Standing Committee on Parking Meeting

Location: Disability and Communication Access Board
         919 Ala Moana Blvd, Fifth Floor Conference Room
Date:    September 14, 2017
Time:    9:30 a.m.

I.    Call to Order

II.   Approval of the July 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes

III.  Old Business
      A.   Public Education
           • Parking Liaisons – Update
      B.   2018 Legislation – Update
           • Parking Meter Bill
           • Placard Confiscation Bill
      C.   Placard Renewal Notification Policy Change and Statistics – Update
      D.   User Guide – Update
      E.   Application Forms – Update

IV.   New Business
      A.   Informational Briefing – Eligibility for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons
      B.   Letter to Physicians – Eligibility and New Forms
      C.   Flyer for Drivers Education Program
      D.   Hawaii Drivers Manual

V.    Open Forum: Public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration for Committee’s agenda at the next meeting

VI.   Next Meeting

VII.  Adjournment

If you require an auxiliary aid or accommodation due to a disability, please contact (808) 586-8621 or email at dcab@doh.hawaii.gov by September 7, 2017.
Standing Committee on Parking Meeting

Location: Disability and Communication Access Board
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Fifth Floor Conference Room

Date: September 14, 2017
Time: 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Pauline Aughe, Chairperson; Summer Kozai, Board Member; Kirby Shaw, Bryan Mick, Staff

ABSENT: Bryant Yabui, Board Member

GUEST: Puanani McBride

I. Chairperson Pauline Aughe called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. The Committee approved the minutes of the July 6, 2017 meeting (M/S/P Kozai/Aughe).

III. Old Business

A. Public Education

Staff reported that the parking locator app for Android devices was no longer operational and required an upgrade. Thus, DCAB contracted the services of the same vendor that updated the parking locator app for iOS devices. Because use of the parking locator app will be one of the major duties for the parking liaisons, that liaison recruitment was put on hold until the app is upgraded.

B. 2018 Legislation – Update

- Parking Meter Bill (SB 974, SD2) – DCAB will seek passage in the next session.

- Confiscation Bill (SB 975, SD1 HD1) – DCAB will seek passage in the next session. Staff clarified that the bill would explicitly allow confiscation of a disability parking permit under three circumstances: (1) when a permit is being used by someone other than the permittee, (2) when the permit is expired or void, or (3) when a permit has been fraudulently manufactured or altered. Summer Kozai asked what the repercussions would be for a permittee whose permit is confiscated.
Staff replied that the person who misused the permit would receive a citation, and the permittee whose permit was confiscated must visit an issuing site in person and pay a $12 fee to obtain a replacement placard. Staff noted that Bryant Yabui, in a prior meeting, suggested adopting a graduated replacement fee schedule to encourage permittees to be more responsible for their permits. Summer Kozai expressed concern that higher confiscated permit replacement fees would adversely affect elderly permittees who may not be aware of the misuse of their permit by a family member.

C. Placard Renewal Notification Policy Change – Update

Staff reported that in the final four months in which DCAB provided notice of pending permit expiration via a postcard, the permit renewal rate was 58%. In the two months since the notice was discontinued, the renewal rate fell to 52%. Staff expected the renewal rate to drop for the first couple of months because fewer permittees would be renewing their permits early. However, the next few months will be more reflective of what the new rate will be.

D. User Guide – Update

Staff reported that the updated User Guide distributed at the prior meeting was sent to print. A User Guide will be distributed with each placard issued by the counties and DCAB. The User Guide contains information on the proper use the disability parking permits and how they are to be renewed, as well as contact information for DCAB and the counties.

Chairperson Pauline Aughe commented that there are no assurances that permittees read or comprehend the User Guide. She suggested that county issuing agency staff could go over the Guide with the applicants and have them sign a statement indicating they read and understood it. Staff replied that the counties would likely object because of the extra time involved. Staff suggested placing a statement on the application form or on the identification card for applicants/permittees to acknowledge that they read a list of do's and don'ts regarding the proper use of a disability parking permit. She asked if the User Guide is available in alternate accessible formats. Staff replied that DCAB would convert documents as necessary upon request.

