2017 Legislature that impact the parking program for people with disabilities.

**SB 974 Relating to Parking Meter Exemptions.** Current law permits any vehicle displaying a disability parking permit to park, without payment of metered parking fees, in any metered parking space for a maximum of 2.5 hours or the maximum amount of time the meter allows, whichever is longer. The fee exemption is available to all permittees whether or not their disability prevents them from gaining access to or feeding a meter. The proposed legislation would offer the fee exemption to only permittees who are licensed to drive and unable to access or operate a parking meter due to their disability; conforming the law to the original legislative intent of allowing such permittees to park at metered spaces and avoid being cited for non-payment. DCAB supported this bill. DCAB's position is that the current fee exemption is overly broad, which leads to abuse of the disability parking program. SB 974 passed the Senate and crossed over to the House, but did not pass. DCAB will continue to pursue its passage.

Graphic of a parking meter on a sidewalk with a car parked in the metered stall.

**SB 975 Relating to Confiscation of Parking Permits.** Under current law, law enforcement officers may only confiscate a permit used by someone other than the permittee to park in a reserved accessible space. The proposed legislation would further authorize law enforcement to confiscate permits that are fraudulently manufactured or altered for personal use, sale, or issuance; and permits that are invalid. DCAB supported this bill. SB 975 passed the Senate and crossed over to the House, but did not pass. DCAB will continue to pursue its passage.

Graphic of a parking enforcement officer checking the placard of a parked car.

**HB 646 Relating to Parking Permit Eligibility for Persons Who are Blind or Visually Handicapped.** The proposed legislation would have made persons who are blind or visually handicapped eligible for a disability parking permit. DCAB opposed this bill. DCAB reasoned that the two main features of a reserved accessible parking space,

close proximity to the accessible entrance of a facility (for persons who have difficulty moving short distances under their own power) and an adjacent access aisle (for loading/unloading mobility aids/devices such as ramps/lifts, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches), are not the kinds of accessibility features needed by people who are blind or have low vision. In addition, the bill's passage would have increased the already high level of competition for reserved accessible parking. Moreover, persons who are blind or visually handicapped will always be a passenger and may be dropped off curbside. This bill was deferred. DCAB will research the issue of eligibility in the interim.

### **Administration of Policies and Procedures**

DCAB drafted and issued procedures on the issuance of parking permits to ensure consistent administration among all issuing agencies. DCAB also developed technical publications as references for issuing agency staff and parking enforcement officers. Key activities included:

DCAB met with representatives of the four County issuing agencies to obtain their feedback and to discuss the parking program goals and objectives, including renewing the MOAs with the Counties, and proposed revisions to the permit application form and database. Provided technical support to County issuing agency office managers and staff to update them on changes in policies and procedures related to the parking program.

Renewed the MOAs with the four Counties to issue first time, temporary, and replacement placards, as well as special license plates. The MOAs are in effect until June 30, 2019. The new MOAs no longer require DCAB to notify permittees of their impending permit expirations. Therefore, permittees will be responsible for noticing the expiration date printed on their placards and the identification cards issued with their permits.

DCAB met with representatives of the four County Police Departments to discuss their enforcement efforts, their use of volunteer enforcement officers, and proposed legislation related to parking enforcement.

Graphic of a parking enforcement vehicle

Created a new application form for permittees to renew their long term (blue color) permits (Form PA-2). In addition, DCAB revised the original application form for all other

permits, including first time (long term and temporary), replacement, and temporary (renewal) placards (Form PA-1). These forms are available for downloading from DCAB's website, and at any County issuing site including Satellite City Halls, Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Office on Aging (Hawaii County only). Applications to renew long term (blue colored) permits (Form PA-2) must be mailed to: DCAB, P.O. Box 3377, Honolulu, HI 96801.

Graphic of a Japanese parking permit

Upgraded the accessible parking locator app for IOS phones with the assistance of a developer. DCAB will actively promote the use of the parking locator app to the public in the next fiscal year.

Graphic of Department of Health logo

Graphic of DCAB logo

State of Hawaii

Disability and Communication Access Board

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**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** We provide access to our activities without regard to race, color, national origin (including language), age, sex, religion, or disability. If you have a concern, write or call the Disability and Communication Access Board or the Department of Health Affirmative Action Officer at P.O. Box 3378, Honolulu, HI 96801-3378, or call (808) 586-4614 (v/tty) within 180 days of a problem.