



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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AGENDA

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

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

Date: April 24, 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
 - 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
 - E. Hawaii Quality Assurance System – Update
 - F. HQAS Continuing Education Unit Workshops – Update
- IV. New Business
 - A. Communication Access Card
- 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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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Communication Access Meeting

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

Date: April 24, 2018
Time: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Nikki Kepoo, Chairperson; Misella Tomita, Board Member; Francine Wai,
Kirby Shaw, Colin Whited, Kamaile Hopfe, Staff

ABSENT: Ed Chevy, Board Member

SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETERS: Jason Allen and Jenny Blake

GUESTS: Kami Koza (Individual), Ami Tsuji-Jones (Individual)

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Nikki Kepoo called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves.

III. Approval of March 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the March 13, 2018 minutes (M/S/P Tomita/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

Staff distributed copies of the latest draft of the proposed Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218. Staff reported that DCAB received two comments regarding the latest draft.

The first comment was related to the name of the DCAB-issued credential: "DCAB Sign Language Interpreter Credential." The commenter noted that it requires at least two languages to interpret and the name indicates only one, which perpetuates the view that the interpreter serves only the individual with the communication disability instead of everyone – including the hearing person(s) – at the interpreted event. The commenter suggested dropping "sign language" from the name of the DCAB-issued credential.

Staff stated that the commenter's suggestion was well-taken, but noted a couple of concerns about removing "sign language" from the name of the DCAB-issued credential. One concern was about the potential for confusion with foreign language interpreters. The other concern involved the need to distinguish between other types of interpreters identified under "Auxiliary Aids and Services" of the Americans with Disabilities Act, such as oral interpreters, cued-speech interpreters, and tactile interpreters.

Instead of dropping "sign language" from the name of the DCAB-issued credential, staff recommended the following clarifying revision (revised content is underscored):

"§11-218-3 Definitions.

'DCAB Sign Language Interpreter Credential' means a credential issued by the board to interpreters who pass the HQAS test or who possess a valid credential issued by an entity recognized by the board under section 11-218-14. A sign language interpreter is a person who translates between a spoken and signed language. Functional descriptions of credential levels are included in Appendix A."

The second comment involved the wording of §11-218-8 (b) under "Provision of services," where the commenter questioned whether the term "preferred" was accidentally left out of the proposed draft.

After review, staff agreed with the commenter and recommended the following revision (revised content is underscored):

"§11-218-8 Provision of services.

(b) A state agency shall hire the preferred qualified providers of the person who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind to provide effective communication when possible. If no preference is stated, providers with the highest level of credentials shall be hired first, followed by providers with lesser levels of credentials."

After some discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: The Committee approved staff recommendations and the proposed draft of the Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 218 to proceed for a vote by the full Board at the next DCAB meeting (M/S/P Tomita/Kepoo).

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

Staff announced that legislation on open captioning and audio descriptions at certain movie theaters did not receive a hearing by the House Committee on Finance by the deadline, meaning it is no longer alive for this legislative session. Staff noted that this was not necessarily an indication of efforts from the community, or lack thereof, considering that plenty of supporting testimony was submitted.

There were several comments from Committee members and guests in response to this update. One comment was related to the regular legislative updates provided by DCAB staff via email. It was suggested that DCAB consider making future written updates available in sign language, particularly for community members who have limited English proficiency. Another suggestion involved using the time when the Legislature is out of session to educate policymakers on the importance of open captioning at movie theaters. A comment was added about DCAB collaborating with advocacy organizations to increase the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind community's understanding of participating in legislative efforts.

Staff reminded Committee members and guests that the current law on open captioning and audio descriptions at certain movie theaters is set to sunset (expire) on January 1, 2020. This means there is one more legislative session between now and the expiration date for changes to be made to the law to ensure it continues beyond 2020.

C. Status of Other Legislation Relating to Communication Access

Staff reported that all other introduced legislation relating to communication access died, except for Senate Bill 535 which aims to increase insurance coverage for hearing aids. Senate Bill 535 is scheduled to be heard in conference committee on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.