Chairperson Pauline Aughe noted that permittees with a State of California permanent disability parking permit do not need to have their disability recertified. She asked whether Hawaii could change from recertification of a long term disability every six years to every ten years. Discussion ensued concerning whether there is a need to recertify a disability when the likelihood of the status changing is nil short of a miracle. Staff suggested a non-recertification exception for instances where a physician or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)
certifies that a disability is permanent. Staff added that permittees with permanent disabilities would need to renew only periodically so DCAB could verify whether a permittee is still alive and where the permittee lives to send renewal material, and for other administrative purposes. She replied this would be quite helpful for people like herself who live in rural areas far away from a physician or APRN.

Chairperson Pauline Aughe also suggested the State consider having one certification for people with disabilities that could be used to access various programs. Staff noted that different programs have different definitions of "disability" specific to their program requirements and therefore any universal certification of disability would have to contain comprehensive details about each individual to be useful.

Chairperson Pauline Aughe also mentioned that there is no paratransit service offered where she lives on the Big Island. She said there was fixed route bus service in her area, but that paratransit service was only available within the Hilo or Kona districts. Staff will investigate whether paratransit service would be required under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

E. **Application Forms - Update**

On July 2, 2017, DCAB released two new disability parking permit application forms. One form is for first time, temporary, and replacement applications, which instruct applicants to submit the application to the county issuing agencies. The other form is only for renewals of long term placards, which instructs applicants to mail the application to DCAB's post office box for processing. The new forms include several improvements — a cleaner design, the removal of boxes for each character which made it hard to read the form when inputting data into the database, posting the form online as a fillable pdf, and the addition of an optional applicant email field so that DCAB can communicate parking program information in the future. The instruction sheets are also new and posted on DCAB's web site with the respective application form so only one download is required.

IV. **New Business**

A. **Informational Briefing – Eligibility for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons**

Staff reported that Senator Joshua Green would like to convene an informational briefing to cover multiple disability issues. DCAB will present on the parking program, with an emphasis on eligibility criteria, including DCAB's position opposing eligibility for persons who are blind or visually handicapped because they do not require proximity to a facility entrance or use of an access aisle. The briefing will likely occur sometime before the start of the 2018 legislative session.
B. Letter to Physicians – Eligibility and New Forms

Staff reported that DCAB sent over 8,500 emails to Hawaii licensed physicians regarding their role in certifying whether applicants for a disability parking permit meet the eligibility criteria. The emails included a letter from Executive Director Francine Wai calling attention to the eligibility criteria and the importance of proper certification. The email also included the revised and new parking permit application forms.

Several physicians provided valuable feedback. A few physicians commented that some patients will make them feel uncomfortable if they deny certification, and others will “doctor shop” until they obtain certification. Some physicians admitted that their first duty is to their patient and therefore they do not deny requests for certification despite knowing their patient is not eligible.

In addition, staff had an opportunity to clarify for a few physicians that autism is not a qualifying condition because the neurological condition must be combined with an applicant’s inability to walk 200 feet – under his or her own physical power – without stopping to rest as opposed to a behavioral matter that limits movement. Moreover, staff explained to the physicians the significance of the two main features of reserved accessible parking spaces relied upon by permittees: (1) proximity to the accessible entrance of a facility for permittees who have difficulty moving from point to point and (2) the access aisle to load and unload mobility devices. Thus, the physicians were made aware that when an ineligible person obtains certification and uses a disability parking permit to park in a reserved accessible parking space, a legitimate permittee is prevented from using the needed features and visiting a facility.

C. Flyers for Drivers Education Program

DCAB designed and printed 5,000 color flyers that emphasize the proper use of reserved accessible parking spaces and the penalties for their misuse. The flyers were sent to the Department of Education for distribution to high school driver education program participants. Summer Kozai suggested that DCAB should make the flyers available to private companies that provide driver education programs. Staff will also consider making the flyer available to larger private high schools.

D. Hawaii Drivers Manual

Staff reported that DCAB provided information and a couple of test questions regarding reserved accessible parking spaces for the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to consider for insertion into the next revision of the Hawaii Driver’s Manual.

V. Next Meeting
The next meeting will be held on November 9, 2017, at the AAFES Building, to be followed by the General Board meeting. Subsequent Board and Committee meetings will be held at DCAB’s new location, 1010 Richards Street in Honolulu.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 10:33 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

BRYAN K. MICK