AGENDA
Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Kamamalu Building
1010 Richards Street, Conference Room 118
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date: March 13, 2018
Time: 11:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Introductions

III. Old Business
   A. Amend Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, “Communication Access Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind” – Continued Discussion (refer to staff summary)
   B. Legislation on Open Captioning and Audio Descriptions at Movie Theaters – Update
   C. Status of Other Legislation Relating to Communication Access
   D. Interpreter Mentoring Program

IV. New Business

V. Next Meeting

VI. Announcements

VII. Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda, but to be considered for placement on a future Committee meeting agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

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Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

Location: Kamamalu Building
1010 Richards Street, Conference Room 111A
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date: March 13, 2018
Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Nikki Kepoo, Chairperson; Ed Chevy, Board Member; Francine Wai, Colin Whited, Kamaile Hopfe, Staff

ABSENT: Misella Tomita, Board Member

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS: No interpreters were able to accept the job. Attendees signed for themselves and Keri Lee assisted in a non-paid capacity when clarification was needed.

GUESTS: Kami Koza (Individual), Keri Lee (Individual), Gisella Tomita (Hawaii Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation)

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Nikki Kepoo called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of February 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the February 13, 2018 minutes (M/S/P Chevy/Kepoo).

NOTE: The minutes were written in the order the items were shown on the agenda, not as they were discussed at the meeting.

IV. Old Business

A. Amend Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218, “Communication Access Services for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind” – Continued Discussion
The Committee discussed and made recommendations regarding the following points pertaining to the Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218:

1) TOPIC: +H Test

Consistent with comments from the community and referral agencies, DCAB noted that the possession of a +H credential was not a factor in requesting or placing an interpreter. Rather, consumer preference for a specific interpreter was a better measure of an interpreter’s ability or lack of ability to meet local language needs. Furthermore, only four (4) HQAS interpreters opted to test for and receive a +H credential. This means that very few HQAS interpreters had exposure to the information about local language contained in the +H video and no nationally credentialed interpreters have ever seen the video.

The current draft proposes to remove the +H as a test and, in its place, develop training components on the content. Some believe there is value in exposing interpreters to local language; others believe that the tape itself, while useful, is outdated. Those wanting to keep +H mentioned a need for exposing people to HSL and for local language. To correct a misperception, +H is not about HSL. It reflects local pidgin, but not HSL. In its place, it is recommended that the +H video be converted into a tool that all interpreters must view before being issued a state credential or that can be used for CEUs. DCAB believes that the information contained in the +H test would be better suited as part of the credential process or CEU program to expose more interpreters to the information.

RECOMMENDATION: After some discussion, the Committee recommended that the +H test no longer be offered as a test option. Instead, the +H videos will be used as a learning mechanism for interpreters to become familiarized with local language.

2) TOPIC: Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) Test

At the February 13, 2018 Committee meeting, a determination was made to keep the Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) test but leave open whether the CPC test is offered in written or video format. The question now before the Committee was whether the CPC test should be taken before or after the performance test. There was a discussion on the viability of testing for skill (performance) prior to testing about the CPC, especially considering that an interpreter may now take the performance test up to six (6) times. There was also discussion about the positives of having the CPC test as a requirement for obtaining a state credential, which would be possible if it were offered after the performance test.

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee recommended that the CPC test be offered after the performance test. It was also recommended that the CPC test be a requirement prior to obtaining a DCAB-issued state credential.
3) TOPIC: Defining “Qualified” Interpreter

The initial proposal was to require the use of an interpreter with the highest credential level, excepting deaf consumer preference. While a credentialed interpreter is one way to indicate that they possess the skills to be qualified for a job, it does not mean they are qualified for every situation. There were a few comments indicating that this policy may result in unintended consequences. For example, a comment suggested that, for several individuals within Hawaii’s Deaf community, a higher-level credentialed or certified interpreter would not necessarily satisfy the definition of “qualified” under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

There was one recommendation to borrow the definition of “qualified” as defined by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., but the Committee decided it would be more appropriate to use the ADA definition of “qualified.” According to the ADA, a “qualified” interpreter means someone who is able to interpret effectively, accurately, and impartially, both receptively (i.e., understanding what the person with the disability is saying) and expressively (i.e., having the skill needed to convey information back to that person) using any necessary specialized vocabulary.

RECOMMENDATION: After brief discussion, the Committee recommended using the term “qualified” interpreter in the rules and mirror the ADA definition of “qualified” interpreter.

4) TOPIC: Replacement Fee for State Credential

There was an initial proposal for a $25 replacement fee for a state credential. Several commenters indicated that it should not cost for a replacement credential that is just a piece of paper. Staff noted that DCAB issues only 3-4 replacements in a two-year cycle and a person’s credential is listed on the DCAB website, regardless of whether the interpreter has a paper credential.

RECOMMENDATION: After some discussion, the Committee recommended that there be no charge for a replacement credential.

5) TOPIC: State Credential Name

Most commenters did not like the name Hawaii State Interpreter Credential (H-SIC) because of the sound of the acronym. It is not recommended to name it “HQAS credential” because we are distinguishing the test from the credential and providing a mechanism for the issuance of a credential to others who have not passed the HQAS (i.e., those possessing a credential issued by another state or an EIPA certification).
The Committee discussed many different iterations for an alternative credential name. The following terms/letters were considered as part of a possible name:

H – Hawaii  
I – Interpreter/Interpreting  
ASL – American Sign Language  
SL – Sign Language  
C – Credential  
CA – Communication Access

RECOMMENDATION: After lengthy discussion, the Committee recommended naming the state-issued credential “DCAB Sign Language Interpreter Credential (SLIC).”

After finalizing discussion and recommendations on the remaining items related to the administrative rules, the following motion was made:

MOTION: The Committee approved recommendations on the remaining items pertaining to the Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218 (M/S/P Chevy/Kepo’o).

B. Legislation on Open Captioning and Audio Descriptions at Movie Theaters – Update

Due to time constraints, this item was moved to the next Committee meeting.

C. Status of Other Legislation Relating to Communication Access

Due to time constraints, this item was moved to the next Committee meeting.

D. Interpreter Mentoring Program

Staff announced that DCAB is developing a survey to be distributed to HQAS Level III interpreters because we had not reached out specifically to those interpreters regarding the CEU program. Since we propose to survey them on HQAS CEUs, we will use the opportunity to gauge their interest in pursuing mentoring opportunities with higher level interpreters. Further discussion regarding interpreter mentoring will be put on hold until after survey responses are gathered. An update will be provided at the next Committee meeting.

V. New Business

None.

VI. Next Meeting

To be determined.
VII. **Announcements**

None.

VIII. **Open Forum**

No issues were discussed.

IX. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

[signature]

COLIN M. WHITED