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).
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 totalled $119,376 and the transaction fees retained by the Counties totalled $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.

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.
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 of 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.

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.

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.
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.

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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifying Conditions</th>
<th># of Individuals</th>
<th>Qualifying Conditions</th>
<th># of Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic Impairment</td>
<td>43,700</td>
<td>Oncologic Condition</td>
<td>6,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritic Condition</td>
<td>43,168</td>
<td>Renal Condition</td>
<td>3,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurologic Condition</td>
<td>24,857</td>
<td>Respiratory Disability</td>
<td>2,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of a Cane(s)</td>
<td>18,662</td>
<td>Use of a Brace(s)</td>
<td>2,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of a Walker</td>
<td>9,263</td>
<td>Use of Crutches</td>
<td>1,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of a Wheelchair</td>
<td>7,406</td>
<td>Use of Portable Oxygen</td>
<td>1,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Condition (Class III/IV)</td>
<td>6,695</td>
<td>Use of Artificial Limbs</td>
<td>503</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vascular Condition</td>
<td>6,485</td>
<td>Use of Other Assistive Devices</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs Another Person to Walk</td>
<td>6,414</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>185,141</strong></td>
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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.

**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.

**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.

- Created a dashboard document for use with Japan-issued disability parking permits. While Hawaii recognizes disability parking permits issued by other states and countries, permits from Japan are often misidentified by law enforcement officers because they are printed in a foreign language and do not display the International Symbol of Accessibility (wheelchair figure). Therefore, upon request, DCAB provides a document to be placed on the dashboard of a vehicle next to the Japan-issued parking permit. The document informs law enforcement officers in English that the adjacent permit is a valid disability parking permit. The document has instructions in Japanese on the reverse side.

- 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.

- 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.
State of Hawaii
Disability and Communication Access Board
David Y. Ige, Governor
Virginia Pressler, M.D., Director of Health
Francine Wai, Executive Director
Disability and Communication Access Board
1010 Richards Street, Room 118
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8121
FAX: (808) 586-8129
TTY: (808) 586-8162
E-mail: dcab@doh.hawaii.gov
Website: http://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/

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.