D. Interpreter Mentoring Program

Staff announced that DCAB developed and distributed a survey to Hawaii Quality Assurance System (HQAS) Level III interpreters about the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) program. DCAB also used the opportunity to gauge their interest in pursuing mentoring opportunities with higher-level interpreters. DCAB has received several responses and are still awaiting a few more. 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.

E. Hawaii Quality Assurance System – Update

Staff reported that there are currently twenty-five interpreters enrolled in the Continuing Education Program. A total of three interpreters had their HQAS

credential expire. DCAB is working with two (2) interpreters to satisfy the required number of CEUs by June 30, 2018.

F. HQAS Continuing Education Unit Workshops – Update

Staff shared that DCAB is working with Yoshiko “Koko” Chino to plan a workshop next month (May 2018) related to skills building. This workshop will be open to all interpreters but geared toward HQAS Level III interpreters. Further information will be shared once details are finalized.

V. New Business

A. Communication Access Card

Staff presented Committee members and guests with drafts of two types of communication access cards that were developed by DCAB intern Peggy Liang.

The first card shown is being developed in collaboration with The Queen’s Medical Center. Staff explained that Queen’s already has an array of communication cards for patients who speak a foreign language, so the card was modified for users of American Sign Language. Staff will be meeting with Queen’s on Thursday, April 26, 2018 and wants to obtain feedback prior to the meeting. Suggestions from Committee members and guests included featuring the manual signs for “A-S-L” on the front of the card, while providing one web URL on the back of the card that links to a video in sign language about using the card.

The second card shown to Committee members and guests is being produced by DCAB. It is a customizable communication access card that will allow individuals to identify themselves and their type of communication disability (e.g., deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind). Individuals will also be able to select graphics that indicate the best way for others to communicate with them, such as through an interpreter, writing back-and-forth, using large print, or providing an assistive listening device. The card also lists “Quick Communication Tips” for when interacting with an individual who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. The idea behind this card is to increase the capacity of the individual who is deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind to self-advocate for access to effective communication. Staff emphasized that DCAB will not keep any record or database of individuals obtaining this card, nor will the card serve as a type of legal verification of having a communication disability. This means the card may not be used to certify qualification for any type of disability benefit, including, but not limited to, a disability bus pass or Social Security Disability Insurance.

The response from Committee members and guests was overwhelmingly positive. There was one comment from a guest related to wording under “Quick Communication Tips,” where they suggested changing “speak slowly and clearly” to “speak normally.”

Staff also showed Committee members and guests an existing interactive web site that allows individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind to

customize their own communication access cards. This web site includes a more extensive selection of communication options than what is listed on the communication card drafted by DCAB. This was also positively received by the Committee and guests. The consensus of the group was for DCAB to explore developing a similar interactive web page housed on the DCAB web site to ensure consistency with the hard copy communication access card.

Staff will continue to draft and develop the two communication cards. Staff will also gather more information on the logistics of developing an interactive web site to be housed on the DCAB web site. Updates will be provided at the next Committee meeting.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at 1010 Richards Street (Kamamalu Building) in Conference Room 111A.

VII. Announcements

DCAB Executive Director Francine Wai announced that Ami Tsuji-Jones and Justin "Pono" Tokioka were nominated by Governor David Ige to serve on the Disability and Communication Access Board. The Hawaii State Senate subsequently advised and consented to the nominations of both individuals. They will be joining the Board starting July 1, 2018 to replace the vacant positions of Colin Whited, who is currently the DCAB Communication Access Specialist, and Ed Chevy, who is stepping down for personal reasons.

Ami Tsuji-Jones also announced that the University of Hawaii Comprehensive Service Center will offer classes on Hawaiian Sign Language starting in July 2018. She suggested that this could be an opportunity for sign language interpreters to earn CEUs.

VIII. Open Forum

No issues were discussed.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,



COLIN M. WHITED