AGENDA

Standing Committee on Parking Meeting

Location: Disability and Communication Access Board
1010 Richards Street, Conference Room 111A

Date: January 18, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the November 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes

III. Special Agenda Item – Public Testimony
- House Bill 646 (2017) – Expanding Eligibility to Include Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired

IV. 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. Letter to Ophthalmologists – Eligibility

E. Update on Senator Green’s Informational Briefing – Eligibility for Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired

V. New Business

A. Letter to Medical Centers

B. Medical Certification for Parking Permit Renewals

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

VII. Next Meeting
VIII. 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 January 11, 2018.
MINUTES

Standing Committee on Parking Meeting

Location: Disability and Communication Access Board
1010 Richards Street, Room 118
Date: January 18, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Pauline Aughe, Chairperson; Summer Kozai, Bryant Yabui, Board Members;
Francine Wai, Kirby Shaw, Bryan Mick, Debra Jackson, Kamaile Hopfe,
Staff

GUESTS: Roberta Au Young, Dean Georgiev, Puanani McBride Furtado, Jeannie
Torres

I. Chairperson Pauline Aughe called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

II. The Committee approved the minutes of the November 9, 2017 meeting (M/S/P
Yabui/Aughe).

Chairperson Pauline Aughe announced that the agenda would be taken out of order
to allow extra time for people wishing to testify on the special agenda item to arrive.

III. Old Business

A. Public Education

Staff distributed copies of the revised drafts of documents related to the
parking liaison program. These included a letter to disability related
organizations requesting their help in identifying prospective liaisons, duties
of liaisons, an application form, the scope of work, and a memorandum of
agreement. Bryant Yabui inquired if staff intended to ask applicants for
references as a way to rank them. Francine Wai replied that would depend
on how many applicants there are, but that might be a helpful way to rank
them if there are more applicants than positions. Bryant Yabui suggested
placing posters at issuing sites to request applicants because applicants have
a vested interest in the program. Francine Wai replied that would probably
result in too many applicants, but could be considered an option if the initial
efforts do not produce enough applicants.

IV. Special Agenda Item – Public Testimony on HB646

Board member Summer Kozai arrived at 9:30 a.m.

Chairperson Pauline Aughe explained that House Bill (HB) 646 would expand the
eligible criteria for a parking permit to include those who have low vision or are blind.
DCAB opposed this bill because the two (2) main features of an accessible stall, the access aisle and proximity to the facility being served by the stall, are not required by people with low vision or who are blind in order to access the facility. In addition, people who have low vision or are blind will always be a passenger and therefore can either be dropped off near the facility entrance or assisted by the driver if the driver is going to accompany them. DCAB has a standing offer to the Legislature to present an informational briefing on the parking program for people with disabilities with an emphasis on eligibility criteria, but in the meantime opted to place it on the agenda for discussion.

Dean Georgiev, testifying as an individual, testified in opposition to HB 646. He agreed with the reasons DCAB presented for its opposition, and added that training programs exist to help people with low vision or who are blind successfully navigate in parking lots and other areas.

Jeannie Torres, Executive Director of Guide Dogs of Hawaii, testified in support of HB 646. She cited safety and independence as reasons for her support. She said this is especially true for people as they age and have additional disabilities, such as hearing loss or the need to use a walker. She added that most states have added blindness and low vision as qualifying conditions.

Roberta Au Young, Program Director at Guide Dogs of Hawaii, testified in support of HB 646. She cited safety and independence as reasons for her support. Jeannie Torres and Roberta Au Young both expressed a level of fear they experience in navigating as blind individuals through parking lots, among other places.

Francine Wai, Executive Director of DCAB, commented that Hawaii has followed the recommendations for eligibility set forth at the federal level, though the ultimate decision was left up to individual states.

Bryan Yabui commented that while he could appreciate the fear factor experienced by people with low vision or who are blind, he views the purpose of reserved accessible parking stalls as removing a physical barrier to those with mobility disabilities, especially those who use wheelchairs and scooters.

Francine Wai noted that parking spaces are a finite resource, and there is already competition for the accessible stalls in many locations. The percentage of the population with a parking permit is higher than the percentage of stalls that are required to be accessible. Reserved accessible parking stalls, unlike such things as accessible restroom stalls, do not have a fast turnover rate so it is important that they remain available for those who truly need them.

Pauline Aughe clarified for the record that people who have low vision or are blind and have other qualifying conditions, such as arthritis or require use of a walker, are eligible for a parking permit.

MOTION: It was moved that the Standing Committee on Parking reaffirm DCAB’s prior position to oppose HB 646 and to recommend that the full Board reaffirm DCAB’s position (M/S/P Kozal/Yabul).
V. Old Business (continued)

B. 2018 Legislation

Staff reported that both the confiscation bill and the bill to restrict the exemption from parking meter fees were carried over from last session and will hopefully be scheduled for a hearing this session. People who qualify for the restricted meter fee exempt status would be provided some sort of distinguishing document, either a different colored placard or a decal to place on their existing placard.

Pauline Aughe asked how people who only have disability license plates would be identified as parking meter exempt and if a decal would be placed on the plates. Kirby Shaw replied it might be that only a placard could be used to obtain parking meter fee exemption privileges. He added that county law enforcement had indicated to DCAB their preference for a different colored placard because it is easily identifiable.

C. Placard Renewal Notification Policy Change and Statistics – Update

Bryan Mick reported that in the second quarter (October 1, 2017-December 31, 2017) of this fiscal year, six thousand six hundred eighty seven (6,687) placards were issued. Five thousand one hundred forty nine (5,149) were long term placards, of which two thousand one hundred forty eight (2,148) were renewals processed by DCAB. The renewal rate continues to be around fifty three percent (53%). The renewal rate was fifty five percent (55%) when DCAB provided notification of pending permit expiration to permittees.

D. Letter to Ophthalmologist – Eligibility

Bryan Mick reported that he compiled a list of ophthalmologists from various web sites and sent letters to ninety five (95) ophthalmologists statewide. While technically an ophthalmologist can certify an applicant, it struck staff as odd they would do so since their area of expertise does not cover any qualifying conditions.

E. Update on Senator Green’s Informational Briefing

Bryan Mick reported that there were no responses from Senator Green’s office to hold an informational briefing on the parking program with respect to eligibility, despite several inquiries from DCAB. An invitation to attend today’s meeting was extended to Senator Green.

VI. New Business

A. Letter to Medical Centers

Staff reported that a letter to medical centers requesting they circulate a letter to their physicians and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) was
prepared and is awaiting the Executive Director's signature. The letter
reminds physicians and APRNs of the eligibility criteria and the key role they
play in assuring that only qualified applicants receive certification.

B. Medical Certification for Parking Permit Renewals

Staff reported that there were two (2) alternatives to the current system of
requiring medical recertification as part of the renewal process every six (6)
years. One alternative is to require only a periodic administrative renewal
under the theory that if a disability will last for six (6) years, it is probably
permanent. The danger of this is that if a person is initially certified
improperly, the person will have lifelong use of the permit. The current
system provides the possibility that a physician or APRN will deny an
applicant's renewal if the applicant is not qualified in the first place. The other
alternative is to create a section on the form where a doctor can certify that a
condition is "lifelong," and only those permittees would be exempt from future
medical recertification. Bryant Yabui expressed concern that physicians and
APRNs would just check that box without really considering if the condition
was lifelong, and stated that the current process is not overly burdensome for
permittees. Therefore, the Committee stated that no changes to the current
recertification process are necessary.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2018, at the Kamamalu Building, 1010
Richards Street.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 10:55 a.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

BRYAN K. MICK